

### **Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il, 1991-2011**

On December 24, 1991, Korean leader Kim Jong Il was appointed as the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army. The period of 20 years since then should naturally be called two decades of his brilliant career.

Kim Jong Il has built up the defence capabilities of the country to the maximum.

With socialism collapsed in the former Soviet Union and other countries, the United States pretended itself as the "victor in the Cold War" and the allied imperialist forces headed by the US provoked the Gulf War. They were engrossed in high-handed and arbitrary practices in different parts of the world, carried away by the showoff of their "might". Around this Kim Jong Il assumed the KPA supreme commandship and took all possible measures for boosting the defence capabilities of the country.

He clarified a unique principle of Songun that an army is precisely a party, a state and a people, and directed primary attention to strengthening the People's Army, the main force in defending the country. Through his ceaseless inspection tours, he has developed the KPA into the forces strong in ideology and faith that are ready to sacrifice themselves in defence of their leader, their system and their people, an invincible army provided with unique military tactics, state-of-the-art military techniques and powerful offensive and defensive means. He also paid deep attention to

increasing the fighting efficiency of the militia, including the Worker-Peasant Red Guard, and saw to it that the whole country has been fortified into an impregnable fortress.

He put forward a line of economic construction on giving priority to the development of the war industry and has led the efforts to step up its modernization in reliance on the strength, technologies and resources of the country, with the result that Korea is in a position to turn out any sophisticated military equipment needed in the modern warfare at its will. It is now provided with nuclear deterrent.

Kim Jong Il has strictly adhered to socialism.

In those days when he assumed the KPA supreme commandship, the imperialists and their mouthpieces claimed that the ideal of socialism was mistaken, shouting for delight about the continued collapse of socialist systems in several countries. A large number of peoples around the world aspiring to or longing for socialism were thrown into disappointment and vacillation.

Just at this juncture, the Korean leader stood at the head of the struggle to defend socialism. He made public several works, including ***The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party*** in January 1992, ***Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable*** in March 1993 and ***Socialism Is a Science*** in November 1994, in which he made clear the lawfulness of building socialist society and its historical inevitability and the basic way for the victory of socialism and thus put socialism on a new scientific basis.

He has led the Korean people to victory in the showdown with the

allied imperialist forces to stifle socialism. When the Korean peninsula was driven into a nuclear crisis in the limelight of the world public in March 1993, Pyongyang declared the semi-war state and the withdrawal from the NPT. Kim Jong Il put forward the army as the driving force of accomplishing the socialist cause and inspired all the civilians to follow the revolutionary soldier spirit displayed by the KPA servicepersons so that all the army and the people could vigorously turn out in the struggle to safeguard socialism.

The days of his ceaseless guidance trips to different parts of the country have recorded many moving stories of his love for and trust in his people. In the course of this, the single-hearted unity of the Korean society has been further consolidated and the political position of socialism cemented as firm as a rock. Even under the most trying ordeals Korea has held fast to the socialist idea and principles and invariably enforced such socialist policies as the free compulsory education and free medical care.

Kim Jong Il has ushered in a new era of building a thriving socialist country.

In August 1998 Korea successfully launched *Kwangmyongsong No.1* into orbit, an artificial earth satellite completely made by its efforts. It also declared a gigantic blueprint for the building of a great, prosperous and powerful socialist country. This startled the international community as it was regarded as a miracle for Korea to maintain its existence under the extreme moves of the imperialists to isolate and stifle it. It was quite unbelievable for everyone.

But the world community came to see through eye-opening events taking place in Korea over the past ten years that Koreans never make

empty talks. In recent years alone Korea held undisputed command in CNC technology of the machine-building industry and, on its basis, introduced it into all the economic sectors. It has established a new steel-making system relying on its own raw materials and technology, realized the modernization of vinalon industry and succeeded in fertilizer production by means of coal gasification, thus bringing about fresh achievements and changes. The construction of monumental structures, including 100 000 flats in the capital city of Pyongyang, is in full swing in different parts of the country and radical changes are taking place in the drive to improve the people's standard of living. It is needless to say that credit for all these achievements goes to the plan of KPA Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il and his energetic leadership.