

Knowing Kim-II Sung Correctly

This piece is a translation from Korean.

Nuclear weapons, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and the most severe repression against human rights of Kim Jong-un's regime are scourges of the whole world. However, in order to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue and human rights issue, we must study the ideology of Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-un's father. This ideology is the key that supports North Korea, and it is Kim Il-sung's history of anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Some may say how a study on Il-Sung Kim will be any help to put a restraint on the present leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un. However, the structure of today's North Korea can be understood only if a research on Kim Il-sung is conducted. This is the same logic as having to know that the US was founded based on Protestantism and the frontier spirit, in order to understand the modern United States.

North Korea is the only country on Earth with a hereditary succession of three generations, and there is a consistent maintenance of the ideology. Kim Jong-un finds justification from his grandfather, Kim Il-sung, and imitates him. Modern North Korea's nuclear development and repression against human rights have already been processed since the leadership of Kim Il-sung. "Kim Il-sung Ideology" is a theoretical tool that guarantees justification for such crimes. To achieve this, North Korea has been propagating "Kim Il-sung Ideology" through exporting The Institute of the Juche Idea across the world since the 1960's.

For this reason, not only North Koreans but also many intellectuals throughout the world accept "Kim Il-sung Ideology" as true. Most North Korean defectors and many intellectuals in South Korea, which is in confrontation with North Korea, take "Kim Il-sung's history of anti-Japanese armed struggle" as true.

In other words, except for partial conservatives, most of South and North Koreans currently accept "Kim Il-sung's history of anti-Japanese armed struggle" just as told, including various academic circles of history. It is also true that the history textbooks for Korean elementary, middle and high school students are written based on such perception. Kim Il-sung's history of anti-Japanese armed struggle leads to an incorrect idea that the North Korean government is more legitimate among the two Korean governments. In other words, they believe that although the beginning was great, North Korea has now gone wrong because of mistakes made in the middle.

Approximately 27,000 North Korean defectors who escaped from the North Korean system and currently live in the South Korean society believe that Kim Jong-il and Kim Jong-un made North Korea a bad country to live in, even though Kim Il-sung was right. They have escaped from North Korea, because it was difficult to subsist at the moment, but they still think that North

Korea has historical legitimacy. All of these perceptions arise from North Korea's historical revisionism. The primary root is "Kim Il-sung's history of anti-Japanese armed struggle."

This massive element of historical revisionism named "Kim Il-sung's history of anti-Japanese armed struggle" has been spread out across the whole world. Without rooting out, the nuclear development, dictatorship and repression against human rights of Kim Jong-un's government cannot be stopped. If Kim Il-sung Ideology turns out to be false, Kim Jong-un's government that is committing nuclear development and repression against human rights will fall down inside.

Kim Il-sung fabricated his ancestors' as well as his own career.

Kim Il-sung's fabrication of his career has begun since the time of his ancestors. If we search for the root of the so-called North Korea's Kim dynasty's struggle history, we can find Kim Ung Woo (1845~1878), Kim Il-sung's great-grandfather. Kim Il-sung fabricated Kim Ung Woo as the primary "anti-imperialist patriotic activist." The event that served as a momentum was the General Sherman Incident which took place in July of 1866 in the Taedong River of Pyongyang. In 1972, Mankyungdae Museum was established in Pyongyang to celebrate the cornerstone of North Korea, Kim Il-sung's 60th birthday. In the first room of about 90 exhibition halls of the museum, there is an oil painting which entirely covers the wall. This painting shows Kim Ung Woo repelling General Sherman that infiltrated the Taedong River of Pyongyang in 1866. In the painting, Kim Ung Woo is raising his torch and commanding peasants in the center, in his Korean traditional white pants. Far away, General Sherman is wrapped in flames.

However, Kim Ung Woo's patriotic struggle is an absurd fabrication. According to the history, Park Gyu-su, the governor of Pyongan Province, took the lead in the General Sherman Incident with Baek Nak-yeon, the caid of Cheolsan. The civilian who played a leading role in this incident was Park Chun-gwon. A retired officer, Park Chun-gwon, won a special award and was appointed the higher position than a soldier of Pyongan, because the court gave credit for his services. While there is such document recorded in detail, the story of Kim Ung Woo as a leader cannot be found in any of the Joseon history.

In addition, records about Kim Ung Woo repeatedly change in historical books. This lets us know that it was fabricated. North Korea first introduced Kim Ung Woo in the General Sherman Incident in 1968. In a book published after 1968, Park Chun-gwon's name has been replaced with the name of Kim Ung Woo.

The propaganda of Kim Il-sung's family has two principals. Firstly, when telling lies, they make the lies as absurd and excessive as possible so that people think there is no way to tell such big lies. Secondly, those lies are propagandized repeatedly. Repetition of lies makes people believe them.

Foreigners who don't know much about the Korean history often are deceived by North Korea's propaganda. General Sherman was originally an American merchant ship, not an armed marine

steamer that the American government sent. North Korea utilized the fact that General Sherman was an American ship.

The General Sherman Incident took place in the summer of 1866. The owner of the ship was an American merchant Preston who was staying in Tientsin (present-day Tianjin), China. The captain was a Dane named Page. The ship headed toward Joseon for a trading purpose. When they arrived on the coast of Joseon, the administrator notified them to leave, saying "Our country's federal law prohibits trading with foreign countries." Nevertheless, they still entered the Taedong River, sailing towards Pyongyang. In the meantime, General Sherman committed brutal acts as they plundered our ship that was nearby and killed or wounded 12 people. Therefore, General Sherman ended up getting burnt by the people of Pyongyang. However, North Korea distorts the fact by saying the ship was the vanguard of America's imperialistic invasion. Consequently, Kim Ung Woo, who is said to be the leader of this fight, could become the primary anti-imperialist patriotic activist of Korean people.

In North Korea, there is no record on numerous patriotic activists who struggled to regain independence and freedom of the country through fighting the Japanese. Only records on the struggles of Kim Il-sung's family can be found. This is North Korea's modern history. Kim Il-sung even fabricated his father Kim Hyung-jik's career as a pioneer of anti-Japanese independence movement. Mainly three points have been fabricated about Kim Hyung-jik. Firstly, he was fabricated to be an anti-Japanese independence activist who caused the Joseon National Council Incident in 1917. Second, it was said that he was a nationalist before but became a communist. Third, it was stated that he organized the South Manchurian armed struggle forces for independence in August 1919.

The fabricated record says that Kim Hyung-jik went to jail for mobilizing the protesting crowd for organizing an armed force during the March 1st (3.1) Movement. However, it does not mention in detail where he protested nor which prison he was put into. This kind of propaganda first appeared on the 10th of April, 1952. Kim Il-sung's group published an article called "General Kim Il-sung's Short Biography" in "Rodong Sinmun," the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. In the article, Kim Hyung-jik's career in the March 1st Movement has been mentioned. This is very important, because it was the first time that Kim Il-sung's lineage was officially introduced to the public.

There are two reasons that they decided to make an official introduction. Firstly, April 15th of that year was Kim Il-sung's 40th birthday. Secondly, this was when it attracted the world's attention after the Korean War repeatedly seesawed back and forth and a truce conference was being held.

North Korea changed the careers of Kim Il-sung and Kim Hyung-jik each time a book was published. In 1952, it said Kim Hyung-jik was an anti-Japanese activist during the March 1st Movement who was put into jail. However, books published since 1961 change the story of him being put into jail in Pyongyang while taking part in an independence movement. The story of Kim Hyung-jik being put into jail during the March 1st Movement has been deleted, and the

books rather said he has participated in an independence movement since 1916. The story does not include any explanation about the reason nor the duration of the imprisonment. The argument was that he moved to Manchuria after his release from prison and continued his contribution to the independence movement, and then died from a disease he got from prison.

Kim Hyung-ji's career changes again in a book published in 1968. The Joseon National Council Incident appears in the book, and the year of his imprisonment changes to 1917. It stated that the Joseon National Council was a secret Anti-Japanese organization that Kim Hyung-jik led and was the largest secret organization before the March 1st Movement. It said that the organization was established on March 23, 1917 in Pyongyang, and this caused Kim Hyung-jik's imprisonment in the fall of the same year, and he was released from prison in the fall of the following year.

The above are all fabricated stories. The following is the truth about the Joseon National Council Incident. Chang Il-hwan from Pyongyang went to Hawaii in 1914 when he was 29. In Hawaii, he met Park Yong-man, an independence activist, and was greatly influenced by Park, thus decided to struggle for the independence of his country. Chang Il-hwan returned to Korea in April, 1915, as he promised to organize an association of young men to participate in the international independence movement. He mustered men of the same mind around Pyongyang. On March 23, 1917, he named the association "the Joseon National Council," and became the president. This secret organization was discovered by Pyongyang Police, and the police forwarded them to the public prosecutor's office in February 9th, 1918. Kim Hyung-jik's name is nowhere to be found in the report of this investigation. In addition, although 13 people were arrested, North Korea twisted the fact and said about 100 people were imprisoned.

North Korea exhibits the Japanese Empire's document as Kim Hyung-jik's achievement related to the Joseon National Council, in Korean Revolution Museum. Such fabricated record started from a Japanese publishing company publishing a sourcebook on Korea's independence movement. A member of Jochongnyeon, the pro-North Korean residents' league in Japan, was the editor of this sourcebook, and he secretly put Kim Hyung-jik's name and place of family register to the list of the Joseon National Council members. Kim Il-sung propagandized that Kim Hyung-jik was the leader of the council through refabrication.

A record from 1968 propagandized that Kim Hyung-jik remained a nationalist who participated in the anti-Japanese independence movement until his very last breath. However, this propaganda changes starting 1971. A nationalist became a communist. Kim Hyung-jik, since March 1st Movement in 1919, realized a nationalist movement cannot lead to regain the country, and became assured a communist movement is the only way to regain the country and to establish a proper country. He was a pioneer who changed his direction from nationalism to communism for the first time. The propaganda changes again in a book published in 1981. Kim Hyung-jik became confident that a communist revolution is the only way for liberation, after he heard the news about the Russian Revolution, in November 1917, which was when he was in jail due to the Joseon National Council Incident.

North Korea has a formula when they fabricate Kim Il-sung's and his ancestors' careers. They use Lenin and Mao Zedong as the models for their family, early lives and career lives as protesters. Moreover, they are shown to be even greater and more revolutionary than Lenin and Mao Zedong.

Before the Russian Revolution, there were revolutionary ideas called populism. Lenin's brother was shot to death as he was arrested for being a populist. After his brother's death, Lenin began a communist revolution as he thought populism would not work. It was propagandized that Kim Il-sung determined to struggle for the country's independence when he visited his father with his mother during Kim Hyung-jik's imprisonment due to the independence movement. When Kim Il-sung grew up, he thought his father's nationalism could not lead to independence, and started a communist revolution. North Korea utilized the life of Plekhanov, a Russian Revolutionary activist, for fabricating Kim Hyung-jik's biography. Plekhanov was a populist before, but became a communist after he exiled and encountered Marx' works. Lenin became a Marxist after he read a capital theory that Plekhanov translated.

North Korea claimed that Plekhanov changed from a nationalist to a communist primarily, Kim Hyung-jik changed from a nationalist to a communist primarily in Korea. Additionally, as Lenin became a communist affected by Plekhanov, Kim Il-sung became a communist affected by Kim Hyung-jik. Just like Lenin brought success to the Russian Revolution, Kim Il-Sung brought success to the Joseon Revolution.

North Korea published a book called "Joseon's Warriors," and Kim Hyung-jik's career was again fabricated here. It stated that Kim Hyung-jik has not participated in the March 1st Movement himself, but indirectly has affected the movement greatly by making his Joseon National Council members participate in public protests. In this book, North Korea argued Kim Hyung-jik presented to independence activists that they needed to engage in armed struggle in August, 1919, in Southern Manchuria. It said that this was how an army for national independence of the Joseon National Council members was created, and this army was the first army for national independence in Southeastern Manchuria and was the beginning of national independence struggle.

There are no detailed records on independence movement organizations in Manchuria at the time. Kim Hyung-jik is not mentioned in such records. He was not a man of such type who would appear there. Actually, Kim Hyung-jik, born in 1894, has left Soongsil Middle School in Pyongyang, and worked as a teacher in a village school. In May 1919, he moved to Manchuria and earned a lot of money as a Korean medicine doctor. He was a member of an organization, part of Jeonguibu, a national independence movement organization in Southern Manchuria, as he had national consciousness.

During that time, there was a communist movement in Southern Manchuria. Because communists were against nationalists, they sometimes killed each other if their ideas created objections. Kim Hyung-jik did not even sell medicine to communists as he was a stubborn man.

This caused his death in June 1926 due to communists' terror. Nonetheless, North Korea made false claims that he was the first communist and a perfect pioneer of anti-Japanese movement. As explained above, Kim Il-sung's great-grandfather Kim Ung Woo's lead on the General Sherman Incident, Kim Il-sung's father Kim Hyung-jik's career, Kim Il-sung's history of anti-Japanese armed struggle are all complete fabrications. The reason North Korea fabricates Kim Il-sung's and his ancestors' careers is to justify the power transfer. The hereditary relationship related to ideology and revolution between Kim Hyung-jik and Kim Il-sung has led to a similar relationship between Kim Jung-il and Kim Jong-un. North Korea tries to argue that a communist revolution cannot be completed during one generation but must be completed throughout multiple generations with the loyalty toward the revolutionary leader also being expanded as time goes.

The young Kim Il-sung, the reality of fabricated careers and “애국”

The largest ideology that supports Democratic People's Republic of Korea is Kim Il-sung's history of anti-Japanese armed struggle. This obviously is a fabrication from the beginning to the end. North Korea fabricates the career of Kim Il-sung (born Kim Song-ju) since early life. According to "General Kim Il-sung's Short Biography" which was the first time North Korea first officially introduced Kim Il-sung's career, Kim Il-sung entered Yuwen Middle School in Jilin, Manchuria, in 1926 when he was 14, and that year, he joined the Chinese Communist Youth Union. However, it is not true that Kim Il-sung entered Yuwen Middle School in 1926. Even if he did enter the school, he could not join the Communist Youth Association, because the Chinese communist party was organized in July of 1921 in Shanghai but was expanded to Manchuria not until November of 1928. In a book published in 1968, the date of his entrance to Yuwen Middle School and his joining of the Communist Youth Association has been changed from 1926 to 1927.

Moreover, it was said that Kim Il-sung organized the Communist Youth Association rather than just joining it. This is also false. The communist party has a top-down organizational principal. If there is no upper part, nothing can be organized. 1927 was when the Chinese communists' upper system did not exist in Manchuria yet. Therefore, the statement that Kim Il-sung organized the Communist Youth Association in Jilin or Yuwen Middle School is not valid.

In a book published in 1968, Kim Il-sung entered Hwasungeuisuk, a Korean nationalist educational institution in Hwajeon, Southern Manchuria, in 1926 and organized the Down-With-Imperialism Union (DIU or "애국") there. According to the book, Hwasungeuisuk had an old-fashioned nationalist education system, so Kim Il-sung soon dropped out and also organized the New Day Youth Union after returning home in Musong, searching for a new life. Both stories about the DIU and the New Day Youth Union have been fabricated.

The fact that Kim Il-sung entered Hwasungeuisuk in Hwajeon in 1926 is true. Hwajeon was where Jeonguibu, a national independence movement organization, was located. Jeonguibu founded and was managing Hwasungeuisuk. Because Kim Hyung-jik was a nationalist, he sent his son, Kim Il-sung, to Hwasungeuisuk. The statement that Kim Il-sung immediately dropped out is also true. However, the true reason was not his dissatisfaction at the nationalist education

system. This mimicked Lenin not going to church because he had doubts about religions at the age of 16. The true reason Kim Il-sung dropped out was his father Kim Hyung-jik's death. Kim Hyung-jik was an anti-communist who detested communism. Kim Hyung-jik, a Korean medicine doctor, even rejected to write a prescription to a communist. This caused his death in June 1926 due to communists' terror. This was when he was 32 years old, during the early summer of 1926. Therefore, the young Kim Il-sung had no other choice but to drop out of Hwasungeuisuk and return to Musong.

What would Kim Il-sung actually have done in 1926 when he was 14? He has two embarrassing records from this time. When he was in Musong, he became a youth member of a communist violent gang named Magul. The communist movement was gradually expanding in the Korean society of Manchuria at the time. Communists robbed money and valuables from Korean households with some money and even killed or wounded them, saying they all are capitalist classes and reactionary.

Jumagul was the boss of this communist violent gang. Their violent activities were just like an enraged horse-lord marauder's. Magul's violence became known to Jeonguibu, a national independence movement organization that was in charge of peace and order of the Korean society in Manchuria. Jeonguibu sent an armed unit under the platoon leader Lee Jong-rak, and suppressed a group Magul members. At the time, Lee Jong-rak grabbed the young Kim Il-sung, and sympathized with the son of Kim Hyung-jik who was killed from a communists' terror being dragged by a bad communist violent gang. Lee Jong-rak took Kim Il-sung to Bongcheon and let him enter Pyongdan Middle School. However, Kim Il-sung was expelled from school before long, because he could not go in for his studies as he was tainted with violent activities of Magul. North Korea propagandizes Kim Il-sung organized various youth organizations during this period to cover such embarrassing acts of his. "Joseon's Warriors" published in 1981 grandly described the Down-With-Imperialism Union (DIU), which the young Kim Il-sung of the time organized, as the beginning of the modern history. The 386 generation of Korea during the 1980's believed in the fabricated history of the DIU and organized student movements based on it. Unfortunately, there are still many Korean people in the fields of politics, education and academic history who believe in the DIU just as North Korea propagandized.

According to a book published in 1968, Kim Il-sung organized the New Day Youth Union in Musong, and the Anti-Imperialism Youth Union as well as the Communist Youth Association. A book published in 1971 changes the name of "The Communist Youth Association" to "The Joseon Communist Youth Union." Additionally, in "Joseon's Warriors" published in 1981, there is an additional association called the Baeksan Youth Union which Kim Il-sung formed in 1926. It states that this union resulted in the organization of the North Korean People's Revolutionary Armed Forces which was Kim Il-sung's anti-Japanese armed struggle forces. It also says, as a result, the North Korean People's Revolutionary Armed Forces caused the independence of Joseon in August, 1945, through numerous anti-Japanese guerilla struggles, and thus, the DIU from 1926 is the starting point of the modern history and the origin of the independence of Joseon.

Then, why has such significant history never been mentioned during the first 30 years after the liberation but suddenly appeared in "Joseon's Warriors" from 1981? North Korea used their propaganda trick of repeatedly coming up with greater and more impressive lies as more things get fabricated.

Now, let's study more about the DIU.

North Korea considers October 17, 1926 the starting point of the modern history. They say, on this day, the 14-year-old Kim Il-sung formed a secret association to struggle for the national independence called DIU. Every October, they throw festivals to celebrate the anniversary of the DIU and the Dear Leader's genius. The DIU is a complete fabrication of the history, and it can be shown by simply checking North Korea's publications from their self-publishing and their historical records in chronological order.

Kim Il-sung's DIU story consists of fictional elements that are similar to elements of myths. It is necessary to review how the records on Kim Il-sung's achievements in 1926 have changed through each period. "Our Sun" and "The Hero, General Kim Il-Sung" published in 1946 do not mention Kim Il-sung's formation of the DIU. "History of Joseon National Independence Armed Struggle" published in 1949, did not mention the DIU, either. It only said, "He went to Yuwen Middle School and joined the Communist Youth Association."

When publishing "General Kim Il-sung's Short Biography" in 1952, they did not mention the DIU yet. It just removed "Chinese" from "joined the Chinese Communist Youth Association" and changed to "joined the Communist youth Association." The 1958 edition of "History of Joseon National Independence Armed Struggle" switched the name of "Communist Youth Association" to "Communist Youth Union" and also changed "attended Yuwen Middle School" to "entered Yuwen Middle School." "History of Joseon's Modern Revolution Movement" published in 1961 rechanged it to "entered Hwasungeuisuk and soon dropped out, then entered Yuwen Middle School, and joined the Communist Youth Union." The 1968 edition of "The Nation's Sun General Kim Il-Sung" changed to "entered Hwasungeuisuk" and the entry year to Yuwen Middle School was delayed to 1927 by 1 year. This book finally mentioned his formation of the DIU, it added that he formed the DIU in Hwasungeuisuk and after his instant dropout, organized the New Day Youth Union in Musong.

The 1971 edition of "History Dictionary" is very similar to "The Nation's Sun General Kim Il-Sung." It only included that he entered Hwasungeuisuk in the summer and organized the DIU in the fall. The 1973 edition of "Politics Dictionary" even provided specific dates: "After his father Kim Hyung-jik died in June 1926, Kim Il-sung entered Hwasungeuisuk, organized the DIU on October 17, and then formed the New Day Youth Union on December 15 after leaving Hwasungeuisuk."

Why did North Korea have to repeatedly make these many changes? The reason is, in the 1981 edition of "Joseon's Warriors," which established Kim Il-sung's family background as the

national history, the beginning of the modern history, the so-called date of Kim Il-sung's DIU organization, must be October 17, 1926.

When Kim Il-sung returned to Pyongyang, he was 33 years old. If the DIU was such an important and significant event, as North Korea claimed, how could he not remember it during his thirties? North Korea declares Joseon Labor Party has a root in the organization of the DIU. On page 1146 of the 1973 edition of "Politics Dictionary," it says "The start of our great leader Kim Il-sung's revolutionary acts was the origin of North Korea's revolutionary history." If the formation of the DIU is considered the starting point of the modern history, the reasons for repeatedly changing the name of "the Chinese Communist Youth Association" to "the Communist Youth Association" to "the Communist Youth Union" to finally "the DIU" must be explained.

If that is not possible, the DIU equates to the Chinese Communist Association. In result, the root of the Joseon Labor Party must be the Chinese Communist Association. North Korea always mentions "independent history." It would be difficult for them to acknowledge that their root is the Chinese Communist Association.

On page 69 of chapter 16 from "Joseon's Warriors" published by Pyongyang, it includes an explanation: "information about our great leader Kim Il-Sung's formation of the DIU and his guidance." Here, "9. DIU and Kim Il-sung" on page 28 from "The Short History of International Joseon Revolutionary Movement" by Choi Hyoung-woo has been included.