Country: North Korea

Years: 1948 - 1993

Head of government: Kim Il Sung

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Choson Nodongdang/Korean Workers’ Party (CND/KWP). Manzano (2017) identifies Kim Il Sung as left. DPI identifies CND’s ideology as left. The Political Handbook (2015) elaborates, writing “According to South Korea’s Yonhap news agency, which first reported the changes in September 2009, socialism appeared to have replaced communism as the state’s guiding philosophy.” Perspective monde (2020) identifies Kim’s ideology as leftist, writing “Kim Il Sung | 1948 (9 septembre) | 1972 (28 décembre)| Parti des ouvriers coréens | […] | Gauche communiste.” Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) identifies Kim Il Sung instead of Pak Sung Choi, Li Jong Ok, Kang Song San, Li Gun Mo, Yon Hyong Muk, and Kang Song San as the head of government from December 31, 1976-1993. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies Kim’s ideology as leftist, writing "Both the government and the ruling Korean Workers’ Party (KWP) […] were headed by KIM Il Sung, a Soviet-trained Communist." Lentz (1994) identifies Kim's ideology as leftist, writing "He joined the Communist Youth League and received military training." World Statesmen (2020) identifies Kim's party as CND, and CND's ideology as leftist, writing "9 Sep 1948 - 28 Dec 1972 Kim Il Sung (s.a.) CND" and "CND = Choson Nodongdang (Korean Workers' Party, authoritarian, communist, only legal party, 1946-1949 named Puk Choson Nodongdang [North Korean Workers' Party], est.Dec 1945)."

Years: 1994 - 2009

Head of government: Kim Jong Il

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as Choson Nodongdang/Korean Workers’ Party (CND/KWP). DPI identifies CND’s ideology as left. The Political Handbook (2015) elaborates, writing “According to South Korea’s Yonhap news agency, which first reported the changes in September 2009, socialism appeared to have replaced communism as the state’s guiding philosophy.” Perspective monde (2020) identifies Kim’s ideology as leftist, writing “Kim Jong-il | 1998 (5 septembre) | 2011 (17 décembre) | Parti des ouvriers coréens | […] | Gauche communiste.” Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) identifies Kim Yong Il instead of Kang Song San, Hong Song Nam, Pak Pong Ju, and Choe Yong Rim as the head of government from December 31, 1994-2010. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Kim's party as CND, and CND's ideology as leftist, writing "General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party 8 Oct 1997 - 17 Dec 2011 Kim Jong Il" and "CND = Choson Nodongdang (Korean Workers' Party, authoritarian, communist, only legal party, 1946-1949 named Puk Choson Nodongdang [North Korean Workers' Party], est.Dec 1945)."

Years: 2011-2020

Head of government: Kim Jong Un

Ideology: leftist

Description: Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) identifies Kim Jong Un instead of Choe Yong Rim, Pak Pong Ju, and Kim Jae Ryong as the head of government from December 31, 2011-2019. Perspective monde (2020) identifies Kim’s ideology as leftist and Kim’s party as CND/KWP, writing “Kim Jong-un | 2011 (17 décembre) | Parti des ouvriers coréens | […] | Gauche communiste.” DPI identifies CND’s ideology as left. The Political Handbook (2015) elaborates, writing “According to South Korea’s Yonhap news agency, which first reported the changes in September 2009, socialism appeared to have replaced communism as the state’s guiding philosophy.” World Statesmen (2020) identifies Kim's party as CND, and CND's ideology as leftist, writing "First Secretary (from 9 May 2016, Chairman) of the Korean Workers' Party 11 Apr 2012 - Kim Jong Un (b. 1984?)" and "CND = Choson Nodongdang (Korean Workers' Party, authoritarian, communist, only legal party, 1946-1949 named Puk Choson Nodongdang [North Korean Workers' Party], est.Dec 1945)." V-Dem identifies party affiliation as Korean Workers’ Party in 2020.

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