

Juche calendar

The ***Juche** calendar*, named after the *Juche* ideology, is the system of year-numbering used in North Korea. It begins with the birth of Kim Il-sung, the founder of North Korea. His birth year, 1912 in the Gregorian calendar, is "*Juche* 1" in the *Juche* calendar. The calendar was adopted in 1997, three years after the death of Kim Il-sung.

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History

The calendar borrows elements from two historical calendars used in Korea, the traditional system of Korean era names and the Gregorian calendar in which years are tied to the traditional birth of Jesus. In contrast to these two, the *Juche* calendar begins with the birth of the founder of the Democratic People's Republic, Kim Il-sung.^[1]

The decree on the *Juche* calendar was adopted on 8 July 1997, on the third anniversary of the death of Kim Il-sung. The same decree also designated the birth anniversary of Kim Il-sung as the Day of the Sun. The birth year of Kim Il-sung, 1912 in the Gregorian calendar, became "*Juche* 1" in the North Korean calendar.^{[2][3]}

The calendar began to be implemented on 9 September 1997, the Day of the Foundation of the Republic.^[2] On that date, newspapers, news agencies, radio stations, public transport, and birth certificates began to use *Juche* years.^[4]

Usage

The year 1912 is "*Juche* 1" in the North Korean calendar. There are no "before *Juche*" years; years before 1912 are given numbers based on the Gregorian calendar only. Ranges of years that begin before 1912 and end after it are also given in Christian calendar numbers only.^[5]

Juche calendar
<div></div> <div>A <i>Juche</i> calendar for Juche 99 (2010)</div>
Korean name
<div><div><div>Chosŏn'gŭl</div><div>Hancha</div><div>Revised Romanization</div><div>McCune–Reischauer</div></div><div><div>주체력</div><div>主體曆</div><div><i>Juche ryeok</i></div><div><i>Chuch'e ryŏk</i></div></div></div>
Juche Era
<div><div><div>Chosŏn'gŭl</div><div>Hancha</div><div>Revised Romanization</div><div>McCune–Reischauer</div></div><div><div>주체연호</div><div>主體年號</div><div><i>Juche yeonho</i></div><div><i>Chuch'e yŏnho</i></div></div></div>

Any other years after 1912 will be given in either *Juche* years only, or in *Juche* years and the corresponding year in the Christian calendar in parentheses. In material pertaining to relations with foreign countries, "the *Juche* Era and the Christian Era may be used on the principles of independence, equality and reciprocity."^[5]

The *Juche* calendar is a popular souvenir among tourists visiting North Korea.^[6]

Examples

<i>Juche</i> year	Gregorian year	Dangun year	Event
1	1912	4245	<u>Kim Il-sung's birth</u>
30	1941	4274	<u>Kim Jong-il's birth</u> (Soviet records)
31	1942	4275	<u>Kim Jong-il's birth</u> (North Korean records)
37	1948	4281	North Korea founded
39–42	1950–1953	4283–4286	<u>Korean War</u>
71	1982	4315	<u>Kim Jong-un's birth</u> (North Korean records)
72	1983	4316	Kim Jong-un's birth (South Korean and U.S. records)
83	1994	4327	<u>Kim Il-sung's death</u>
86	1997	4330	<i>Juche</i> calendar introduced
100	2011	4344	<u>Kim Jong-il's death</u>
101	2012	4345	100 years after Kim Il-sung's birth
111	2022	4355	Last year
112	2023	4356	Current year
113	2024	4357	Next year

See also



- Public holidays in North Korea
- Republic of China calendar, currently used in Taiwan, whose year numbers match those of the *Juche* calendar (for unrelated reasons).
- The years in Japan's Taishō era (30 July 1912 to 25 December 1926) also coincided with those of the *Juche* calendar.

References

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2. Hy-Sang Lee (2001). *North Korea: A Strange Socialist Fortress* (https://books.google.com/books?id=6Rx8Q_cxqvkc&pg=PA220). Greenwood Publishing Group. p. 220. ISBN 978-0-275-96917-2.

3. Martin K. Dimitrov (31 July 2013). *Why Communism Did Not Collapse: Understanding Authoritarian Regime Resilience in Asia and Europe* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=wWcoAAAAQBAJ&pg=PA104>). Cambridge University Press. p. 104. ISBN 978-1-107-03553-9.
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5. "Rules on use of Juche Era adopted" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150505000743/http://www.kcna.co.jp/item/1997/9708/news8/25.htm#4>). KCNA. 25 August 1997. Archived from the original (<http://www.kcna.co.jp/item/1997/9708/news8/25.htm#4>) on 5 May 2015. Retrieved 31 August 2016.
6. 北朝鮮で高コスパ土産として人気のカレンダー3種類を徹底解析 (<https://www.koreaworldtimes.com/topics/travel/5406/>). *Korea World Times* (in Japanese). 31 March 2019. Retrieved 12 July 2020.

External links

- [Example of "Juche 103 \(2014\)"](https://web.archive.org/web/20180208123407/https://pust.co/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/DMS-700x300.jpg) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180208123407/https://pust.co/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/DMS-700x300.jpg>) from [Pyongyang University of Science and Technology](#)
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