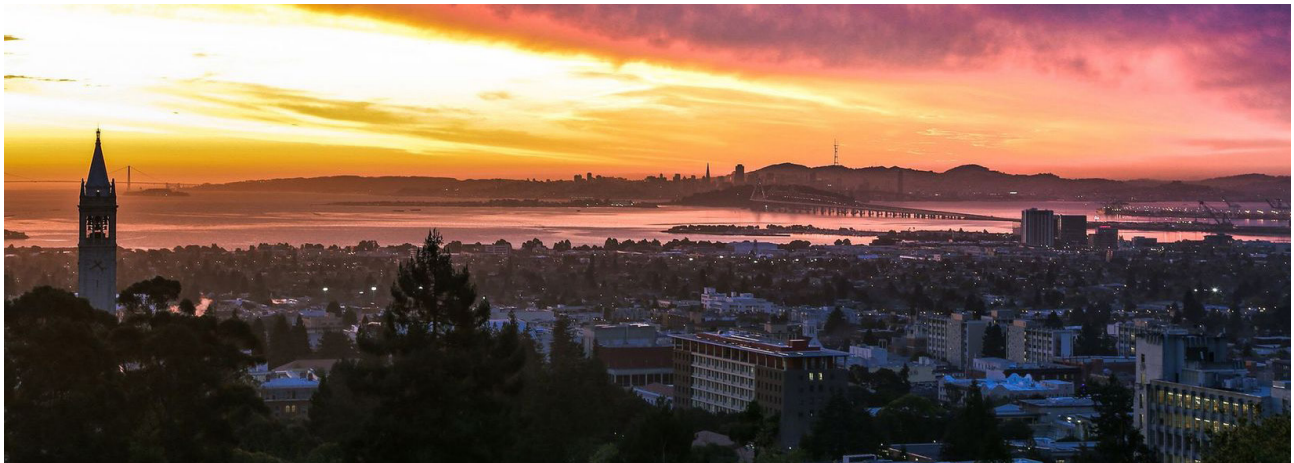


# Bay Area Model United Nations Spring 2015

April 25th



## BACKGROUND GUIDE 2037: THE FALL OF NORTH KOREA

## 2037: THE FALL OF NORTH KOREA

A Message From the Chair

Dear Delegates,

It brings me great pleasure to welcome you to North Korea's Politburo, 2037 at BayMUN this year. My name is Timothy Guan, and I am honored to serve as your head chair for what I'm sure will be a day of scandal, intrigue, and exciting debate.

A little about myself: I am a second year at Berkeley pursuing a double major in Biochemistry and Cognitive Science, with a minor in Computer Science. I am most recently from Shanghai, China, but I'm originally from Edison, New Jersey. I have been involved in Model UN since seventh grade, and have been lucky enough to attend a wide variety of conferences as a delegate, chair, and crisis director. At Berkeley, in addition to serving as UCBMUN's Marketing Chief of Staff, I'm an undergraduate researcher in the College of Chemistry and an executive member of the Cognitive Science Student Association.

My team and I have worked hard to realize this crazy topic, and I can't wait to see how it turns out. Our story begins in the months following the untimely death of Kim Jong Un, who had no apparent heir. As in any period of political turmoil, ideology lies at the heart of this body's concern. I have no doubt that you will forge a bright future for this great nation. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. I can't wait to meet all of you during the conference.

Sincerely

Timothy Guan (Tim)  
tguan@berkeley.edu



BayMUN Spring 2015



## A Message From the Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

I would like to welcome you to North Korea's Politburo, 2037 at BayMUN this year. My name is Will Kable, and I am very excited to serve as your crisis director, to which I can guarantee you a very interesting committee. I expect delegates to be ruthless, creative, and downright maniacal.

A little about myself: I am a sophomore at the University of California, Berkeley and I am majoring in Nuclear Engineering with a minor in German. (So I'm going to be a stickler for any crisis notes related to nuclear weapons) I lived for 13 years in Atlanta, GA and 5 years in Spokane, WA. I have been doing Model UN for one year now and I have previously held positions of legal staff on the International Court of Justice and interim crisis director for the African Union. In addition to doing MUN, I am also a research assistant at Lawrence Livermore National Lab.

Seeing as this committee is set in North Korea 22 years in the future, I expect death, deceit, and destruction. I chose this committee because I enjoy nuclear weapons and demagogues so I cannot wait to see what you all have planned. I suggest reading the background guide and familiarizing yourselves with all characters involved in the committee. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the email listed below.

[willkable@berkeley.edu](mailto:willkable@berkeley.edu)

Sincerely,  
Will Kable



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF NORTH KOREA

With the end of World War II in 1945, formerly Japanese-controlled Korea was turned over to the Allied Powers, much like Germany was. The nation was divided into two large regions, with the USSR overseeing the North and the United States overseeing the South. This division was along the 38th parallel, an almost arbitrary line decided because it divided the country in half, but had Seoul in the American-controlled portion. In 1946 Kim Il-sung, heading the Provisional People's Committee for North Korea, implemented land reform and officially proclaimed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Soviet troops left the country by 1948 [5] [6].

Meanwhile, Syngman Rhee was elected as the first president of the Republic of Korea in 1948. The resulting two nations were opposite in ideology and politics -- the North adopted communist and socialist policies, whereas the South fell under the Western sphere of influence. Despite these clear and seemingly unsurmountable differences, both nations expressed the desire to reunify the Korean subcontinent at the time. Alas, the method of this unification was a cause for contention. Early attempts included the North Korean invasion of South Korea in June of 1950 that sparked the 3-year Korean War. South Korean forces were driven all the way down to the city of Busan, near the southern coast of the country.

The Korean War was an early example of foreign involvement in the Korean conflict. UN forces, comprised mainly of US troops, pushed the North Korean forces back past the 38th parallel to the Yalu river, near China. In response, China, feigning fear for the potential loss of its own territorial integrity, involved itself in the struggle. China successfully repelled the UN forces, and with the support of the Soviet Union, pushed UN forces back to the 38th parallel where a stalemate was reached. The Korean War is thus often considered a proxy war between the two great powers of the time, each using their respective Korea to advance their political and ideological agendas [5].

Following the Korean War, the opposing sides were not on diplomatic terms, but secret visits yielded a joint communique outlining a plan for eventual reunification. Both were to take steps to cooperate positively with each other. Little progress was made to this end after several years.



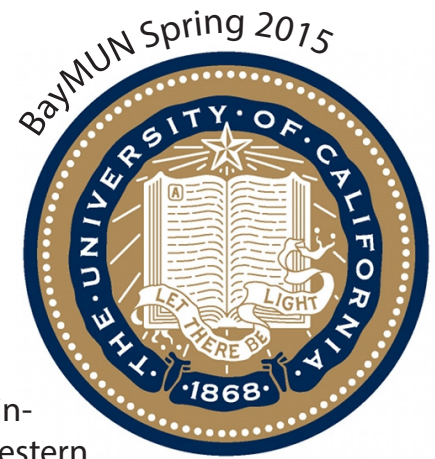
During the remainder of Kim Il-sung's reign, he worked to implement a policy of Juche, or self-reliance. This principle became the guiding mantra for North Korean development in the decades to follow. A powerful cult of personality around Kim and his family formed in the latter half of the 20th century, resulting in what many would describe as a totalitarian dictatorship, despite North Korea's insistence that they follow a socialist model.

In the 80s, South Korea adopted the policy of 'Nordpolitik' as yet another attempt to normalize relations with North Korea. This involved trying to improve relations with North Korea's traditional allies: the USSR and China.

In 1994, after ruling for almost 50 years, Kim Il-sung died and was succeeded by his son and heir, Kim Jong-il. This period was brutal for North Korea as famine struck harshly and frequently and North Korea was forced to accept aid from the UN. Humanitarian aid to combat drought, famine, and natural disasters became a key playing piece in UN negotiations with North Korea. Kim Jong-il also strengthened the military, and subsequently state militarism, declaring a policy of "Songun," or military first. The characterization of North Korea as a brutal dictatorship experienced a rapid rise during this time.

In the late 1990s, another policy was instituted: South Korea's Sunshine Policy. After 50 years of rapid economic development, South Korea was now far more developed than its counterpart (the Purchasing Power Parity ratio between the two in 2013 was 18:1).<sup>1</sup> To improve relations between the two nations, South Korea offered to give benefits to North Korea, without concern about reciprocal exchanges. However with Kim Jong-il refusing to cooperate, and with North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons, South Korea declared the policy a failure in 2010.<sup>8</sup> More details on North Korea's current nuclear situation can be found in a later section of this background guide.





In December of 2011 Kim Jong-un, Kim Jong-il's youngest son, assumed his father's role as head of state following his death. The early years of his reign were characterized by increasing tensions between North Korea and neighboring/Western states over the development and testing of nuclear weapons. Like his father and grandfather, Kim had no tolerance for opposition in his party or his government, continuing the cult of personality around his family [6].

### THE DEPOSAL OF THE KIM REGIME

For the majority of the 2010s, North Korea's interactions and negotiations with foreign powers revolved around the development nuclear weapons and technology. Given improved climate conditions in the latter half of the decade, international bodies had less leverage in their negotiations with North Korea, and efforts to reduce or eradicate North Korean nuclear proliferation were largely unsuccessful. In spite of this, however, the Kim regime failed to achieve full self-sustainability for certain resources, particularly those related to food shortages that persisted due to low crop supplies [6] [9] [11].

In the decade that followed, a series of droughts and floods plagued the farms of North Korea. Relations with Russia and other allies began to strain due to tensions from the 2010s. These factors resulted in a famine even more catastrophic than that of the 1990s. Floodwaters severely damaged infrastructure in several regions of the nation, and malnutrition pervaded the population [4] [10]. The estimated two million North Koreans who died from famine-related starvation and malnutrition were joined by several more million of their brothers and sisters.

In this great time of need, North Korea had no choice but to look to the international community for humanitarian aid. Members of the UN saw this plea as an opportunity to attack the nation's nuclear program. Indeed, several member states, most notably the United States, agreed to lift what had become almost impossibly harsh sanctions and provide aid in the forms of food, natural resources, and agricultural infrastructure. In response, however, North Korea would have to close down all its nuclear operations, report all existing nuclear weaponry, and destroy the Yongbyon nuclear complex.



Small-scale student demonstrators at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology and Kim Il-sung University urged North Korea's dear leader to accept these terms, but they were quickly silenced with military force. Regardless, Kim ultimately gave in to the UN's terms for fear of deteriorating his cult of personality. The Yongbyon nuclear complex, and supposedly the capability of North Korea to produce nuclear weapons, was destroyed in November of 2029.

Unbeknownst to all those outside Kim's immediate circle, however, Kim had moved North Korea's nuclear program underground. Over the past few decades, anticipating such an event, Kim had ordered the construction of a remote second facility, to which he had systematically moved equipment and resources over the course of the 2020s. The location of this secret facility was known only to Kim and the workers immediately involved in the relocation, who had sworn an oath of silence, violation of which was punishable by death.

Over the next few years, this new facility produced plutonium and uranium weapons on a nearly yearly basis in complete silence. Though the Politburo was aware of this progress, even they were unaware of the location of the weapons. Kim himself would give updates regarding their construction.

On the morning of October 25th 2036, North Korea's supreme leader was found dead in his bed, flanked on either side by members of his pleasure squad (Kippumjo). Those members were immediately detained and their fate is as yet uncertain. An autopsy revealed the cause of death as stroke.



## NORTH KOREA'S PRESENT STATE AND POLITICAL CLIMATE

For the first half of the 2030s, humanitarian aid had a strong positive effect on reducing starvation and malnutrition in North Korea. Shipments of grain and other provisions fed millions, while farmers collaborated with American aid workers to improve the structure and function of the North Korean agricultural system. This golden period in food supply was, however, short-lived. In 2034, a massive earthquake shook the western coast of the United States, greatly reducing American aid to North Korea. The few years that followed saw a gradual increase in starvation.

The climate-related problems that had troubled North Korea for centuries continued to do so, and by early 2036, the reduction in foreign aid yielded yet another hunger crisis. Student groups across the nation demonstrated against the party in protests calling for the end of North Korean autarky. Soon, the students aligned themselves with low-ranking officials of the Social Democratic Party in remote regions of the country. Outraged, Kim tried and executed the student leaders and Social Democrats involved for "attempting to overthrow the government." This public demonstration of authority temporarily calmed the protests, though reports from several provinces indicate citizens have grievances regarding food and potable water supply.

The cult of personality that once cemented Kim Jong-un's totalitarian power had come dangerously close to a breaking point. While the top officials of the Social Democratic and Chondoist Chongu Party were still under complete Worker's Party control, low-level officials began expressing discontent regarding Kim's domestic infrastructure allocation of resources. This Politburo has inherited a North Korea that is hungry, broken, and lacking in basic resources.

In the months that have transpired since Kim's death, the Politburo of the Worker's Party of North Korea have made most government decisions as a body, though lack of a clear hierarchy and structure has led to inefficiency and counterproductivity.





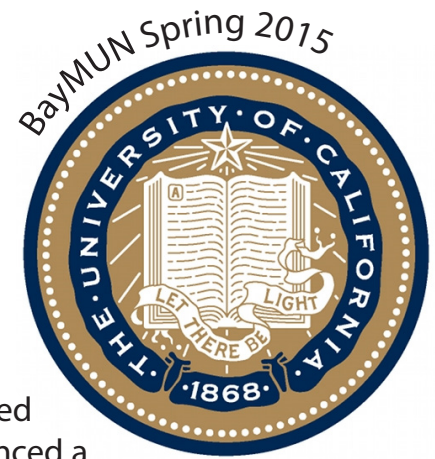
## INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

A great many international parties seek to take advantage of North Korea's new vulnerable position, each with their own agenda. This committee does not occur in a vacuum, and so it is imperative to consider the motivations and actions of other nations. Some key points appear below.

South Korea lies directly next to North Korea, and has experienced relative economic and developmental stability over the last few decades. It hopes to work with its close allies, particularly the United States and Japan, to take this time as an opportunity to reform North Korea and mitigate the threat it poses to their national security. In addition, high-ranking government officials in South Korea have begun to discuss the reunification of the Korean subcontinent as a possible goal for endeavors following the death of Kim Jong-un. This would directly threaten the cult of personality surrounding Kim and his ideology, to which most members of the North Korean politburo subscribe.

The United States has suffered great losses in infrastructure and morale as a result of the 2034 earthquake. Having had a few years to rebuild and regroup, America is prepared to contribute to drastic action regarding the North Korean government and the food problem faced by the North Korean people. The United States remains the strongest, most vocal opponent to communism and totalitarianism, and fully intends to act upon these sentiments in this crucial time.

Russia's relationship with North Korea has remained relatively strong throughout its history. In light of Kim Jong-un's passing, Russia hopes to protect the nation from "Western Imperialism," particularly "American Imperialism." Russia's continual support by means of humanitarian aid has helped to prevent the complete disintegration of the North Korean state.



China responded negatively to North Korean nuclear aggression at the start of the twenty-first century. As North Korea walked out of negotiation-after-negotiation and violated treaty-after-treaty, the two formerly friendly nations experienced a period of political separation. In the years following the 2029 nuclear treaty, however, China has provided a moderate amount of humanitarian aid to their neighbor as a sign of good faith. It is unclear how China will react to the current North Korean situation.

Japan is in agreement with the United States and South Korea that North Korea poses a threat to its territorial integrity and the wellbeing of its citizens. Japan's economic growth has slowed significantly in the past decade and aims to reform the North Korean economy to acquire a new trade partner.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The history of North Korean nuclear proliferation was briefly touched upon in an earlier section. At this point, it is important to reiterate the general pattern of nuclear-related negotiations between the Hermit Country and the powers of the West. Beginning with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaties in the early 1990s, North Korea has repeatedly signed and abandoned agreements with the international community.

In the periods separating these treaties, the nation has constructed an unknown number of nuclear weapons. Their first weapons were made with plutonium, largely processed in the Yongbyon nuclear complex which reopened in 2013. Further reports and intelligence by the United States indicated that North Korea had the capability to construct enriched uranium weapons by the year 2020. Following the relocation of North Korea's nuclear operations, further progress in the program was vague. However, it is known to this body that somewhere in the remote corners of this great nation hides the potential to be a formidable nuclear power.

Perhaps locating these weapons is the key to maintaining power and preserving North Korea's ideology. But their location is a secret our Dear Leader took to his grave. Or is it? Only time will tell if the Politburo will find them.



## CHARACTER PROFILES

Youj Kyu-Hwang is the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea, a position he has held since 2029. Born in 1982, he is the son of a previous leading member of the Korean Worker's party. As the 2nd most powerful man in North Korea, Youj is poised to fill the power vacuum left by the death of Kim Jong-un. For years Youj has served behind the scenes as the de facto Head of State. He currently serves a position akin to the Secretary of State in North Korea and is the country's formal ambassador. A strong speaker, Youj has gained a reputation as a competent emissary and has been attempting to gain the support of smaller foreign nations for years. It is well-known within the administration that Youj seeks to ascend to power as the Supreme leader of North Korea. This has garnered him much distrust among party members and has made him a prime target for others seeking the position of Supreme Leader.

Rheem Wook-Soon is the current Premier of North Korea, serving in that office since 2032. Born in 1987, Rheem was originally the son of a food factory manager. He soon became a ranking member of the Workers' Party of Korea, starting as an alternative member of the ruling Korean Workers' Party (KWP) Central Committee. Rheem then began working his way through the ranks of the party eventually becoming the Premier of North Korea. As the third ranking member in the administration, Rheem, along with Youj Kyu-Hwang and the late Kim Jong Un, formed a triplet of executive power. One of Rheem's main goals has been to modernize North Korean agriculture and provide a better quality of life for the North Korean people. This has gained him much popularity among the people, but has gained much distrust among other more corrupt party members. Rheem has also been open to a more consumer-based economy and has been attempting to introduce economic policies similar to the Chinese model of state capitalism.



Ryu Hyun-sil is the current secretary of Organisation in the Politburo and is considered the 4th ranking member in the committee. A close relative of Kim Jong-un, Ryu has been a member of the Inner Circle for years and was one of Kim's closest advisors. However, her husband Ryu Sung-man was executed in 2035 for charges of treason against the state. Educated in Moscow, Ryu Hyun-sil is one of the few elite North Koreans to have exposure to the outside world. Ryu began her political career in the Korean Democratic Women's Union and soon became a leading figure in the party. In 2036 she was appointed General in the Korean People's Army, despite her lack of military experience. This is widely considered a clear case of nepotism by Kim Jong-un. Ryu Hyun-sil has close personal ties to all high-ranking members, including Rheem Wook and YoujKy Hwang. Ryu Hyun-sil seeks to maintain North Korea's isolation and status quo. She also operates several small restaurants across North Korea.

Mok Sung-keun is vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and Director of the Central Propaganda and Agitation Department. Born in 1998, Keun is one of the youngest members of the politburo. His parents were both executed in 2005 under charges of political treason. Mok was then taken in by a ranking colonel within the North Korean Army. Educated at the Kim Il-sung University and at several schools in Moscow, Keun was also one of the few North Korean students that were sent to South Korea as part of an educational exchange between the two countries. Mok is a fanatical supporter of the Kim family and has been responsible for much of the cult-like worship surrounding the Kim them. One of Mok's other main goal has always been the eventual reunification of the Korean Peninsula under the rule of the Kim family.

Moon Yong-sik is secretary for Education and Science Affairs and is also the Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly. He was an advisor to Kim Jong-un, as well as a popular member of the core leadership. Born in 1955, Sik is one of the oldest members of the committee. Moon studied chemistry at the Kim Il-sung University, and later completed his studies in Leipzig (at the time, still part of East Germany) and Moscow. Moon Yong-sik worked as a researcher for several years developing weapons for North Korea. Moon Yong-sik took a more prominent role in the country's politics in the early 2000's. He served as chairman of the Education Commission (from 2002) and minister of Higher Education (from 2006); in those capacities, he expanded cultural exchanges with



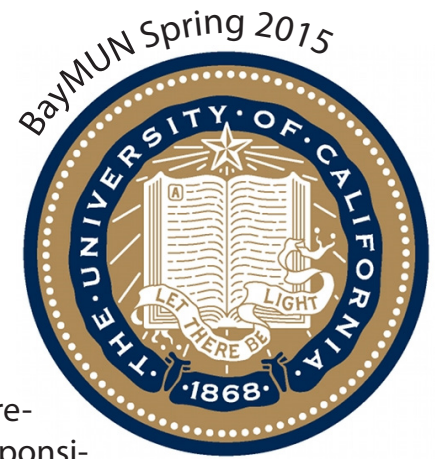


and created programs to send North Korean students to study abroad. He is widely considered a reformist seeking to open up North Korea and educate its people. This has made other party members very suspicious of his intentions. Moon Yong-sik has also played a key role in building up North Korea's Nuclear Arsenal and has been very supportive of this goal. In addition to Korean, he speaks fluent English, German, and Russian.

Tsai Sang-yong is a North Korean politician and military official, serving as Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly. Born in 1972, Tsai is the son of the former Defense Minister Tsai Kuk-ryol. Tsai was born into the inner circle of North Korean politics, and has been elected to several low-level positions within the North Korean Worker's Party. Tsai was then promoted to serve as a general in the Korean People's Army, as well as also serving as a member of the North Korean Worker's Party's Secretariat and Central Military Commission in 2022. Tsai has very little Military Background, however, and his promotion was largely seen a perk of being his father's son. Tsai has since appointed many personal allies to key military posts and has assumed control of various businesses run by the military. This has lost him the trust and loyalty of the troops and of the other generals. Tsai is well known to be an alcoholic and at one point it even caused him to be imprisoned for a brief period of time. Tsai also walks with a severe limp believed to have been caused during this imprisonment. Tsai has strong resentment towards the North Korean government and seeks only to further his own ends, which remain unknown.

Son Dae-suk was born in 1984 and joined the Korean People's Army in 2000 (later promoted to general in 2028). He also graduated from the exclusive Kim Il-sung Higher Party School and worked in a number of party posts in factories and mines. He oversaw the modernization of the province's arms-production facilities and the building of many modern industrial plants within North Korea. He currently serves as North Korea's military industry manager. Pak oversaw the Kwangmyongsong-9 and





Kwangmyongsong-10 missile launches in 2025, which marked North Korea's first successful tests of long range ICBMs which have a range of over 11000 km. Son is a well respected General within the North Korean army has been responsible for much of North Korea's military advancement in the 21st century.

Jeung Chun-ok is currently the Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Vice Chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland. Born in 1984, Jeung she joined the Korean People's Army and later graduated from the Kim Il-sung University. She began her stint in politics by serving as section chief and then secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. Jeung has always been extremely power hungry but has never been able to fully ascend to positions of power. Forever second, Jeung has had little impact upon the politburo and has made few connections within the government. With little loyalty to any regime, Jeung wishes to seek as much power as possible.

Kim Jin-yong is a senior North Korean official, vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of North Korea and vice-marshal of the Korean People's Army. Born in 1947, he is presently the oldest member of the central leadership of North Korea at 90 years old and the only remaining member to have served in positions of power under all Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, and Kim Jong-un. In 1971 After serving in the military for several years, he was appointed vice-chairman of the Politburo of the Korean People's Army and was promoted to lieutenant general. After years of admirable service, Kim Jin-jong was elected to the National Defence Commission in 2016, also being promoted to the second highest military rank of vice-marshal. Kim Jin-Yong has substantial military experience, having risen through the ranks through his own merits.

Suh Sun-tu is a North Korean diplomat and politician. She is currently Secretary for International Affairs. Suh was born in 1979 and is the daughter of a well-known weapons plant manager. Having obtained a Bachelor's degree in French from the University of International Affairs in Pyongyang, Suh began a diplomatic career. Her first significant position was as the Korean Workers' Party's deputy director for international affairs, and was then promoted to director. In 2016, she was appointed section leader of this bureau. In 2018, she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in 2020 she became First Vice Foreign Minister. She was prominently involved in diplomatic talks with the United States over the issue of this country's nuclear program including issues regarding



Kwangmyongsong-9 and Kwangmyongsong-10 missile launches. She was subsequently in charge of supervising North Korea's relations with the United States, which became her area of expertise. She is considered very aggressive at times, which has caused problems within the politburo, often garnering her resentment. In the mid 2000's, she made several crucial decisions without consulting the party and was sent to a concentration camp for training in revolutionary discipline.

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