

Kim Jong-un

Kim Jong-un, the young man announced as North Korea's next leader, is even more of an enigma than his mercurial father Kim Jong-il



■ **Birth:** Thought to be *January 8, 1984* – reportedly most favoured of Kim Jong-il's three sons

■ **Mother:** *Ko Young-hui* (d. 2004), Japanese-born Korean dancer, said to be Kim Jong-il's favourite consort

■ **Education:** Attended international school in Switzerland until 1998. Studied military science at university in North Korea, 2002-2006

■ **Role:** In September 2010, Kim is made a four-star general, given senior ruling party posts, and put in charge of North Korea's secret police

■ **Succession:** Given Kim Jong-un's youth, his uncle, *Jang Sung-taek*, is believed to have been entrusted with caretaker role to oversee smooth transfer of power