

■ **Feb 1941:** Born either in Siberia, when his father, **Kim Il-sung** was in exile or in 1942 at his father's guerrilla base in North Korea

■ **Jun 1950:** Soviet-backed Kim Il-sung attacks South Korea, triggering Korean War



■ **Jul 1953:** Korean War ends in truce without formal peace agreement. North and South still technically at war

■ **1964:** Kim Jong-il graduates from university

■ **1970s-80s:** Appointed head of North Korea's special forces. Allegedly linked to 1986 bombing of **Korean Airlines** jet, killing 115 people

■ **1973:** Heads cultural division of **Korean Workers' Party**

■ **1978:** Organizes kidnap of South Korean film director and his actress girlfriend in bid to improve North Korea's film industry

Kim believed to have library of 20,000 movies. Favourite characters are Rambo and James Bond

■ **1980:** Officially designated successor to his father. Appointed commander of army, which becomes his main support base

■ **1991: Fall of Soviet Union.** Vital source of aid begins to dry up

■ **1993:** Kim takes over responsibility for nation's defence



North Korea's mystery man

Kim Jong-il – the so-called **Dear Leader** of North Korea's totalitarian regime – has died at the age of 70, piling pressure on his inexperienced son to ensure the stability of his impoverished, nuclear-armed state. South Korea has put its military on an emergency footing



Height: 5 feet 3 inches

Wears platform shoes and bouffant hairstyle



2001: Publishes book On the Art of Cinema



■ **1994:** Death of Kim Il-sung. Famine kills as many as two million people in North Korea

■ **Oct:** U.S. President **Bill Clinton** forges pact with Pyongyang to abandon its atomic weapons programme in exchange for fuel aid and help to build two reactors



■ **Nov:** Republicans gain control of U.S. Congress – Clinton's pact grinds to virtual standstill

■ **1997:** After mourning period Kim becomes head of state. Under his **military first** policy army gets first choice of resources

■ **1998:** Kim initiates **missiles for nuclear technology** deal with Pakistan and launches Taepo-dong-1 missile over northern Japan

■ **1999:** Kim's alleged **supernote** scam takes off. Extremely high-quality copies of foreign currency – U.S. dollars, Japanese yen, Thai bahts, and later, euros – start circulating through North Korean **Zokwang Trading Company** in Macau

■ **2001:** Pyongyang sends condolences to U.S. President **George W. Bush** following 9/11 attacks

■ **Jan 2002:** President Bush brands North Korea, along with Iraq and Iran, as part of **"axis of evil"**



■ **Oct:** U.S. halts oil deliveries. With invasion of Iraq looming, Kim becomes increasingly convinced Bush wants to overthrow him

■ **2003:** U.S. threatens sanctions. Kim resumes nuclear weapons programme and expels UN inspectors

Kim's favourite drink – Hennessy VSOP cognac

■ **2004:** Kim threatens **nuclear sea of fire** if U.S. attacks North Korea

■ **2005:** U.S. imposes financial sanctions

■ **Oct 2006:** North Korea conducts underground nuclear test blast

■ **2008:** Rumours that Kim has suffered a stroke

■ **2009:** North Korea tests second nuclear device and ballistic missile with capability of hitting Alaska

■ **2010:** Kim Jong Il names his third son, **Kim Jong Un**, as his successor

■ **Dec 17, 2011:** Kim Jong-il dies from suspected heart attack, aged 70

