

hate him.” When I suggested that he would probably cry on the day that Castro died, he smiled and murmured, “Of course I will. But they will be tears of joy.”

Communist North Korea Becomes Increasingly Isolated: Kim Jong Il

Richard Worth

Richard Worth is an author of nonfiction, including the book Gangs and Crime.

In 1980 the leader of North Korea was chosen, not by the people or even by a parliament, but by the new leader's own father, who had been dictator before him. According to Worth in the viewpoint that follows, Kim Jong Il used terror tactics before and during his rule, including kidnapping citizens of other countries and imprisoning thousands. Among those he kidnapped and imprisoned were an actress and a film director he needed for a film project. While he was spending millions on his filmmaking and building up the military, Worth explains, the economy was becoming weaker and his people more destitute. Meanwhile North Korea's foreign policy decisions influenced broken alliances, and the nation found itself increasingly isolated under Kim Jong Il's leadership. Under these conditions North Korea began a nuclear weapons program, says Worth, in order to gain the attention and respect of the world's major powers.

In 1980, Kim Il Sung made an official announcement that his son, Kim Jong Il, would be his successor as head of the North Korean government. Meanwhile, the younger Kim had also become a secretary—that is, a leader—of the Communist Workers' Party. He was known as the Dear Leader to distinguish him from his father, the Great Leader. Portraits of the Dear Leader and the Great Leader appeared side by side inside

Richard Worth, “Chapter 6: The Struggles of the Kim Il Sung Regime,” in *Kim Jong Il*. Chelsea House, 2008. Copyright © 2008 Infobase Publishing. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission.