

North Korea

Rice

At the end of World War II, Korea, which had been under Japanese control, was divided into two separate occupation zones. North Korea was administered by the Soviet Union, while South Korea was administered by the United States. In 1948, after negotiations over reuniting the two Koreas deadlocked, the 'Korea question' was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly. This, in turn, resulted in the establishment of two separate nations. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established on September 9, 1948, with Premier Kim Il-Sung as its leader.

Kim Il-Sung established a single party-personalist system centered on himself and his party, the CND (Worker's Party of Korea, the only legal party in North Korea today). Kim Il-Sung remained in power until his death in 1994, at which point he was replaced by his son (and predesignated successor) Kim Jong-Il. This is not a SOLS change. Kim Jong-Il was then named the General Secretary of the CND, as well as the Chairman of the National Defense Commission in 1997 and 1998 respectively. Another individual, Kim Yong-nam, became the President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, and though the actual lines of power in North Korea are not well known, it is clear that Kim Jong-Il is in charge (United States Department of State 2010). Kim Jong-Il remains in power in the present day.

References

United States Department of State. "Country Background Note: North Korea". Last edited 9 March 2010.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2792.htm>

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Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) on 5/24/2014