

Abstract

The Logics and Indications of Kim Jong-un's Succession in North Korea

It has become known that Kim Jong-il has chosen his third son, Kim Jong-un, as his successor. If it is true that the youngest son has been chosen as the successor, we can see it as a move North Korea has made to officially pass down leadership via family lines for the third generation -and to begin a transition period to the next leader. This Article will investigate Kim Jong-un's power succession problems in North Korea.

If Kim Jong-un has truly been named as the successor, North Korea's recent attempts to create tensions, like rocket launches and a nuclear test, must have some connection with its domestic situation. The North Korean leaders' nervous feelings due to Kim Jong-il's bad health seem to have led to a series of moves to raise tension.

North Korea's successor issue is important because it will decide who will rule half the Korean Peninsula. As North Korea's regime is in an overall crisis, the attempt to pass down power to the third generation will face many difficulties.

In order to negate negative views on passing down power for three generations in a row and to establish a stable successor system, it is important to restore North Korea's economy through negotiating with the Western World. Kim Jong-il can let his successor take the status of leader of a nuclear state and focus on sustaining and protecting the regime.

We also need to go beyond responding to the Kim Jong-il regime, drawing on various measures in preparation for many possible scenarios in the course of North Korea establishing a successor to Kim Jong-il.

Key words: Kim Jong-un, Kim Jong-il, Power Succession Problems