

Noteworthy Day in the History of Modern Korea

On April 9, 1993, 30 years ago, Kim Jong Il (1942-2011) was elected Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was the reflection of the unanimous desire and will of all the Korean people.

Defending the Destiny of the Country and the People by Dint of Songun

When the Korean people think of Kim Jong Il, the first word they are reminded of is *Songun*, for the history of modern Korea is unthinkable separated from the Songun-based leadership pursued by him.

In the closing years of last century, when socialism collapsed in several countries and the imperialists intensified their anti-socialist offensive against his country, Kim Jong Il held high the banner of Songun.

He formulated Songun politics as the basic political mode of socialism and continued his inspection of military units to prepare the Korean People's Army to be perfect politically and ideologically, militarily and technologically. How much effort he directed to building up the military capability can be proved by the fact that the units in the field of the armed forces he inspected from 1995 to 2011 number about 2 490. Among them is the one at Panmunjom on the Military Demarcation Line, where guns of the KPA soldiers and enemy soldiers are leveled at each other, to say nothing of the frontline posts.

Under his energetic leadership the KPA was prepared into an elite army in championing socialism and into powerful armed forces equipped with means of both attack and defence strong enough to defeat any aggressor forces. All-people, nationwide defence system was firmly consolidated, with the result that the level of arming all the people reached an unprecedented level, and the work of fortifying the whole country became more perfect. At present the country is capable of producing on its own efforts all military hardware and other combat equipment needed in strengthening the national defence capabilities, and now possesses a powerful war deterrent.

The imperialists dealt missile attacks on several countries and massacred innocent civilians there, but they did not dare to attack the DPRK. This was a brilliant fruition brought by the Songun leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Laying Foundation for Building a Powerful Socialist Country

The Songun leadership pursued by Kim Jong Il was not merely aimed at defending the destiny of the country and the people; it was also aimed at ushering in a new era of building a powerful socialist country to realize his noble ideal of making his people lead a happy life with nothing to envy in the world.

To this end, he set forth an original line of economic construction in the Songun era, which was to develop the defence industry on a priority basis while boosting light industry and agriculture simultaneously, and he ensured that the overall economy of the country was bolstered and its development stimulated through the leading role of the defence industry. And he led the KPA to make breakthroughs in the challenging, yet important fields of economic construction and the people across the country to emulate the indefatigable revolutionary spirit displayed by the service personnel so as to achieve innovative successes in various parts of the country.

Under his leadership the Korean people overcame the worst-ever trials and difficulties, and opened up an epochal phase in building theirs into a powerful socialist country.

On two occasions, in 1998 and 2009, the country succeeded in launching its indigenous earth satellites by its own efforts and technology.

The overall economic and cultural fields were put on an upward track. The machine-building industry actively accelerated the work of introducing the CNC technology; the metallurgical industry established a new steel-making system using no coking coal, and the chemical industry was equipped with systems of producing vinalon and fertilizer from the country's own raw and other materials; in the agricultural sector the crop lands across the country were turned into large-sized standard ones and gravitational waterways were built one after another; numerous monumental structures were built in various parts of the country, and streets, villages and houses sprang up as befits those of a socialist country.

The Korean people have recorded the day of his election to the chairmanship of the National Defence Commission as a noteworthy day in the history of their country, and celebrate this day in a meaningful way every year.



Chol Pass, symbol of Songun leadership

Chairman Kim Jong Il crossed this pass on 18 occasions on his way to KPA units in his effort to defend the destiny of his country and people.