

Summary

The monograph *Kim Jong-un. A Chronicle of his Life and Struggle* is not a political biography of the young North Korean leader, but only a chronological record of the most important dates in his political career, a record of the events which led to the young Kim taking up the most important functions in the party, the army and the state.

Writing about the new leader is not easy, bearing in mind that his *curriculum vitae* and his achievements form part of a political mythology where distinguishing genuine events from those fabricated to serve the needs of current politics and the ideological doctrine in force is difficult. The study is an attempt at organizing the basic information regarding one of the youngest leaders in the world, a leader who took up the reins of power over a state threatening the world with missiles and nuclear weapons. Kim Jong-un's private life receives the least attention in the work because, in the North Korean reality, the private lives of the leaders continue to be veiled in a dark cloud of secrecy.

Kim Jong-un. A Chronicle of his Life and Struggle is only the first scene of the young leader's involvement in politics. His fortunes as the leader of the state cannot be predicted today. Nevertheless, the book may be recognised as important because it attracts attention to these events which cleared the 'Young Leader's' path to the peak of power. It is an endeavour to organise facts and events that are often unknown to the Polish reader and which make and which make possible a better understanding of the complexities of North Korea's politics, and, primarily, the conduct of the DPRK. The emergence of a young leader whose education included an episode in Switzerland at the helm of the North-Korean state has given rise to the hope for a great political turnaround, or, at least, for the beginning of the long-awaited process of the country's modernisation.

Kim Jong-un is a dictator holding every possible function and position. A great deal depends on his political will, determination and decision. Time will show whether he will go down in history as a great reformer and moderniser bringing joy and hope to his nation or if, entangled in intra-party infighting he will remain putty in the hands of the family clan and the ruling elite.