**Kim Jong-un's Power Consolidation Process**

**The countdown of Strategic provocation for the final period of Kim Jong-un's power and 'Again 2018'~Winner of 'High risk, High return' ~**

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**Last time, we looked at the process of Kim Jong-un's** designation as a successor and his fate.

**I analyzed and emphasized 4 main reasons Kim Jong-un was chosen as a successor** beyond the handicap of concubine’s son, a young man of 25 years old, a third among sons.

**Those I suggested** are as follows;

**First, The political and social structure** in which the succession to the Kim’s family lineage was established in the same way as the hereditary system of the feudal dynasty state. **Second, Brother, Kim Jong-nam and Kim Jong-cheol's** early dropout of the candidate group resulting from unique personality and behavior.**Third, The qualities that showed** during childhood and succession classes.

**And most inportantly, Kim Jong-il's sudden** stroke in August 2008.

**And then,** I’ve been also **wary and asked** preparation that Kim Jong-un's ambition, desire for power, and brutality may extend to the Korean Peninsula and world beyond the North Korean interior.

**Today, we will look at the process of Kim Jong-un's** official succession and consolidation of power after Kim Jong-il's death in December 2011.

**After reviewing that process,** we will examine the nuclear-missile system completion issue, which can be called the final stage of power completion.

**The transfer of power from Kim Jong-il to Kim Jong-un** proceeded abruptly and quickly.

**Unlike his father,** Kim Jong-il, who went to the top leader after around 33 years of preparation, Kim Jong-un lacked a lot of preparation time.

**In the institutional level,** Kim Jong-un's power-building work was carried out **informally** under the leadership of the Agency of Security, and **officially** as Vice-Chairman of the Party Central Military Commission during the three years of **heir** class from 2009 to 2011.

**Kim Jong-un's trademark “horror ruling”** was already conceived during this period.

**While leading the censorship project** for the officials who participated in North-South talks, **Kim Jong-un publicly shot** six people, including Vice-Chairman of the Unification Front, **Choi Seung-cheol** and head of the inter-Korean high-level talks, **Kwon Ho-woong**

**on** false report, espionage and corruption.

**And a large number of specialists were deported to** revolutionary or political prison camps. It can be said that it’s a kind of first demonstration purge.

After Kim Jong-il's death, **Kim Jong-un quickly took office** to Kim Jong-il's position, eliminating the possibility of power leaks or struggles that could occur in the transitional phase. It took less than 100 days to take office as the top commander in the military and to assume the highest position in the party, government, and military.

**After the official takeover,** Kim Jong-un put to focus on brutal purging on power men such as Li yeong-ho, Jang Sung-taek and normalizing the functions of the Labor Party.

In particular, in this process, it was a very important political choice to **convene the 7th party convention** to determine the overall direction of the Labor party in 36 years.

**The establishment of party chairmanship and State affairs** Council was an institutional measure to escape from the abnormal line of military rule in the Kim Jong-il era and return to the basic principle of the socialist system.

**It can be said Kim Jong-un actually declared** the end of the Military first Kim Jong-il era under the difficult environment that he’s unable to criticize the predecessors due to the peculiarity of the succession regime.

**Major turning points** in the process of Kim Jong-un's seizure of power and governance were

△ the launching of Gwangmyeongseong No. 3 missile ignoring the Feb. 29th agreement with the USA in April 2012,

and after that, four subsequent nuclear tests and more than 120 missile launch tests,

△ the purging of Jang Sung-taek in December 2013,

△ Official declaration of the Kim Jong-un era by convening the 7th Party Congress in May 2016.

△ Declaration of the succeed in nuclear-missile development in November 2017, and policy transition to denuclearization negotiations etc.

**Through this opportunity,** Kim Jong-un is reorganizing the power class into a person of his own, not a person of the Kim Jong-il era.

**Based on the 'North Korea main character information' in** 2020 published by the Ministry of Unification on the May 13th, 71% of the members of the Party Political Bureau, 92% of the candidates, and 82% of the State Council are replaced over the past 1year and 3months .

**In addition, the important military chiefs** of the overall staff, the People's Armed Forces, the reconnaissance, the escort department have all been replaced.

**It’s not an exaggeration to say** that Kim Jong-un's seizing power is nearing the end.

**Let me conclude.**

Kim Jong-un succeeded in seizing and consolidating power within a short time after Kim Jong-il's death.

**This is attributable to** the institutional measures of law, organization, and personnel, and symbolic operations such as idolization and policy routes, etc., **while the institutionalized theory of power** such as the theory of successor is supported.

**In particular, It worked well paradoxically** Kim Jong-un broke the structure of joint rule with guardians Kim Jong-il preapared earlier and created external conflict structures through nuclear and missile development and denuclearization negotiations

**There were many brutal and reckless aspects,** but it can be said that the strategy of 'High risk, High return' was successful.

**In the future, based on the stronger internal power base,** Kim Jong-un will continue to concentrate on strengthening nuclear-missile power in the face of the **Corona 19 situation** where the activity width of North Korea and the United States and other neighboring countries cannot be so great.

**The economy is another big axis of power stability.**

So, I think that Kim Jong-un's current goal the completion of the nuclear-missile upgrade and the completion of the Wonsan Karma Tourism Zone, which has been promoted as the first priority for securing an economic escape route.

**Therefore, the peak of the crisis over the Korean** Peninsula resulting from North Korea's provocation will paradoxically become a big inflection point in the situation. **I’m certain that Kim Jong-un's ‘Again 2018’ tactical** skills remain unchanged, and **that time** is running out.

**Therefore, we should pay special attention to the results** of the Party Central Military Committee, which was released by North Korea on the 24th.

**This is because North Korea's strategy for catching two** rabbits through the “First-Strategic Provocation, After-Conversation” can be said to have actually entered the countdown situation.

**Therefore, it is time for the United** States and **South Korea** to take preliminary countermeasures against North Korea's “dialogue after provocation” strategy.