Ten years ago this month, Kim Jong Un made his official debut as the heir of North Korea. Since then, he has accelerated the development of the country’s nuclear weapons program, undertook a massive building boom, and sought to reshape the conventional narrative of North Korea from a famine-stricken, economically-hobbled state to that of a dynamic, youthful, and modern country. With the summits of 2018 and 2019, Kim flirted with diplomacy and established an unlikely personal relationship with President Trump. But since the failed Hanoi Summit in February 2019, nuclear talks have stalled, leading to questions about what we should expect from this enigmatic leader in the coming months and years. Jung Pak explains Kim’s rise, what’s going on in North Korea today, and key lessons that Kim might have gleaned from his brief foray into diplomacy with the United States.

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