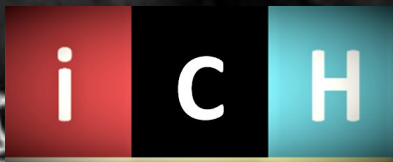


THE KOREAN WAR

1950 - 1953



THE KOREAN WAR

1950 - 1953



Korea Divided After World War 2 (WW2 = 1939 to 1945)

Korea was ruled by Japan until the end of World War 2 when the northern half was liberated by Soviet troops - the southern half by Americans. Following, there was hostility between the North's communist leader, Kim Il Sung and the South leader Syngman Rhee. In 1950, hostility spilled into open warfare, as North Korean troops invaded South Korea – by September 1950, all but a small southeastern corner of Korea was under communist control.



The US Response

President Truman promised to contain communism. His view was that the USA should do anything short of a war to stop communism. He sent advisers, supplies and warships to the seas around Korea. He realised it would look better if he had the support of the United Nations - or further - the United Nations leading with an intervention.



United Nations - Resolution 84

Truman put pressure on the UN Security Council to condemn the actions of North Korea. The USA was the biggest contributor to the United Nations budget. Normally the Soviet Union would be able to veto any UN resolution, however the USSR was boycotting the United Nations. Therefore, United Nations Resolution 84 was passed with the UN committing using members armies to drive North Korean troops out of South Korea. 18 member states provided troops or support of some kind. These were mostly allies of the USA such as Britain. The largest part of the force were American. The commander, General MacArthur was also an American.



UNITED NATIONS

Developments - September 1950 - the UN Forces Advances

UN forces stormed ashore at Inchon in September 1950. At the same time other UN forces and South Korean troops advanced from Pusan. This drove the North Koreans back beyond the original border - The 38th Parallel.



October 1950 - the UN Force Presses Forwards

MacArthur achieved the aim of removing North Korean troops from the South. Despite warnings from Chinese leader Mao Zedong, the UN approved a plan to advance, reaching the Yalu river on the border with China.



November 1950 - The UN Force Retreats

MacArthur underestimated the power of the Chinese. In October people calling themselves 'people's volunteers' joined the North Koreans. 200,000 of these troops launched a blistering attack. They were supported with tanks and planes supplied by the USSR. Freezing conditions also played a part with the Chinese more familiar with fighting in the mountains and conditions - the UN forces were forced to retreat back into South Korea.



April 1951 - General MacArthur Dismissed

MacArthur wanted to carry on the war and was ready to invade China and even use nuclear weapons. Truman disagreed, saying that containing communism and saving South Korea was enough. He did not want to start a full blown war with the USSR. However, in March 1951, MacArthur blatantly ignored the UN instruction and openly threatened attack. This led to his removal from his position in April, and he was brought back to the US.



June 1951 - Peace Talks Begin

The fighting reached a stalemate around the 38th Parallel. Although peace talks between North and South Korea began in June - it would be two more years before fighting ceased.



July 1953 - Armistice

In 1952, President Truman was replaced by President Eisenhower who wanted to end the war. Stalin had also died in the same year this weakened the resolve of China and North Korean leaders. After three years of fighting an armistice was signed - the border between North and South remained much the same as in 1950.



Consequences of the Korean War

High casualty rates on both sides particularly among civilians.

In one sense, the Korean War was a success for the USA. Despite high casualties it showed that the USA had the will and means to stop communism and South Korea remained outside of Soviet control. However, it also showed the limits of the policy. The USA had to accept that North Korea remained communist. It also highlighted tensions among American leaders. With divisions between hardliners and more moderate politicians and commanders. These tensions would affect U.S. policy over the coming decades. North Korea developed into hard-line communist dictatorship would eventually become a nuclear power, threaten the USA's allies Japan and South Korea.



Consequences - US Leadership View on Containment

There's no doubt at all in the minds of American leaders that communism had to be resisted. It showed American leaders that direct intervention was costly in lives and dollars. Instead American policy focused on two other methods of containment - building alliances and building more powerful weapons.



Consequences - US Alliances with Anti-Communist Countries + Soviet Warsaw Pact

The USA created a network of anti-communist alliances around the world. SEATO in Southeast Asia and CENTO in Central Asia and the Middle East. The USA gave money, advice, and arms to these allies. In return, the leaders of these countries suppressed communist influence in their own countries. In response, the Soviet Union set up the Warsaw Treaty Organisation - Warsaw Pact in 1955. This included the USSR allies in Eastern European countries except Yugoslavia.



WARSAW PACT

Consequences - Arms Race = Building More Powerful Nuclear Weapons

The USA dropped two nuclear bombs on Japan in 1945. 70,000 people were killed instantly and Japan surrendered within a week. This was proof that threatening to use such weapons could help contain communism. However, the USSR developed atomic weapons of its own - the result was a nuclear arms race, building more powerful weapons + placing them where they could threaten the enemy. This would provide the context for the Cuban Missile Crisis.



1950

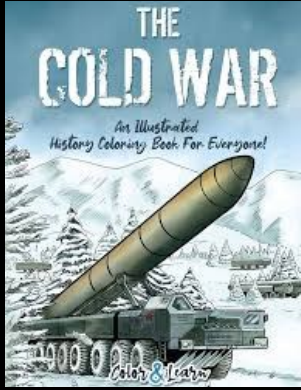
1951

1952

1953+



Cold War Context



The conflict between North Korea and the USA occurred within the wider context of the Cold War = tension between the USSR + the USA.

An ideological struggle ...

Capitalism

V

Communism

End of WW2 Onwards

The Long Telegram + Sinews of Peace



The Long Telegram

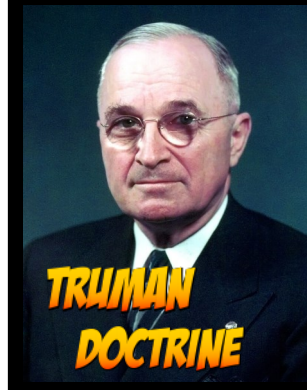
George Kennan was the US Diplomat in Moscow. His 'Long Telegram' would shape US thinking about the USSR. He wrote that the USSR was .. 'Impervious to ... reason ... highly sensitive to force ..'

The Sinews of Peace

Winston Churchill gave a speech in Fulton, Missouri USA and delivered the famous words ... 'an iron curtain has descended.' President Truman was sat just behind. The speech is seen as a key moment of the Cold War ...

February to March 1946

Containment



US President, Harry Truman gave a speech to the U.S. Congress.

He proposed that the United States had the obligation to "support free people who are resisting ... subjugation."

His policy / ideas became known as the Truman Doctrine and the promise to 'contain' or stop the spread of communism around the world.

March 1947

Leaders



Which country ruled over Korea from 1910 until the end of World War 2 in 1945?

J _ _ _ _ _

North Korean Leader in 1945?

K _ _ I _ S _ _ _

South Korean Leader in 1945?

S _ _ _ _ _ R _ _ _

North and South - 1945

KOREAN WAR

1950 - 1953

- CAUSES
- KEY FIGURES / PROCESS
- IMPACT / CONSEQUENCES

NSC - 68

NSC-68

Primary Source Analysis



Truman commissioned The National Security Council (NSC) to develop a plan to set out how the USA should operate as the Cold War developed.

NSC recommendations ...

- Build more powerful weapons
- Increase taxes
- Increase spending and military power
- Get allies to stand against the USSR
- Get the US public on board

April 1950

US Domestic Situation - Pressure



China Lobby

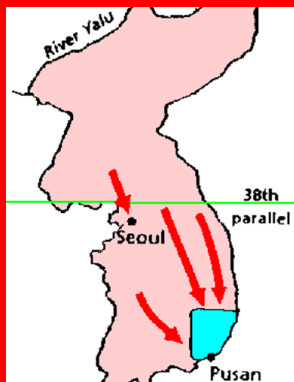
The China Lobby = a group that included Republicans who blamed Truman for China's fall to communism. He was therefore labelled as being 'soft on communism'.

McCarthyism

Joseph McCarthy was a Republican senator. In February 1950, he claimed there were 205 communists in the State Department. This created a wave of panic and paranoia in the USA.

February 1950

War Begins - The North Attacks



Look at the map and take note of ...

-38th Parallel

-Seoul

- River Yalu

What was the significance of Pusan?

June 25th - 1950

UN RESOLUTION - 84



Explain this resolution ...

JULY 7
1950 KOREAN WAR

July 1950

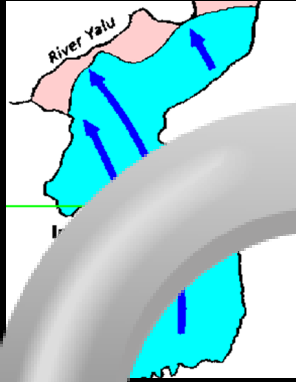
38th Parallel



What is the significance of the 38th parallel?

Potsdam Agreement - 1945

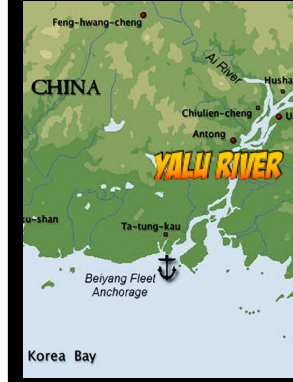
The War - Stage 1 - UN Fights Back



UN forces stormed ashore at Inchon. At the same time other UN forces and South Korean forces moved north from Pusan.

September 1950

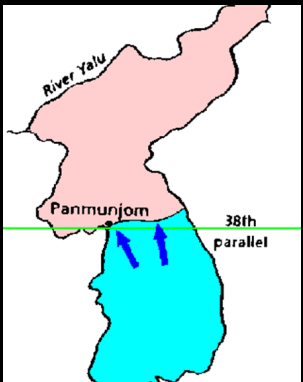
The War - Stage 2 - UN Advance to Yalu



MacArthur and 300 000 UN troops forced the North Koreans from the South. Despite warnings from Chinese leader Mao Zedong, the UN approved a plan to advance, reaching the Yalu river on the border with China.

October 1950

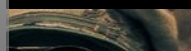
War - Stage 3 - China In + Stalemate



China enters the war supported by modern Soviet weapons. Ultimately millions of Chinese would be used in man wave attacks from the River Yalu. This pushed the UN back into the South before they brought in more troops. The UN bombed the North Korean People's Army - (NKPA) and Chinese. The war ended in a stalemate around the 38th parallel.

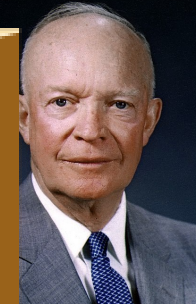
November 1950 - 1953

MacArthur



Who was he?

Eisenhower



With communism 'contained' behind the 38th parallel, Eisenhower - wanted to end the war.

Stalin died in 1953 + this weakened the resolve of China and North Korean leaders. After 3 years of fighting an armistice was signed - and the border remained much the same as in 1950.

New US President Dwight Eisenhower - 1953

Impact - 1



High Casualty Rates

Half a million North Korean casualties
A million Chinese killed

Korean Remained Divided

North especially hurt economically
diplomatically isolated over time

Win - Lose - Draw?

Both the USA and USSR could claim a victory depending on how they spun it

Impact on Korea + Outcome

WARSAW PACT included?



Global Alliances

Impact - 3



American leadership believed that just the threat of nuclear bombs could contain communism.

However, the USSR now had its own weapons - the result was an atomic arms race - with both sides building + placing weapons where they could threaten the enemy ...

Cuban Missile Crisis

Nuclear Arms Race = Leads to the Cuban Missile Crisis

Topic Review - The Korean War { c1950 - 53 }

- 1 - The Cold War was a struggle between 2 ideologies - C _____ and Capitalism
- 2 - The Cold War was a struggle between 2 main countries - The S _____ Union and the U _____
- 3 - The Long Telegram was issued by US Diplomat in Moscow, George K _____
- 4 - Winston Churchill delivered his '*an iron curtain has descended*' remarks in the Sinews of P _____ speech
- 5 - The US policy to stop the spread of communism was called C _____
- 6 - Korea was ruled by J _____ before WW2
- 7 - The leader of North Korea in 1945 was Kim Il S _____
- 8 - The leader of South Korea in 1945 was S _____
- 9 - The border between North Korea and S _____ is _____ parallel
- 10 - NSC - 68 was the US plan to ...
- 11 - The China L _____ contained _____ senators - they blamed _____ for the loss of C _____
- 12 - McCarthyism was the fear _____ about communism in the _____ Senator J _____ McCarthy
- 13 - In 19 _____, North Korean P _____ (NKPA) crossed the 38th para _____ attacked South Korea
- 14 - The South Koreans were _____ the way back to P _____
- 15 - Truman believed it would _____ if the U _____ N _____ to defend South Korea
- 16 - UN Resolution 48 _____
- 17 - The leader of the _____
- 18 - UN forces storm _____, bordering China
- 19 - MacArthur was fi _____
- 20 - China sent thous _____ the Yalu River
- 21 - NKPA + Chinese t _____ heavy casualties
- 22 - Truman was rep _____ died
- 23 - President Eisen _____ in Korea
- 24 - Mao Zedong and _____
- 25 - An a _____ had in 1950
- 26 - North Korea lost _____
- 27 - Two 'Western' global alliances were - S _____ (Southeast Asia) + C _____ (Central Asia)
- 28 - The USSR set up an alliance called the W _____ Pact in 1955
- 29 - In the long term, North Korea became largely I _____ both diplomatically and economically
- 30 - The US believed communism could be contained with the threat of n _____ weapons
- 31 - The Soviets developed a _____ weapons of their own - both sides took part in a global a _____ race
- 32 - The USA placed weapons in Turkey and the Soviets placed weapons in C _____
- 33 - A l _____ term impact of the Korean War was the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962

Topic Review - The Korean War { c1950 - 53 }

- 1 - The Cold War was a struggle between 2 ideologies - **Communism** and Capitalism
- 2 - The Cold War was a struggle between 2 main countries - The **Soviet Union** and the **USA**
- 3 - The Long Telegram was issued by US Diplomat in Moscow, George **Kennan**
- 4 - Winston Churchill delivered his '*an iron curtain has descended*' remarks in the **Sinews of Peace** speech
- 5 - The US policy to stop the spread of communism was called **Containment**
- 6 - Korea was ruled by **Japan** before WW2
- 7 - The leader of North Korea in 1945 was **Kim Il-sung**
- 8 - The leader of South Korea in 1945 was **Syngman Rhee**
- 9 - The border between North Korea and South Korea was called the **38th parallel**
- 10 - NSC - 68 was the US plan to **contain** communism
- 11 - The **China Lobby** contained many US senators - they blamed Truman for the loss of **China**
- 12 - McCarthyism was the fear of **paranoia** about communism in the USA for **Joseph McCarthy**
- 13 - In **1950**, North Korean People's Army (NKPA) crossed the 38th parallel and attacked South Korea
- 14 - The South Korean army was **defeated** at the Pusan Perimeter
- 15 - President Truman **ordered** the US to intervene in North and South Korea
- 16 - UN Resolution 48 **called** for a ceasefire
- 17 - The leader of the **Chinese** army was **Mao Zedong**
- 18 - UN forces stormed **Inchon** **overriding** China
- 19 - MacArthur was **dismissed** for **oversteering**
- 20 - China sent **thousands** of soldiers
- 21 - NKPA + Chinese troops **suffered** heavy casualties
- 22 - President Truman **ordered** the **use** of atomic weapons
- 23 - President Eisenhower **ended** the Korean War
- 24 - Mao Zedong and **Kim Il-sung** **agreed** to a ceasefire
- 25 - An **armistice** was agreed and the border remained much the same in 1950 as it had in 1953
- 26 - North Korea lost about 500 **thousand** soldiers and China up to **1 million**
- 27 - Two 'Western' global alliances were - **SEATO** + **CENTO**
- 28 - The USSR set up an alliance called the **Warsaw Pact** in 1955
- 29 - In the long term, North Korea became largely **isolated** both diplomatically and economically
- 30 - The US believed communism could be contained with the threat of **nuclear** weapons
- 31 - The Soviets developed **atomic** weapons of their own - both sides took part in a global **arms** race
- 32 - The USA placed weapons in Turkey and the Soviets placed weapons in **Cuba**
- 33 - A **longer** term impact of the Korean War was the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962

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