

**JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE
UNITED NATIONS COMMAND**



BACKGROUND GUIDE

Introduction

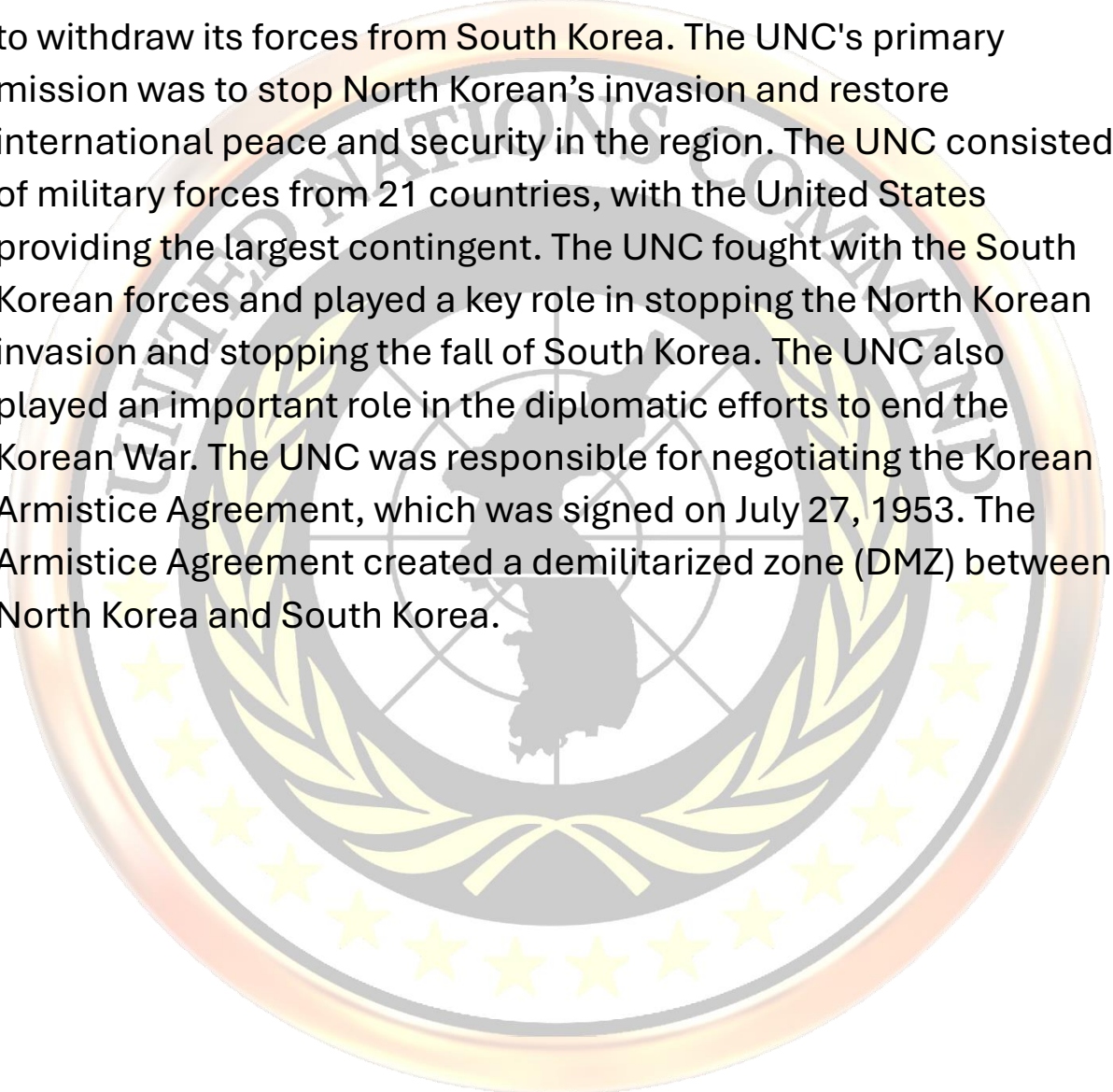
The Korean war:

The Korean War was a military conflict between North Korea (supported by socialist bloc of China and the Soviet Union) and South Korea (supported by the United Nations, primarily the Capitalist bloc of United States). It began on June 25, 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea across the 38th parallel. It was ended on July 27, 1953, after an armistice that left Korea divided into two separate countries (North and South Korea). The Korean Peninsula was occupied and controlled by the USSR in the north and the USA in the south after the end of the second world war. Tensions between the two countries increased over the next few years, and on June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. The UNSC condemned the invasion and authorized the use of force to repel the attack and defend South Korea.

The war quickly escalated and within a short period of time the North Korean military had pushed the South Korean and UN forces almost to the tip of the Korean Peninsula. Later in the fall of 1950, the tide of the war turned when UN forces, under the command of General MacArthur, launched a counteroffensive and pushed the North Korean military back to the 38th parallel.

The UNC in relation to the Korean war:

The United Nations Command (UNC) was established on July 7, 1950, to counter the invasion of South Korea by North Korea on June 25, 1950. It was formed under the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 83 and 84. These resolutions condemned North Korea's attack on South Korea and asked them to withdraw its forces from South Korea. The UNC's primary mission was to stop North Korea's invasion and restore international peace and security in the region. The UNC consisted of military forces from 21 countries, with the United States providing the largest contingent. The UNC fought with the South Korean forces and played a key role in stopping the North Korean invasion and stopping the fall of South Korea. The UNC also played an important role in the diplomatic efforts to end the Korean War. The UNC was responsible for negotiating the Korean Armistice Agreement, which was signed on July 27, 1953. The Armistice Agreement created a demilitarized zone (DMZ) between North Korea and South Korea.



Background:

Korean Empire and Japanese rule:

The unified Korea goes back to around 668 AD, when the first Korean Empire was formed. This dynasty, distancing themselves from foreign influences, lasted until the start of the 20th century. At that time, Korea found itself involved in the Russo-Japanese War, a war that lasted until 1905. Japan, the victor of the conflict, first made Korea a protectorate, until they formally annexed the peninsula in 1910 according to the Treaty of Annexation (August 22, 1910). The treaty consisted of 8 articles, with the first reading: “His Majesty the Emperor of Korea makes the complete and permanent cession to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan of all rights of sovereignty over the whole of Korea.” (Appendix A.) This annexation marked the start of the Japanese rule over Korea, a period of Japanese oppression. The Japanese rule brought many radical changes in Korean society, banning the Korean language and history books in an attempt to control the country. This “Japanisation” was met with resistance from small groups, however, the Korean people were not able to free their country from Japanese rule. During the occupation, Japan took over Korea’s land and labour and destroyed many places important to Korean culture. Many Japanese were also given pieces of land on the peninsula, evicting the families that had lived there for generations.

WW2 and the Allied Involvement:

During the Second World War, Korea remained a part of the Japanese empire and the Korean people continued to be oppressed and forced into Japanese traditions. While Japan seized the opportunity to increase its sphere of influence, the peninsula was devastated by the consequences of the war. Japan pillaged Korea's resources and ruled the country with an iron fist right until the end of the colonial empire, on the 15th of August 1945, when the Japanese emperor announced Japan's surrender in a broadcast. Over the next few weeks, Japan and the Allied forces worked out the conditions for the surrender, with the formal ceremony taking place on the second of September 1945, aboard the U.S.S Missouri. Amidst the negotiations, the USSR and the US worked on liberating the countries that had fallen under Japanese rule. They decided to split Korea into two parts. This was meant to make it easier to capture the remainder of the Japanese forces, by driving them to the middle of the country, wedged between both armies. The Allied forces swiftly gained territory, and soon controlled the entirety of their respective occupation zones. The border between the Koreas lay roughly along the 38th parallel. The Soviets and their proxies quickly set up a communist regime in the North, whilst in the South a military government was formed, with help from the US. The communist beliefs in the North were popular with the bulk of the labourer and peasant population, whilst most middle-class Koreans fled to the more economically favourable South. Meanwhile, the regime in the South clearly followed anti-communist, rightist beliefs. The idea was that both countries would oversee the reconstruction of the country after WW2. Sadly, the Cold War interfered with these hopes. After tensions mounted between the US and the USSR, both countries refused to cooperate in reunifying the peninsula. Every attempt to create a middle ground or reconnection of both

parties was thwarted by the fact that neither the US nor the USSR wanted to give in.

Major parties Involved

Communist bloc 🇵🇰

People's Republic of China

China's involvement in the Korean War began in October 1950 when the Chinese People's Volunteer Army entered North Korea to counter the advancing UN forces near the Yalu River, supporting the North Korean side due to strategic interests in securing its borders and maintaining a communist ally. This intervention turned the war into a protracted stalemate, with China showcasing its military capability and solidifying its alliance with North Korea and the Soviet Union. Despite suffering significant casualties and economic strain, China's participation was a pivotal factor in the conflict, influencing the armistice in 1953. Overall, China supported majorly supported North Korea.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Soviet Union's involvement in the Korean War was in support of North Korea, driven by its strategic interest in expanding communist influence in Asia and countering US presence. Although the USSR did not commit ground troops, it provided critical military support, including weapons, aircraft, and advisors, significantly strengthening North Korea's capabilities. Soviet pilots, disguised as Chinese or North Korean forces, flew combat missions, particularly during the early stages of the war. The USSR's involvement also included strategic planning and logistical support, shaping the North Korean military strategies. This support was crucial in sustaining North Korea's war effort and ensuring the conflict's prolongation, contributing significantly

to the Cold War dynamics and the eventual stalemate and armistice in 1953.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

North Korea's involvement in the Korean War began with its invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950, aiming to reunify the Korean Peninsula under communist rule. Backed by the Soviet Union, North Korean forces initially achieved significant advances, capturing Seoul and pushing deep into the South. However, the intervention of UN forces, primarily led by the United States, reversed these gains, driving North Korean troops back to the 38th parallel. Despite suffering heavy losses, North Korea, with substantial support from China and the Soviet Union, managed to hold its ground, resulting in a protracted and bloody conflict that ended in a stalemate

Capitalist Bloc

The United States of America

The United States' involvement in the Korean War began in June 1950 when North Korean forces invaded South Korea, prompting the UN to call for member states to assist in repelling the invasion. As the principal force behind the UN coalition, the U.S. committed significant military resources and personnel, initially pushing North Korean troops back across the 38th parallel. However, the war escalated when Chinese forces entered the conflict in support of North Korea. The U.S. aimed to contain the spread of communism, and its military engagement turned the conflict into a grueling stalemate. American forces played a crucial role in the major battles and the eventual armistice signed in 1953, which established the Korean Demilitarized Zone and effectively ended large-scale hostilities while maintaining Korea's division.

The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom played a significant role in the Korean War as a key member of the United Nations Command, contributing troops and resources to support South Korea against the North Korean invasion. As one of the primary contributors to the international coalition, the UK deployed the 29th Brigade, which was involved in major battles, including the defense of Pusan and the subsequent UN counteroffensives. British forces, alongside their American and Commonwealth allies, helped repel North Korean advances and later fought against Chinese troops as the conflict stalemated. The UK's involvement underscored its commitment to collective security and the defense of democratic allies during the Cold War, contributing to the eventual armistice and the establishment of the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Canada

Canada's involvement in the Korean War was a significant part of its commitment to the United Nations and collective security. As a member of the UN coalition supporting South Korea, Canada contributed over 26,000 troops, including infantry, artillery, and naval units, between 1950 and 1953. Canadian forces played a crucial role in various key battles, including the defense of the Pusan Perimeter and the Battle of Kapyong, where their efforts were highly regarded for their effectiveness and bravery. In addition to military support, Canada provided humanitarian aid and diplomatic backing throughout the conflict. Canada's participation in the Korean War highlighted its dedication to international peacekeeping and solidified its role as an active member of the international community.

South Korea

South Korea, officially known as the Republic of Korea, was the primary target of North Korea's invasion in June 1950, marking the beginning of the Korean War. As the invaded nation, South Korea was supported by the United Nations, primarily led by the United States, which provided significant military assistance. South Korean forces initially struggled but regrouped with international support, eventually pushing back North Korean troops and regaining lost territory. The South Korean government, led by President Syngman Rhee, played a crucial role in the defense and resistance against the North, contributing to the eventual stalemate and armistice in 1953.

The Republic of Cuba

Cuba's involvement in the Korean War played a supportive role aligned with the interests of its allies. Under the leadership of President Carlos Prío Socarrás, Cuba, aligned with the United States and the Western bloc, provided political backing for UN actions in Korea. This support was part of Cuba's broader strategy of maintaining strong ties with the US and its allies during a period of global tension and Cold War dynamics. While Cuba did not send troops or substantial military aid, its diplomatic support contributed to the collective international effort against North Korean aggression and the expansion of communism in Asia.

Timeline of Events

1950

June 25: North Korean forces, led by Kim Il-sung, invade South Korea, crossing the 38th parallel.

June 27: The United Nations Security Council passes a resolution condemning the invasion and calls for member states to assist South Korea.

July 1: The United States begins military aid to South Korea, with troops arriving to support the defense.

September 15: General Douglas MacArthur leads a successful amphibious landing at Inchon, turning the tide in favor of South Korean and UN forces.

October 1: UN and South Korean forces liberate Seoul, South Korea's capital.

October 19: UN forces advance into North Korea, crossing the 38th parallel and moving toward the Yalu River.

1951

January 4-7: Chinese forces, under the command of General Peng Dehuai, launch a massive counteroffensive, pushing UN and South Korean troops back south.

March 14: UN forces recapture Seoul from the North Korean and Chinese troops.

April 11: General Douglas MacArthur is relieved of his command by President Harry Truman due to disagreements over military strategy and policy.

1952

July 10: Peace talks begin in Kaesong, but progress is slow due to disagreements over prisoner repatriation and armistice terms.

1953

July 27: An armistice agreement is signed at Panmunjom, establishing the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) along the 38th parallel and effectively ending the fighting. The agreement does not officially end the war but establishes a ceasefire.

Post-1953

1954: Formal peace talks continue but fail to produce a peace treaty, leaving the Korean Peninsula technically still in a state of war.



Possible outcomes

Full annexation

Using their military prowess one bloc could fully capturing the Korean Peninsula forcing the other side to surrender. This could lead one of the Koreas ceasing to exist.

The Nuclear Option

The Cold War is rooted in the fear of the use of nuclear weapons. Most attribute the lack of a nuclear strike to Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), however, if the Soviet Union or the US believed it was losing a conventional conflict, is it too unlikely that they'll resort to nuclear weapons to maintain their standing? Is the threat of a nuclear strike enough to deter more conventional attacks? Or is the threat of a nuclear strike not credible because nobody believes the country will use it? The committee can explore the use of nuclear weapons and the threat of using them to advance their goals, but non-nuclear wielding delegates must also factor in their existence when deciding on solutions and moves in the backroom.

Ceasefire followed by a Peace Treaty

Both sides could agree to stop fighting by declaring a ceasefire and use diplomacy to settle the conflict. They could sign treaties and agreements related to military usage, territory and economic policies. For instance, South and North Korea could agree on having their borders along the 38th Parallel or South Korea could ask North Korea to pay remunerations for the damages caused by its invasion.

Key Terms:

Western Bloc

The Western Bloc was a coalition of allies of the United States who shared the common ideology of capitalism. Through the United States' Marshall Plan, an initiative that provided aid to Western Europe to help rebuild their economies after the devastation of WWII, Western Europe and Japan were able to rebuild their economies through the US's aid. This caused the majority of Western Europe to become allies with the United States. The Bloc also included democratic nations such as Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Iceland, and more.

Eastern Bloc

The Eastern Bloc was a coalition of nations of the Soviet Union, who shared the common ideology of Communism. Eastern Europe became a part of the Soviet sphere of influence and rejected the US proposed Marshall Plan to provide aid. This led to Europe being divided into US-led and Soviet-led blocs. The Eastern Bloc also included Poland, East Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, and more.

Communism

Communism is an ideology of social, economic, and political aspects. The ideology is a form of socialism that advocates for a classless society where wealth is evenly shared rather than owned by individuals. Communism separates the economy into two social classes, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. The proletariat are referred to as the working class, in other words, people that make up the majority of the population. On the other hand, the bourgeoisie are referred to as a small group of people in society who gain profit by employing the lower class. Examples of

communist nations include the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Soviet Union, and China.

Capitalism

Capitalism is an ideology of an economic and political system. A capitalist economic system is based on private ownership instead of the state. In simpler terms, capitalist individuals are given the freedom and right to own their businesses in addition to keeping most of their profits. Production of goods and services in a capitalist economy are mostly determined by supply and demand in a market economy compared to a communist economy where the government owns the factors of production. Competitive and free markets, private property as well as wage labour are also features of a capitalist economy. Examples of capitalist nations include the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

38th Parallel

The 38th Parallel, is a military border line between North Korea and South Korea. The name of the border originates from latitude 38°N that roughly divides the two territories. The 38th Parallel was chosen by the United States military at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945, towards the conclusion of World War II. Ultimately, the Korean War was initiated when the North Korean People's Army crossed the border into South Korea.

Sources for more information:

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