

Conflict and Tension in Asia: The Korean War

BACKGROUND: What was the Cold War?

- After WW2 two countries emerged as superpowers = _____ vs. _____
- USSR's political system was known as _____
- USA's political system was known as _____

List at least 3 differences between these two systems:

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These differences led to hatred and mistrust. USA was convinced that the USSR was trying to _____ communism to other parts of the world. On the other hand, the USSR was convinced that the USA had already tried to destroy their country by not helping sooner in the fight against _____ during WW2.

The conflict between these two countries was known as the _____. This term means... _____.

In 1947, US President Harry _____ made a speech announcing that the USA would help any country under the _____ of communism. This speech became known as the Truman _____ and it kickstarted the US policy of _____ = to stop the spread of communism.

Japan had occupied Korea in 1910. After their defeat at the hands of the allies in the Second World War they were forced to pull out. Soviet forces in the north of the country and American forces in the south replaced Japanese troops. The 38th parallel was used to divide the country on what was meant to be temporary basis. Both the Soviets and the Americans agreed to leave once free elections had been held under the control of the UN, as agreed at the Yalta conference.

When the UN tried to organise free elections the Soviets would not allow UN entry to northern Korea. Instead a communist regime was established under Kim Il Sung in the North Korean capital Pyongyang. In South Korea elections were held and an anti-communist, military government was set up in Seoul under the leadership of Syngman Rhee. Korea was now divided and both sides claimed to be the rightful government of the whole of Korea. There were frequent border clashes.



In 1949 China became communist and South Korea felt increasingly isolated. America was also extremely concerned at the spread of communism in the Far East. They feared a domino effect where country after country would be toppled by the communist advance ('domino theory'). The Truman Doctrine also gave explicit support to the idea that America should support any country willing to fight communism. In the North, Stalin and the Chinese communists encouraged Kim Il Sung to attack South Korea. The Soviets provided aid and military equipment but never involved themselves directly in the conflict.

Read the information (left)

Colour code the bullet points (x5) and highlight the relevant information:

- Highlight the reasons why North and South Korea became divided
- Highlight the capital city and leader of North Korea
- Highlight the capital city and leader of South Korea
- Highlight the reason for USA's involvement
- Highlight Stalin's role in the Korean War

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Timeline of the Korean War

May 1945	Korea is divided into two countries. After World War II, Korea is divided into communist North Korea and anti-communist South Korea at a spot called the _____th parallel. Russia controls North Korea and the _____ controls South Korea.
March 12, 1947	Harry Truman promises to fight Communism. President Harry Truman gives a speech and says that the US will help any country that is _____ by communism (known as the Truman _____)
June 25, 1950	North Korea invades South Korea. With permission from _____, North Korea invades South Korea and continues to the capital of _____. South Korea does not have a strong enough army to stop it.
June 25, 1950	South Korean President Syngman Rhee executes 100,000 people. Worried that South Koreans will join the communists, President _____ Rhee starts the Summer of Terror and orders over 100,000 people killed.
June 27, 1950	The United States joins the Korean War. President Harry Truman sends U.S. troops to Korea. The U.S. and other countries in the United Nations join the war because they want to stop communism from spreading to South Korea.
July 4, 1950	The United States is defeated at Osan. American troops fight North Korean troops in Osan. The Americans expected an easy victory, but are surprised to find out that they are no match for the North Korean army.
September 15, 1950	Early victory for 70 year old general General Douglas _____ leads an _____ invasion at the city of _____. From there, the United Nations troops go to Seoul and take it back from North Korea.
October 20, 1950	United States troops reach the capital of North Korea. U.S. troops push their way into Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. Soldiers believe that the war will be over soon and start to take bets on what day the war will officially end.
October 1950	China joins the Korean War. China joins the war to fight on the side of North Korea. China's army, called the People's Volunteer Army, wins several important victories and pushes the U.S. and South Korean troops back across the 38th parallel.
November 24, 1950	The United Nations forces launch the "Home by Christmas" offensive. General MacArthur orders the United Nations forces to move to the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and northeast China. MacArthur said the UN troops would be home by Christmas, but they are attacked by 180,000 Chinese soldiers and have to retreat.
February 1, 1951	Peace talks begin. With neither side gaining ground, peace talks begin. However, it takes two years to come to an agreement as the war drags on.
April 1951	General Douglas MacArthur is fired. After General MacArthur publicly disagrees with President Truman about whether or not to bomb China, MacArthur is fired. Truman believed that bombing China would have led to a much bigger war.
September 13, 1951	The Battle of Heartbreak Ridge begins. American and French troops start a battle with North Korean and Chinese troops in

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	a part of South Korea known as the Punchbowl. The U.S. and France win the month-long battle. Over 25,000 Chinese and North Korean soldiers die.
November 4, 1952	Dwight Eisenhower is elected president. General Dwight Eisenhower defeats Illinois Senator Adlai Stevenson to become president of the United States. During his campaign, Eisenhower said he would end the war in Korea.
July 27, 1953	North Korea and South Korea agree to a truce. North Korea and South Korea sign an agreement to stop fighting. Korea is still divided, but the two countries agree to create a neutral zone called the Demilitarized Zone to separate the countries.
April 1954	Talks at Geneva fail to unite Korea. Representatives from the United States and China meet in Geneva to talk about uniting Korea. However, the countries cannot come to an agreement and Korea remains divided.