



The Korean War

Ch.2 - Bi-Polarity and
the Cold War

Table of contents



01

**How was Korea
split?**

02

**How was it
important to the
Cold War?**

03

**How did the war
unfold?**

04

**How did the
Korean War end?**



01

How was Korea split?

You can enter a subtitle here
if you need it



Post-WW2

USA -> South Korea

USSR -> North Korea

Both met from '46-'47 to
discuss how to split
Korea, but they could
never agree on it

The leaders that were installed



Syngman Rhee (Aug 1948)

Elected president of Republic of Korea, SK commies boycotted this election, seen as dedicated patriot fighting Japanese rule, but was very authoritarian + dictatorial (USA were afraid of not supporting him and allowing Commie influence in SK to grow)



Kim Il Sung (Sep 1948)

Elected leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, no election were held, was known for his usage of propaganda and his cult of personality, and promoted self-sufficiency and isolated NK from the rest of the world so as to limit Western influence and opposition



How did both leaders seek to unify Korea under their own rule?



Syngman Rhee

Appealed to the USA/UN for support in unifying Korea, but USA thought he was being rash and did not want to join the war, provided limited economic and military aid to appease Rhee



Kim Il Sung

Appealed to the USSR by making many trips to persuade Stalin for his support, built ties with Communist China, was provided with economic and military aid, with the NKPA being heavily armed with Soviet tanks and artillery

**How was the
Korean War
important to the
Cold War?**





IMPORTANT KEY POINT

Neither USA/USSR wanted to have any direct involvement in Korea as they did not want to go to all-out war with each other

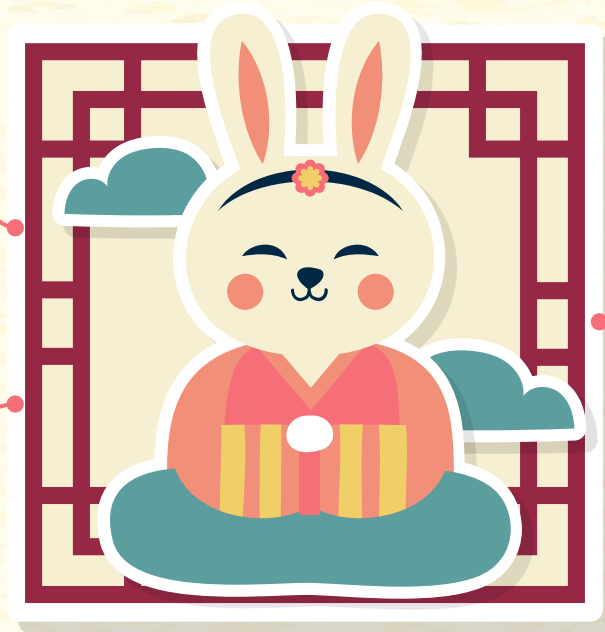
Why was Korea important to the USSR?

Aug 1949

USSR tests out atomic bombs, creating atomic parity, allowing them to provide aid to NK without the threat of nuclear warfare

Oct 1949

Mao Zedong establishes the People's Republic of China, creates a more favourable international climate for the USSR, gets a valuable Communist ally in China



Close proximity to the USSR + Communist China /
Serve as counterbalance American influence in Japan

- Mar 1940: CCP + Nk sign a mutual defence agreement
- Feb 1950: Sino Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance was signed, allowing Mao to help NK troops and not have the USSR get directly involved



National Security Council - 68 (NSC-68)

- A top secret policy paper issued by the United States National Security Council during Truman's presidency
- warned of the possible growth in nuclear capability of the USSR
- American military capability is the only thing that can contain communism + called for a tripling of the USA's defence budget
- largely shaped US foreign policy in the Cold War for the next 20 years, and involved a decision to increase the pressure of Containment against global Communist expansion a high priority.

USA reaction to Communism



The US public were growing more in fear of communism and were putting pressure on the American government to prevent the spread of communism post the explosion of the atomic bomb + Communist victory in China

03

How did the Korean War unfold?

You can enter a subtitle here if you need it



Timeline

1949-1950

Border Clashes by SK

Was ineffective and resulted in many SK military desertations, US gave limited economic aid

25 June
1950

NK invades SK

25 June
1950

UNSC unanimously condemns NK's invasion

US believed that the UN would lose all credibility as an organisation that protected international security + UNSC called for a resolution to resolve KW

27 June
1950

Truman orders US troops to Korea to support the UN

Believed NK had been influenced by the USSR, believed troops would be containing the communist threat in East Asia

Timeline

**27 Jun
1950**

**Truman calls for UN to
employ the use of force**

NK had not responded to the UNSC resolution, USSR was boycotting the meeting and could not veto the decision to send UN forces to Korea

**1 July
1950**

**UN troops led by
General MacArthur
arrived in South
Korea**

**15 July
1950**

**MacArthur led the
UN forces in the
Inchon landing to
regain control of
the capital of SK**

**26 Sept
1950**

**UN troops
recaptured Seoul**

Timeline

**29 Sept
1950**

**MacArthur ordered
troops into North
Korea**

**20 Oct
1950**

**UN troops captured
the capital of
North Korea**

**26 Oct
1950**

**Chinese troops entered
North Korea + UN troops
began to retreat**

Truman told MacArthur could push as far as they could as long as Soviet/Chinese forces did not enter NK + China saw US troops as a threat to the Communists and would widen the conflict

**28 Dec
1950**

**Chinese troops
entered SK**

Timeline

**1 Jan
1951**

**Chinese and NK
troops captured
Seoul**

**14 Mar
1951**

**UN troops
recaptured Seoul**

MacArthur advocated the use of atom bombs in the KW, UN was well aware that if they attacked China. USSR might get involved and use nuclear weapons

**5 Apr
1951**

**MacArthur was dismissed
by Truman for
insubordination**

Truman wanted a limited war but MacArthur criticised Truman's policy in relation to the Korean War

**April
1951**

**Both sides reached a
stalemate around the
38th Parallel**

Truman wished to limit the KW even if it meant achieving only the original objective of saving SK from communism



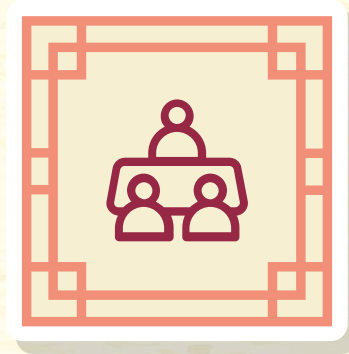
**How did the Korean
War end?**

Feelings of the leaders post-war



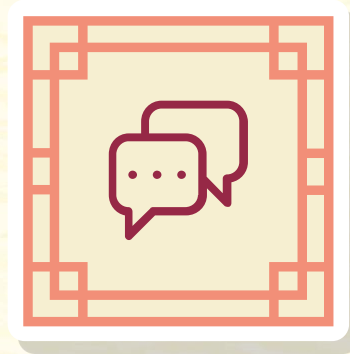
Rhee (SK)

Wanted to push all the way to China and completely unify Korea, but did not get UN support and was unable to pursue his goal



Kim (NK)

Kim also wanted to pursue complete unification of Korea, but was pressured into joining the peace talks and had to go because they depended on the USSR for support and could not fight if they lost the USSR support



External Powers

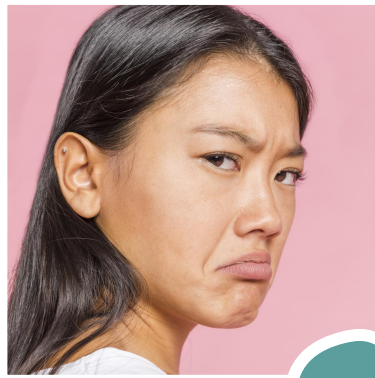
Every party had suffered heavy casualties and were putting pressure on both leaders to join peace talks until in mid-1951

What were issues that stalled peace talks?



Division Line

NK wanted it at the the 38th Parallel, SK wanted it to be along the battle lines established during the war



POWs

Nk wanted its POWs returned, SK wanted them to be given the choice to stay in SK or NK



Why did it end anyway?



USSR

Wanted to relieve the strain that the Korean War was placing on its economy

USA


Persuaded Rhee to take the armistice and that the USA would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons if the Communists did not sign it



TLDR;

Most parties signed anyway as the KW was taking a toll on their military, economic and human resources





UN, China and North Korea signed
an armistice at Panmunjom,
allowing a new boundary was
drawn near the 38th Parallel with
a demilitarized zone separating
the two Koreas

27 July 1953



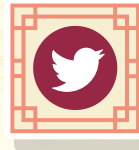
Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

youremail@freepik.com

+91 620 421 838

yourwebsite.com



CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**, and includes icons by **Flaticon**, and infographics & images by **Freepik**

Please keep this slide for attribution

