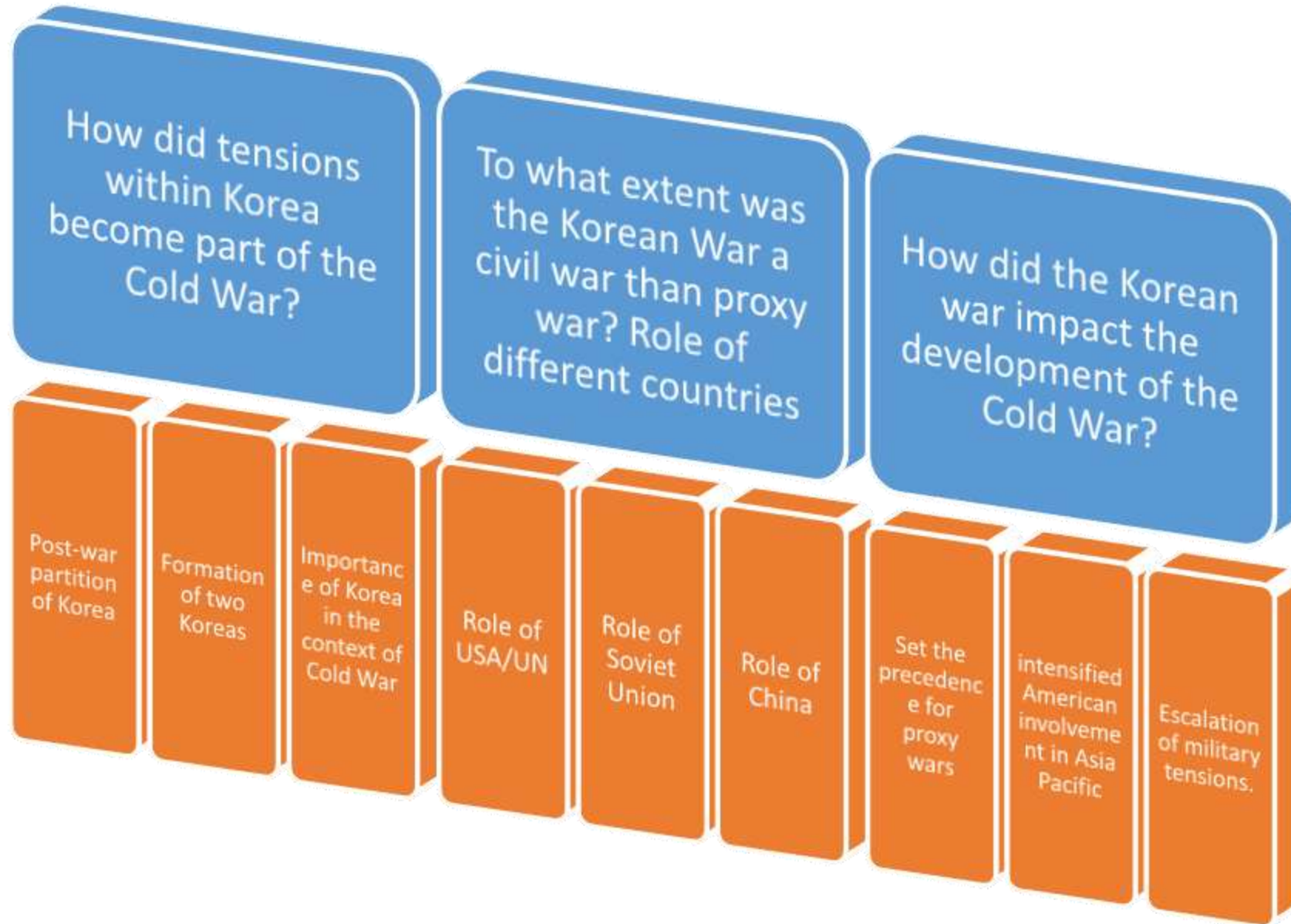


Chapter 2: The Korean War

Section	Section Title	You should be able to explain:
2.1	How did the tensions within Korea become part of the Cold War?	Reasons for the conflict: 1. Partition of Korea after World War II 2. Reasons for the outbreak of the Korean War 3. The role of superpowers and regional powers in local conflicts, with reference to the Korean War
2.2	To what extent was the Korean War more of a civil war than a proxy war?	
2.3	How did the Korean War impact the development of the Cold War?	

Name:	
Class:	
Date Received:	
Teacher's Name:	

OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER 2 – THE KOREAN WAR



Key Issue: How did tensions within Korea become part of the Cold War? (partition of Korea and reasons for Korean War)

Identify Factor	Tell the story <i>What is the factor about?</i>	Explain the story <i>How did the factor lead to the Korean War?</i>
Post-war partition of Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of World War II, Allies decided to divide previously Japanese-occupied Korea into two along the 38th parallel. Soviet Union would occupy areas north of the 38th parallel, while USA would occupy the areas south of the 38th parallel. Both USA and USSR agreed that Korea should be unified under a single government, but no agreement on how to unite Korea. Both Korean leaders – Syngman Rhee and Kim Il Sung – wanted to unite the country, but was unable to do so without the support of USA and USSR respectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Thus, the separation of Korea into two separate entities with local Korean leaders backed by USA and USSR resulted in a situation where democratic and communist forces were in close proximity in Korea. (R) This led to tensions between North and South Korean leaders as they think they could unify the country and remove the other party from Korea. (O) This in turn led allowed both USA and USSR to be pulled into the Korean conflict, and turned tensions within Korea to be part of the Cold War conflict.
	<p><u>Formation of two Koreas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kim Il Sung, the North Korean communist leader, wanted to reunify Korea under one rule, and was prepared to use violence to achieve this if necessary. He received support from Soviet Union, which wanted to establish their dominance and influence over political and economic developments in the North Korea. Kim made several trips to Soviet Union to persuade Stalin to provide support to rebuild North Korea and wage war against the South. Military and economic support was granted by Stalin. Syngman Rhee, the South Korean leader, was elected through national elections, and he also wanted to unify Korea, but under democracy with the support of USA. However, Rhee's rule became increasingly authoritarian but continued to receive USA's support as USA needed Rhee's government to prevent communist influence from spreading to the South. However, USA did not provide much military support for Rhee as USA felt that Rhee's authoritarian rule and desire to conquer North Korea was rash. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Thus, with the heavy Soviet influence and military and economic support, North Korea became closely linked to the Communist bloc and the North Korean army was well-trained compared to South Korea. (R) This led Kim Il Sung to be confident that North Korea would be able to secure a victory if it launched an invasion of the South. (O) This in turn led Kim Il Sung to continue to pursue his goal of unifying Korea even with the use of force, turning tensions within Korea into part of the Cold War conflict. (I) Thus, even though Rhee had USA's support to be the South Korea leader, he was unable to obtain much military aid to build up the South Korean army for them to unite Korea by force. (R) This led Rhee to demand for more military support from USA so that he could eventually unite Korea through Korea. (O) This in turn led to further tensions between North and South Korea when relationship was already strained by the opposing ideologies of both governments, eventually turning the Korean war into part of the Cold War conflict.

Identify Factor	Tell the story <i>What is the factor about?</i>	Explain the story <i>How did the factor lead to the Korean War?</i>
Importance of Korea in the context of the Cold War	<u>Importance of Korea to Soviet Union and nuclear parity.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korea was deemed important by Soviet Union because it was near Soviet Union, China and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Korea can serve as a base from which communists could spread their ideology to the rest of Asia. In 1949, Soviet Union successfully created the atomic bomb and enjoyed atomic parity with USA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) <u>Thus,</u> the increasing importance Soviet Union placed on Russia resulted in more Soviet influence in Korea in hopes of using it to spread communism in Asia. (R) <u>This led</u> USA to be wary of Soviet intentions in Korea and in Asia, especially in the Cold War context. (O) <u>This in turn led</u> both USA and USSR to pay more attention to Korea, resulting in military intervention that turned the tensions within Korea into part of the Cold War conflict.
	<u>Communist Victory in China</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1949, communists in China managed to emerge victorious in the civil war and China became a communist country. China, North Korea and Soviet Union held a series of meetings to discuss providing military support for North Korea. China's reason for supporting North Korea was also to create a buffer zone against the American forces in South Korea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) <u>Thus</u> the communist victory in China allowed Soviet Union and the communist forces in Asia to have a huge ally which could provide military support in any conflict. (R) <u>This led</u> USA to believe that the Communist threat was growing in Asia and could affect Korea and Japan eventually. (O) <u>This in turn</u> led USA to take actions to intervene in Korea during the Korean War so as to prevent Korea from becoming a communist base, turning the Korean tensions into a Cold War conflict.
	<u>Sino-Soviet Alliance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1950, China and Soviet Union agreed on the Sino-Soviet Alliance. Both countries decided to come to each other's aid if either country was attacked. China would commit forces to support North Korea if the planned invasion of South Korea was not successful, while Soviet Union need not intervene directly in any Korean conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) <u>Thus,</u> the establishment of alliance between China and Soviet Union allowed for the provision of military support to North Korea as both countries had more support. (R) <u>This led</u> Stalin to think that the North Korean invasion could be carried out as Soviet Union could avoid a direct conflict with USA, while at the same time allow the communist bloc to obtain a base to spread communism in Asia. (O) <u>This in turn led</u> Soviet Union and China to commit their support for North Korea in order to gain advantages against USA in the Cold War rivalry, turning the Korean War into part of the Cold War.

Identify Factor	Tell the story <i>What is the factor about?</i>	Explain the story <i>How did the factor lead to the Korean War?</i>
	<u>Impact on development of USA foreign policy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korea was not a significant area of interest, but this changed when China became communist and the threat of communism in Asia increased. The report by USA's National Security Council NSC-68, concluded that it was necessary to drastically increase USA's military capability to contain the spread of communism on a global scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) <u>Thus</u>, the communist victories and developments in Asia made it crucial for USA to ensure that Korea would not fall to communism. (R) <u>This led</u> USA to place more emphasis on the defence of Korea, and to direct its attention to provide military support during the invasion of South Korea. (O) <u>This in turn led</u> USA to see intervention in Korea as necessary to contain the spread of communism in the Asia-Pacific region, turning the Korean tensions into part of the Cold War.

Key Issue: To what extent was the Korean war more of a civil war than a proxy war? (what were the roles of the superpowers and regional powers?)

Identify Factor	Tell the story <i>What is the factor about?</i>	Explain the story <i>How did the role of each country influence the Korean War?</i>
The role of the USA/UN	<u>Role in the Korean War</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA was convinced that North Korean were influenced by Soviet Union in its attempt to spread communism in Asia. USA saw that South Korea was the first step in the spread of Communism. USA mobilised the United Nations to condemn North Korea and to support South Korea. It condemned North Korea as the aggressor and responded to President Truman's call to intervene militarily in Korea. USA and UN forces thus worked together to resist the invasion of South Korea. The US/UN forces were successful in pushing back the North Korean forces in 1950 and achieved the original aim of freeing South Korea from being conquered by North Korea. However, UN also granted permission for General MacArthur to lead forces across the 38th parallel but only if Soviet and Chinese forces were not engaged. Despite Chinese warnings, General MacArthur defied the directives of Truman and UN and continued to push towards the Yalu River, which resulted in the Chinese forces responding and forcing the US/UN troops to retreat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) <u>Thus</u>, USA initially played the role of resisting the invasion of the North Korean forces in order to contain the spread of communism. (R) <u>This initial success led</u> USA and UN to think they could gain more advantages against the North Koreans and pushed them back even further in applying containment on a global basis. (O) <u>This in turn led</u> USA/UN to pursue aims at containing and weakening the communists in North Korea, which worsened the war by making the Chinese forces get involved.

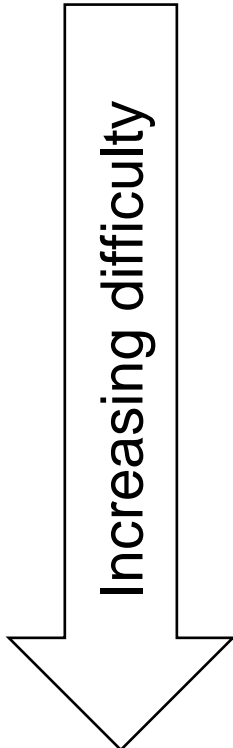
Identify Factor	Tell the story <i>What is the factor about?</i>	Explain the story <i>How did the role of each country influence the Korean War?</i>
	<p><u>Role in the resolution of the Korean War</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA played a crucial role in bringing an end to the Korean War. • USA was keen to end the Korean War as the due to the heavy casualties in the war. • Thus USA and UN did not support Rhee's intention to carry on with the war and completely unify Korea. • When President Eisenhower replaced Truman as USA's president, he promised to end the Korean War. • President Eisenhower persuaded Rhee to accept the armistice and pressured China and North Koreans with the threat of using nuclear weapons on them if they did not sign the armistice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (I) <u>Thus</u> USA's influence as the supporter of South Korea enabled it to exercise pressure on South Korea by limiting the support given to them. It was also able to exercise pressure on the communist forces with the threat of force. • (R) <u>This led</u> South Korea to feel that they could not continue the war and achieve what they wanted with the lack of support, while the communist forces in North Korea and China felt that the threat of nuclear weapons would deal far too much damage for them to continue the war. • (O) <u>This in turn</u> led both South Korea and the communist forces to decide that the best course of action was to end the fighting in the Korean War and accept the armistice.
USSR's role in the Korean War	<p><u>Role in the Korean War</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soviet Union provided support for North Korea such as military training and organizing the North Korean army. • It also supplied military supplies and equipment such as tanks and guns. • It would also strengthen the communist bloc together with Korea and China, which had turned communist in 1949. • This was in contrast to the lack of USA's military support for the South and the seemingly unimportant position that Korea had in the eyes of USA. • It was also more willing to provide support for North Korea due to nuclear parity that it enjoyed against USA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (I) <u>Thus</u>, the lack of USA support and the increasing strength of the Communist bloc meant Soviet Union was willing to approve the invasion of South Korea to secure a platform to spread communism. • (R) <u>This led</u> Soviet Union to think that they could secure Korea without directly in conflict with USA, which could help in its efforts to spread communism in the Asia Pacific. • (O) <u>This is turn</u> led Soviet Union to support North Korea and China in their efforts to take over Korea, which caused the Korean war and also turned it into part of the global Cold War conflict.
	<p><u>Role in the resolution of the Korean War</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soviet Union also played an important role in the ending of the Korean War. • Soviet Union pressured Kim Il Sung to participate in the armistice talks. North Korea had to do so as they depended on Soviet Union for weapons and training. • When Stalin passed away in 1953, the new leadership was also keen to end the war to put an end to the heavy costs of the war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (I) <u>Thus</u> as the supporter of North Korea Soviet Union was able to exert pressure on North Korea by deciding the level of support to be provided to the North. • (R) <u>This led</u> North Korea to think that without the support of Soviet Union, they would not be able to continue the war and achieve victory against a USA-backed South Korea. • (O) <u>This in turn</u> led North Korea to accept the armistice and put an end to the fighting in the Korean War.

Identify Factor	Tell the story <i>What is the factor about?</i>	Explain the story <i>How did the role of each country influence the Korean War?</i>
The role of China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese leader Zhou En-Lai warned that if USA/UN forces continued past the 38th parallel, China would intervene in the war. This was so if USA/UN forces advanced towards the Yalu River, near the common border between China and North Korea. The Sino-Soviet Alliance was established to ensure that China would have the support of Soviet Union if they were attacked when providing support to North Korea. When USA/UN forces under General MacArthur pushed towards the Yalu River, China responded by sending in troops to push the USA/UN forces back, resulting in a stalemate near the 38th parallel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) <u>Thus</u>, China's intervention in the Korea War resulted in an expansion of the Korean War as China wanted to protect its own security from being threatened by the approaching USA/UN forces who advanced despite warnings from China. (R) This led China to think that USA/UN forces could pose a threat to its security and was wary of having forces from their ideological enemies so near to its borders. (O) <u>This is turn</u> led China to respond to the USA/UN forces in order to push them back in order to protect its own safety and to ensure that communism would not be threatened by the USA/UN forces.

Key Issue: How did the Korean War impact the development of the Cold War?

Identify Factor	Tell the story <i>What is the factor about?</i>	Explain the story <i>How did the Korean war affect the development of Cold War?</i>
Set the precedence for proxy wars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Korean War – the first time that the Cold War was fought outside Europe without direct military confrontation between the USA and the Soviet Union. It was the first proxy war fought using third party substitutes for direct confrontation between the 2 superpowers Following the Korean War, the USA and the USSR became involved in proxy wars in other parts of the world such as Vietnam (the Vietnam War), Cuba, Africa and Latin America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) <u>Thus</u>, the Korean War influenced how the superpowers frequently became entangled in local conflicts where they took sides and supported individual factions in proxy conflicts in order to achieve their own aims. (R) <u>This led</u> to the worsening of relationships between superpowers as they were suspicious of each other's involvement in local conflicts. (O) <u>This in turn</u> turned local conflicts into international conflicts which often became part of the Cold War rivalry.
Intensified American involvement in the Asia Pacific – economic reconstruction of Japan and formation of SEATO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Korean War changed the way the USA looked at the Asia-Pacific region as now the communist bloc consisted of two powerful countries. USA feared that if a country fell to communism, other countries would also fall. USA accelerated the efforts to provide for the economic reconstruction of Japan which suffered tremendously during WWII. Japan could act as a base to provide military supplies for American military troops in Korea The Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) was set up to provide economic and military support to the member countries, with the main purpose to prevent the spread of communism in the Asia-Pacific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) <u>Thus</u>, the Korean War led to America taking a tougher stand against communism and its greater involvement in the Asia-Pacific to contain communism. (R) <u>This led</u> the American to feel that it needed to take a bigger role to deal with the communist threat that it concluded was growing in Asia with the emergence of Communist China, Soviet Union and the attempted invasion by North Korea. (O) <u>This in turn</u> led USA to be more actively involved in providing economic and military support to countries in order to help them resist the influence of communism.
Escalation of military tensions between the Western and communist bloc in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Korean War led to the militarisation of NATO to counter Soviet aggression Military exercises were held to strengthen NATO's capabilities so as to be prepared for any possible conflict with the Soviet Union In response, the Soviet Union created a military pact – the Warsaw Pact – comprising the Soviet Union and its satellites states in Eastern Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) <u>Thus</u>, the Korean War has thus led to a strengthening of European military defences by the Western allies. (O) <u>This in turn</u> led to a significant increase in global military tension in the Cold War rivalry.

Practice questions for self-assessment

'O' Level	Challenge Level	'N' Level
Explain how the desire for unification led to the outbreak of the Korean War prior to 1950.		Describe USA's Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine.
Explain why China became involved in the Korean War.		Describe the involvement of the superpowers in the Korean War.
'The Korean War was caused by the US & Russian rivalry.' How far do you agree? EYA.		Explain how each of the following led to the Korean War: (i) Attempts to achieve unification by South and North Korean leaders, (ii) Involvement of China in the conflict.
'USA's involvement in the Korean War in 1950 was necessary.' How far do you agree? EYA.		Explain how the following factors contributed to the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950: i. The enmity between North and South Korea ii. The enmity between the USA and the USSR
'The Korean War was a civil war.' How far do you agree? EYA.		Explain how the Korean War started through the following reasons: (i) Through domino theory (ii) Through violation of Korean sovereignty