

ANSWER

REVISION ON THE KOREAN WAR

(FROM: REVISE AQA GCSE HISTORY CONFLICT & TENSION IN ASIA, 1950-1975 [9-1] PEARSON)

CAUSES OF THE KOREAN WAR

1) What were the 4 main causes of the Korean War? Pg1

- The Impact of WW2
- Nationalism & Civil War
- The Impact of the Cold War (1945-1991)
- US relations with China

1.2) Identify which of these four main causes led directly to the division of Korea into North and South.

The impact of the 2nd World War.

THE COLD WAR

2) Explain why Truman thought communism should be contained. Pg2

Truman thought communism should be contained because:

- Communism threatened people's freedom to choose their own government.
- The USA wanted to encourage capitalism and free trade – it needed to have capitalist countries to buy US products and for the USA to trade with.
- Truman did not want communism to spread to the USA & other parts of the world.

US RELATIONS WITH CHINA & KOREA

3.1) Why did USA think they were losing to communism by 1950? Pg3

- US government officials thought that they had 'lost' China to communism because they had not done enough to support the opposition to the Communist Party in China's Civil War.
- In the USA, Senator McCarthy had begun a campaign against American communists who might be trying to make the USA a communist country & who might be weakening the USA e.g. spying for the USSR.
- In Europe, the USSR made sure that the Eastern European countries e.g., Hungary & East Germany, were controlled by communist parties. The USSR had promised in international

agreements to allow these countries to choose their own government, but the USA could see that it would be wrong to trust the USSR about this.

3.2) 1 way in which China helped Korean nationalists? Pg3.

- Accepting Koreans to fight with Chinese forces against the Japanese.
- Allowing Koreans in China to set up a Korean government-in-exile.
- Korean nationalists could hide in China to escape from the Japanese.

THE DIVISION OF KOREA

4) Explain why the division of Korea helped cause the Korean War? 2 reasons pg4

For example, choose 2:

- Both leaders of the 2 halves of Korea wanted Korea to be united but the leaders of the North wanted a communist Korea, and the leaders of the South wanted a capitalist Korea. Both leaders asked for aid to overthrow the other.
- The division of Korea created a communist North & an anti-communist/Capitalist South. The clash between these 2 political systems created tension that led to conflict.
- The Cold War was responsible for the division of Korea as the USA tried to prevent the USSR occupying all of Korea. The USSR then backed North Korea & the USA, South Korea, creating tension that led to conflict.

INVASION BY THE NORTH

5) Kim Il Sung was the main reason for the Korean War. Give 2 reasons. P5

YES

- The war began when North Korea invaded South Korea. Kim had ordered the invasion.
- Kim wanted to invade South Korea to reunite Korea as a country. This tension led to the invasion, which was the main cause of the war.
- Kim was sure that the South Korean people would revolt against Rhee to support communism in a united Korea & to support Kim's land reforms.

NO

- Invasion only took place once Stalin had given his permission. Therefore, the main reason for war was Stalin's control over the communist leaders in North Korea & China.

-The main reason was the tension between the USA & the USSR – the Cold War. Korea was divided because the USA wanted to prevent the USSR from taking control over the whole of Korea & the USSR held off giving support to the invasion of South Korea until they also had atomic bombs & the USA was distracted with Japan.

RESPONSES TO INVASION

6.1) Why was the USSR absent from the UN in June 1950? Pg6mb

6.1-The USSR refused to take part in the UN because the USA would not allow communist China to join the UN Security Council. This meant that the USSR was absent from the Security Council Meeting in June 1950.

6.2) What consequence did this have for the UN's response to the crisis in Korea? Pg6

The consequence was that the USSR could not use its veto to block the USA's proposal to send UN military forces to defend South Korea from attack.

THE UN CAMPAIGN IN THE SOUTH & NORTH

7) Inchon landings were the most important event in the Korean War. Give 2 points that support this statement & 2 point that argue against it. Pg7

FOR THE STATEMENT

Before the Inchon landing, North Koreans were in control of almost all of Korea. The UN and South Korean forces were trapped in the Southern tip of Korea, around Pusan. It was the success of the Inchon landings that allowed South Korea to be captured.

-The success of the Inchon landings meant that the USA changed its objectives from containing communism to pushing back communism. Advancement into North Korea pulled China into the war.

-The Inchon landings were an outstanding achievement by MacArthur because the landing demonstrated military expertise of the USA.

AGAINST THE STATEMENT

-The main event was the Chinese response to UN forces invading North Korea. Their massive attack pushed the UN forces back deep into South Korea. The war became a stalemate.

-The main event of the Korean War was the North's invasion of South Korea in June 1950. This was the event that started the war in the first place. The event brought the USA & the UN into the conflict.

-The North Koreans were worn down by their attempts to capture Pusan. They were already exhausted & short of supplies.

ADVANCE INTO NORTH KOREA

8) UN Security Council's Resolution 84. What message do you think it gives you about the UN's aims in Korea in July 1950. Pg 8

The message is "repel". The UN's aim was to push the North Korean forces back to North Korea.

The aim is to "restore international peace and security in that area". The area could be South Korea or all of Korea. The aim could include attacking North Korea to prevent further attacks on South Korea.

CHINA'S REACTION

9.1 Look at the image of Chinese and N Korean troops greeting each other. Identify 2 things that are useful about this source for understanding why the UN's advance was defeated.

-It shows that the Chinese forces worked together with the North Korean forces. Effective way to defeat the UN forces.

-The Chinese troops were well –equipped because they were carrying modern Soviet-supplied submachine guns.

-It shows the difficult mountain terrain for the UN forces to fight in. They could get trapped in narrow valleys.

9.2) The US political cartoon is critical of Gen MacArthur. What is it criticising MacArthur for? Pg9

It is criticising MacArthur widening the war in Korea to include an attack on communist China.

STALEMATE & PEACE TALKS

10) By spring 1951, write an account of the events that led to the war becoming an international crisis. Pg10

-Division of Korea in 1945 created tensions between the North & South.

-Once the USSR gave permission, North Korea launched an invasion of S Korea in Jun 1950.

-USA persuaded the UN qto send a military force to defend South Korea.

-UN troops advance into North Korea & caused China to enter the war.

-In Nov 1950, 300,000 Chinese troops defeated the UN troops in N Korea. The UN retreated into South. Korea.

-After several attacks & retreats, both sides faced each other along the 38th parallel.