

SECTION A

You must answer Question 1.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE KOREAN WAR

- 1 Read the sources and answer the questions which follow.

Source A

The attack upon Korea makes it plain beyond all doubt that communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war. In these circumstances, further advance by Communist forces would be a direct threat to the security of the Pacific area.

Accordingly I have ordered the Seventh Fleet to prevent any attack on Taiwan. I have also directed that United States Forces in the Philippines be strengthened and that military assistance be accelerated. I have similarly directed acceleration of military assistance to the forces of France and the Associated States in Indochina, and the dispatch of a military mission to provide close working relations with those forces.

President Truman's press release on Korea, 27 June 1950.

Source B

In the mid to late 1940s, fighting frequently broke out on the border between the two Koreas, with small groups launching raids against each other. The United States restricted the aid that it provided for the South Korean army – the South Koreans were given small arms, light artillery, and tons of ammunition, but no tanks or aircraft. The United States wanted to see the South Korean forces strong enough to repel a North Korean attack, but would not grant permission for them to begin a war.

When then the North Koreans invaded, Truman responded firmly. He made a series of decisions to commit the USA to confronting the Communists in Korea. Therefore, it was the Cold War rather than altruism or regard for Korean unification which influenced Truman and the USA every step of the way. By the war's end, the USA had gained a measure of success by preventing the forceful unification of Korea intended by the Communist camp.

A history book by an American historian, 2003.

Source C

Tonight we greet the official news that an armistice will quickly bring an end to the fighting between the forces of the United Nations and the Communist armies in Korea. For the nation, the cost of repelling aggression has been high. In thousands of our homes it has been incalculable. In this struggle, we have seen the United Nations meet the challenge of armed aggression, not with words of pathetic protest, but with deeds of decisive purpose. It is proper that we salute particularly the valorous armies of the Republic of Korea, for they have done even more than prove their title to freedom. Inspired by Syngman Rhee, they have given an example of courage and patriotism, which again demonstrates that men of East and men of the West can fight and work and live side by side in pursuit of a just and noble cause.

Speech by President Eisenhower on the signing of the Korean War Armistice, 27 July 1953.

Source D

The US imperialists were defeated with tremendous loss in manpower and material. In the three years of the Korean War, the US imperialists realised how great the might of the Korean people is, how strong their fighting spirit is, and what a great vitality the people's democratic system established in the northern half of Korea has. Never before has there been an instance when all the people united in strength to deal a blow to a formidable enemy, and won a shining victory as in this Fatherland Liberation War. As a result, our people have acquired international prestige and enjoy support from the world. The liberation struggle of the Korean people for freedom and independence became a banner of the national liberation movement of the oppressed people in the East; it showed that the Asian peoples, subjected to every maltreatment by imperialists, have the ability to defend their national freedom and independence with arms.

Radio address by Kim Il Sung, 28 July 1953.

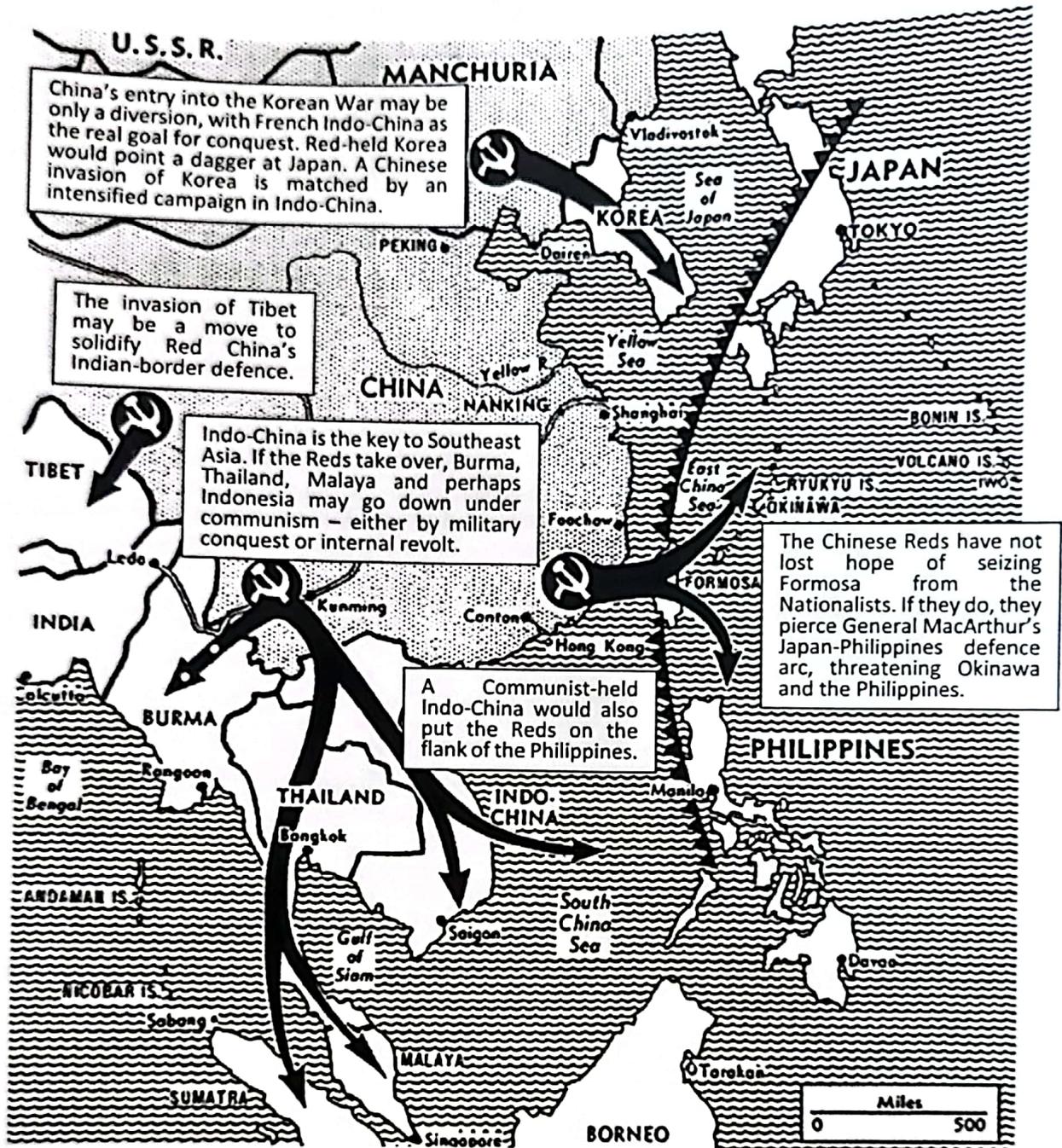
Source E

In their 5,000 years of history, the Korean people have more than once waged a heroic struggle against foreign invaders. But never have they dealt such a fatal blow to such a powerful enemy through the single-hearted united strength of the leader, the army and the people, and scored such a brilliant victory as in the Fatherland Liberation War.

The great leader President Kim Il Sung said: "The Fatherland Liberation War waged by our people was a fierce anti-imperialist, anti-US struggle against the allied forces headed by US imperialism, and a bitter class struggle against the enemies of the people." The US imperialists, who had harboured the wild dream of dominating the world with Korea as the springboard, instigated the South Korean puppet clique to launch a surprise armed invasion of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at early dawn on June 25, 1950, in order to subjugate the Korean people.

An official North Korean history of the Korean War titled "Outstanding Leadership and Brilliant Victory", 1993.

Source F



A map published in an American magazine, November 1950.

Now answer the following questions.

- a) Compare and contrast the evidence provided in Sources C and D on the outcome of the Korean War. [10]

- b) How far do sources A – F agree that America's involvement in the Korean War was driven primarily by ideological concerns? [30]

Section B

You must answer **TWO** questions from this section.

EITHER

- 2 "The most important causes of the Crisis Decades were found in the Golden Age of Capitalism." Discuss. [30]

OR

- 3 "Favourable external circumstances account for Taiwan's rapid economic growth from 1970 – 1990." How far do you agree with this statement? [30]

AND EITHER

- 4 Discuss the notion that the United Nations was successful in fulfilling its role of maintaining international peace and security from 1945 – 2000. [30]

OR

- 5 To what extent do you agree that from its creation, the General Assembly was destined to fail? [30]