

**Section A**

You must answer Question 1.

**THE CAUSES OF THE KOREAN WAR, 1950–1953**

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

**Source A**

In Korea the Government forces, which were armed to prevent border raids and to preserve internal security, were attacked by invading forces from North Korea. The Security Council of the United Nations called upon the invading troops to cease hostilities and to withdraw to the 38th parallel. This they have not done, but on the contrary have pressed the attack. The Security Council called upon all members of the United Nations to render every assistance to the United Nations in the execution of this resolution. In these circumstances I have ordered United States air and sea forces to give the Korean Government troops cover and support.

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. It has defied the orders of the Security Council of the United Nations issued to preserve international peace and security.

*Excerpt from a statement released by US President Harry Truman, 27 June 1950.*

**Source B**

The American imperialists pushing their agents, the traitorous clique of Syngman Rhee, to launch a murderous war, have begun military interference in the internal affairs of Korea in order to colonise our Motherland. American aircrafts began to bomb cities and villages on 26 June. On the same day, nine American aircrafts attacked the city of Gaeseong, which had been liberated by the People's Army. Our aircrafts put them to flight and, pursuing the American aircrafts, shot down two B-29's over Seoul. On 28 June, six American aircrafts penetrated the area north of the 38th parallel with the goal of attacking Pyongyang. Our aircrafts immediately engaged the enemy in battle. American bombers bombed the city of Pyongyang, dropping more than 300 bombs on the civilian population. There were casualties among the civilian population as a result of the barbaric bombing.

*A report from the Korean Peoples' Army on events in the Korean War in 30 June 1950.*



### Source C

Following our withdrawal from the Security Council, America became entangled in a military intervention in Korea and is now squandering its military prestige and moral authority, as we planned for it to happen all along. Few honest people can doubt that America is now acting as an aggressor in Korea and that it is not as militarily powerful as it claims to be. [...] The reason we eventually allowed the war in Korea is because: let us suppose that the U.S. continues to be tied down in the Far East and also pulls China into the struggle. What might come of this? It follows that America would overextend itself in this struggle. [...] It is clear that the United States of America is presently distracted from Europe in the Far East. Does it not give us an advantage in the global balance of power, especially back in Europe? It undoubtedly does, allowing us to use this war to our advantage.

*Letter sent from Josef Stalin to leader of Czechoslovakia, 27 August 1950.*

### Source D

On 27 June, President Truman announced that American armed forces were being sent to Korea to support the South Korean army. On the same day, at the bidding of the Americans, the Security Council approved the aggressive actions of the United States and called upon UN members to give armed assistance to the Syngman Rhee regime. A broad campaign of slander and threats was unleashed against the Korean People's Democratic Republic. Japanese and American radio stations were switched over to moulding Korean public opinion, trying to intimidate the Korean people and stifle their ability to resist the invaders.

*Report on the Korean situation prepared by the Soviet Foreign Ministry, 11 August 1950.*

### Source E



South Korean propaganda painting produced in 1952 showing (from left) a Russian pushing a Chinese, the Chinese pushing and kicking a North Korean army officer, the North Korean officer pushing a North Korean soldier into the flames of war.



## Source F

Kim Il-Sung and Stalin fully discussed "a big step regarding South Korea." Stalin confirmed that with the Communist Chinese victory in China and no "American military challenge to the new Chinese authorities," together with the conclusion of an alliance treaty between the Soviet Union and Communist China and Soviet possession of the atomic bomb, a major improvement had occurred in "the environment for actions in Korea." Stalin, however, cautioned Kim Il-sung about the possibility of American intervention and the necessity to obtain the support of Communist China, saying that "the liberation can be started only if the Chinese leadership endorses it." Kim Il-Sung expressed his view, saying that "America won't interfere. ... Americans will not risk a big war. ... Comrade Mao Zedong said on a number of occasions that after the Chinese revolution is completed, China will help us, if necessary, will provide troops. ..."

*An academic paper published in South Korea, 2010.*

Now answer the following questions:

- (a) Compare and contrast Sources A and B as evidence regarding the involvement of the United States in the Korean War. [10]
- (b) To what extent do Sources A–F show that the Soviet Union should bear the primary responsibility for starting the Korean War? [30]

## **Section B**

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

**EITHER**

- 2 'The 1973 Oil Shock rather than reckless borrowing by the Latin American governments was responsible for the 1980s Debt Crises.' How far do you agree with this statement? [30]

**OR**

- 3 Assess the impact of the Cold War on South Korea's economic transformation between 1970 and 1990. [30]

**AND EITHER**

- 4 'The influence of the United Nations General Assembly was enhanced by the superpower rivalry during the Cold War.' Discuss. [30]

**OR**

- 5 'American participation was key to the success of any United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.' How valid is this statement at describing peacekeeping missions after the Cold War? [30]

**End of Paper**