

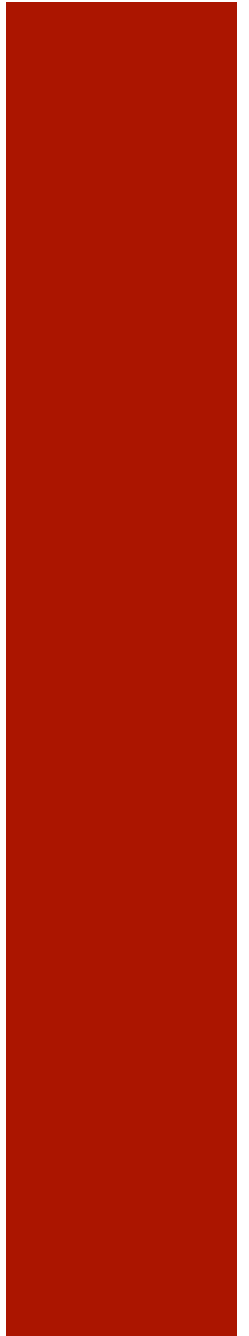


The Korean War

US History II

Proxy War

A WAR INSTIGATED BY A MAJOR POWER
THAT DOES NOT ITSELF BECOME
INVOLVED.



Background

- Japan ruled Korea from 1910 – 1945
- End of WWII Japanese soldiers:
 - North of the 38th parallel surrendered to the Soviets
 - South of the 38th parallel surrendered to the Americans



Two Koreas

Republic of Korea

- South Korea
- Leader: Syngman Rhee
- Capital: Seoul



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

- North Korea
- Leader: Kim Il Sung
- Capital: Pyongyang



Soviets & North Korea

- June 1949, only 500 U.S. soldiers left in S. Korea
- The Soviet Union prepares to take over the entire peninsula by sending
 - Tanks
 - Airplanes
 - Money



Korean War Begins

- June 25, 1950
 - North Korean forces launched a surprise attack and ends up deep in South Korean territory
- South Korean calls on the UN to stop the invasion – UN votes on military action
- Soviets were protesting the Security Council b/c of Taiwan and can't veto
- UN plans military action



Korean War Begins



- Truman wants to show military strength
- June 27th
 - Ordered soldiers stationed in Japan to support South Koreans
 - Moved an American fleet into the waters between China and Taiwan

Preparing for War

- 16 nations sent 520,000 soldiers to aid South Korea (90% were American)
- Under the command of General Douglas MacArthur – WWII hero



War Begins

- After a month of fighting the North Koreans had captured Seoul and forced the UN & S. Korean soldiers in a defensive zone in the south around Pusan



War Continues

- September 15, 1950
 - MacArthur brings in fresh troops & stages an amphibious landing behind enemy lines at Inchon
 - ½ the North Korean troops surrendered & ½ fled soldiers the 38th parallel
- North Korean troops were forced back to the Yalu River (border w/ China)
 - Seemed like Korea was about to be reunited



China Enters the War

- China refused to, “let the Americans come to the border”
- Later Nov. 1950 – 300,000 Chinese soldiers join North Korea
 - Want a communist buffer zone to protect Manchuria
 - Uneasy about American ships off their coast



China Enters the War

- Chinese outnumbered UN forces 10:1
- By January 1951 all UN and South Korean soldiers had been pushed out of North Korea
- “We face an entirely new war.” - MacArthur



Nuclear War?

- In early 1951, MacArthur wrote to Pres. Truman asking him to use nuclear weapons on Chinese cities
- Rejected for being “the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy.”



Continued War?

■ War

- In April 1951 the UN forces, led by the U.S. once again pushed into Seoul
- Borders back at the 38th parallel

■ Politics

- MacArthur tried to go over Truman's head to start a war with China – newspapers, politicians, etc.
- April 11, 1951 MacArthur was fired while 69% of Americans supported his ideas



Stalemate



- Cease-fire suggested by the USSR on June 23, 1951 with truce talks that began in July
- For two years the soldiers fought a bloody and fruitless battle

Results of the war

- Created the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two Koreans
- July 1953 armistice ended the war with two Koreas
- Ultimately cost the U.S. 54,000 lives and \$67 billion dollars
- But it contained communism without needing nuclear weapons





Joint Security Area in the DMZ