

Korean War: Conflict Involving Two Superpowers

Cold War:

- 1945 - 38th parallel divided Korea.
- 1947 - Conflict of Cold War began from a compromise negotiation by the Soviet Union, leading to the strategy of containment by the United States.
- Korea fell victim to proxy war instigated by the superpowers.
- US provided military aid for South Korea.
- Soviet Union provided North Korea with weapons.
- 1949 - US helped to organize South Korea.
- 1950 - South Korea was prepared for North Korea's attack.



United States troops landing at Pusan, South Korea, 1950. The Great War Project

Thesis:

The Korean War was the first proxy war of the Cold War and resulted in the United States intervening in the conflict to support South Korea's military. Although the U.S. joined the war in an effort to eliminate the influence of communists, the compromise of the 1953 Armistice led to an inconclusive result, which causes conflicts today.



Department of Defense, Office of Public Affairs, 1953

"I will begin with my President taking a simple, firm resolution. The resolution will be: To bring the division of politics and its complications on the job of ending the Korean war until that job is honorably done. That job requires a personal trip to Korea. I shall make that trip. Only in that way could I learn how best to serve the American people in the cause of peace. I shall go to Korea." —Dwight D. Eisenhower, Plan for ending the Korean War, October 23, 1952.

"If we fail in our leadership we may endanger the peace of the world—and we shall surely endanger the welfare of our own nation." —Harry S. Truman, Truman Doctrine, March 12, 1947.



United States Navy, 1950

Compromise:

In 1953, South Korea, China, and the UN signed the Korean War Armistice, "ending" the war. The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) forbids military activities. The war inflicted hardship on the Korean people without their consent, and they have yet to receive adequate compensation. Although the Armistice concluded the war, it did not officially end it. It had a negative impact on other proxy wars such as the Vietnam War, where it had a similar ending and effect as it did in Korea. The Armistice was insufficient and only a short-term compromise to end the war, still leading to another similar conflict, showing that the superpowers did not learn from their past mistakes.



United States Navy, 1953

"With the objective of establishing an armistice which will ensure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea and a final peaceful settlement in a Korean." —Korean Armistice, July 27, 1953.

Immediate Impact:

- North Korea retained a communist state.
- The war could not contain communism elsewhere as it spread in other areas.
- Conflicts were expanded.

Historical Significance:

- The Korean War set an precedent because it was the first time that the UN intervened in a conflict.
- 2013 - South Korea issued a postage stamp to commemorate the 60th anniversary.
- Providing a truce to the Korean peninsula.
- North Korea is the only country to withdraw its troops from the North American continent.
- The war proved a lesson because it showed that the superpowers did not learn from their past mistakes.
- The war was the first time that the UN intervened in a conflict.
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Conflict:

- 1949 - 38th parallel divided Korea.
- 1950 - North Korea invaded South Korea.
- 1950 - US provided military aid for South Korea.
- 1950 - Soviet Union provided North Korea with weapons.
- 1950 - US helped to organize South Korea.
- 1950 - South Korea was prepared for North Korea's attack.



United States Navy, 1950



United States Navy, 1950

North Korean leader Kim Il-sung had just started what the "Newspaper" says is an "all-out" effort to "liberate" South Korea from its capitalist and imperialist system. "We will liberate South Korea, and we will liberate the whole world." —Kim Il-sung, 1948.



United States Navy, 1950



United States Navy, 1950



United States Navy, 1950

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"THE KOREAN WAR: A CONFLICT INVOLVING TWO SUPERPOWERS"
 MAY 1950 - CASE OF THE UNITED STATES
 C. H. H. H.