



**FORUM:** Historical Crisis

**TOPIC:** The Korean War (1950-1953)

**STUDENT OFFICER:** Nikolaos M. Giovanis, Anastasios Tsotras, Sokratis K. Dallas

**POSITION:** President, Deputy President, Deputy President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Nikolaos-Marios Giovanis and I am an 11th grade student at the Anavryta Model High School. I am deeply honoured to have assumed the role of President in this year's Historical Crisis Committee.

In the last five years, I have participated in more than 10 MUN conferences and I can undoubtedly say that the Historical Crisis Committee, in which I have taken part and been awarded twice, is by far the most unique and fun MUN experience.

You are tasked to resolve one of the bloodiest US-Soviet proxy-wars, which was a result of the brutal Cold War between the two Superpowers of that era. Something unique about the HCC is that the role of “diplomat” is inadequate by itself in order to help your alliance prevail. You also have to assume the role of “strategist” and use your intellect and knowledge on warfare in order to resolve the crisis in your favour.

I hope you have loads of fun in this year's HCC. For any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me through my email: [nikosgiovanis45@gmail.com](mailto:nikosgiovanis45@gmail.com)

Dear Delegates,

My name is Sokratis Konstantinos Dallas and I am a first year university student at the International & European Studies Department of Panteion University. It is with great pleasure that I will be serving as your deputy-president of this year's Historical Crisis Committee.

By the time of the conference I will have entered my 7th year in the MUN family and I must confess that it has been a pleasure throughout. I must confess that I have had a more limited experience with crisis committees, however I do believe that they can prove to be some of the most interesting and entertaining in the conference. As somebody who was always into geopolitics and history, MUN's as a whole allowed me to express myself, all the while expanding my knowledge on some of the world's most pressing issues. This is prevalent most in the crisis



committee, where you will be called upon to solve the first conflict of the Cold War through heated debate and meaningful action.

If you have any questions about the topic or the committee as a whole, please feel free to contact me at: [sokrates.dallas@gmail.com](mailto:sokrates.dallas@gmail.com).

Dear Delegates,

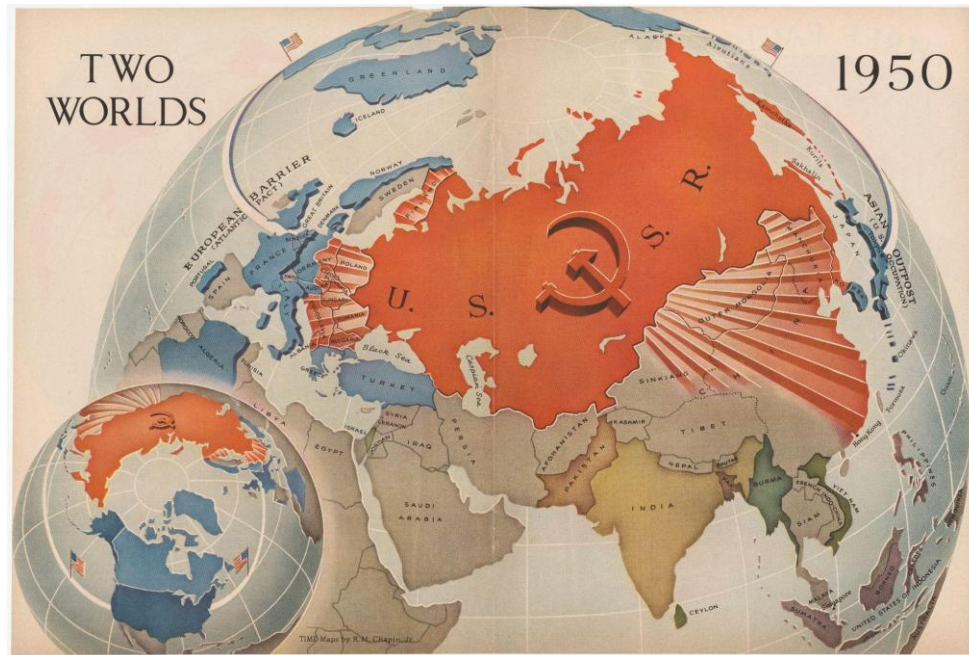
My name is Anastasios (Tasos) Tsotras and I'm a senior in Anavryta Model High School. I'm more than glad to have the pleasure to be your Deputy- President in this year's committee, the HCC.

A veteran delegate myself, I initially joined an MUN club in 2022-23 and since then, have participated in various different conferences, as well as committees. However, owing to my years-long interest in history and geopolitical relations, I consider the HCC my favorite type of committee. I sincerely hope that you too have the same passion for history or, at least, alternative scenarios, as the one you will explore.

The two prior introductions have pretty much covered what your roles have to be, however, if you would like to pose any questions on anything relative to the topic, the committee or else, feel free to do so at: [tsotrasanastasios@gmail.com](mailto:tsotrasanastasios@gmail.com)

## **TOPIC INTRODUCTION**

With the surrender of Japan and the general defeat of the Axis Powers, their former territories were split among the victors of WW2, those being the members of the newly established United Nations. Similarly to Germany, the Korean Peninsula was also split between a Soviet and Western Zone of Occupation along the 38th parallel. After the settlement of the post-war world, a new ridge between the economic ideologies of the victorious powers emerged. Namely, the world was split between communist nations, with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) as their leader and the United States of America (USA) leading the capitalist Western World.



Illustrative Map showing the two sides of the Cold War<sup>1</sup>

It is under the spectre of the Cold War, as this rivalry would come on to be known as, that the Korean War takes place. Especially with the defeat of the Nationalist forces of China and the proclamation of the People's Republic of China (PRC) by Mao Zedong, communist influence seems to have taken on a foothold in Asia. Despite their military victory, the Nationalist Republic of China is still recognised as the legitimate government of China, by the UN, leading to a boycott of the organisation by the USSR until the UN recognises the PRC.<sup>2</sup> This comes in spite of the Truman Doctrine, whereby American President Truman promised in 1947 to provide military, political and economic assistance to any democratic governments under threat.

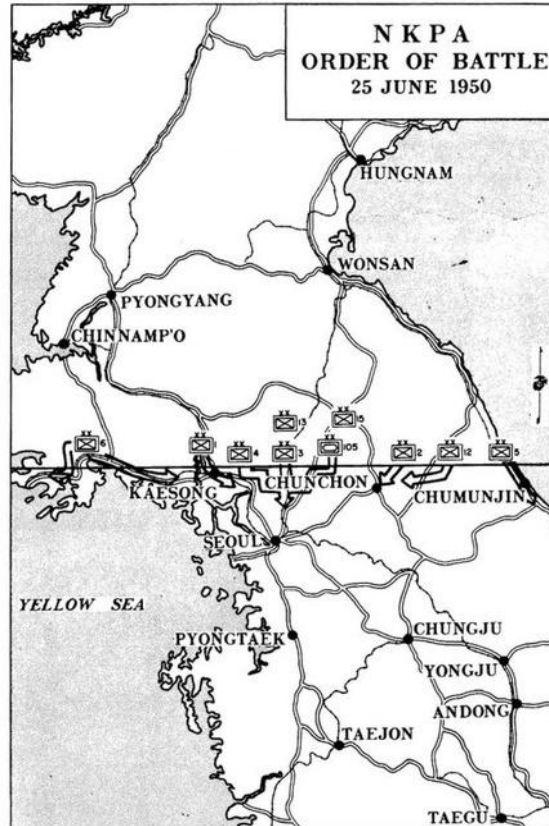
With the establishment of civil administrations for Korea in 1948, the communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the capitalist Republic of Korea (ROK), conflict between the two sides logically increased, as both claimed to be the legitimate government for all of Korea. Subsequently, the DPRK under the leadership of Kim Il-Sung began preparations for the "liberation" of South Korea. Initially Stalin remained hesitant,<sup>3</sup> but after the victory of the communists in China and the partial withdrawal of US troops for the ROK, the balance of power seems to have shifted over to the DPRK.

<sup>1</sup> The Times Magazine, and Chapin, Robert M. *Two Worlds*. 2 Jan. 1950. *Cornell University Library*, <https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:3293969>.

<sup>2</sup> The Canberra Times. "Soviet Boycott at U.N." *Trove*, 29 Mar. 1950, [trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2773037](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2773037).

<sup>3</sup> Zhihua, Shen. "Revisiting Stalin's and Mao's Motivations in the Korean War." *Wilson Center*, 22 June 2020, [www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/revisiting-stalins-and-maos-motivations-korean-war](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/revisiting-stalins-and-maos-motivations-korean-war).

This leaves us with the current situation, whereby on June 25th 1950, the government of North Korea took the World by surprise in issuing orders of a general attack across the 38th parallel, invading the ROK.



NKPA Order of Battle 25th of June 1950<sup>4</sup>

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Cold War

“A relationship between two countries who are not friendly but are not actually fighting each other, usually used about the situation between the US and the Soviet Union after the Second World War.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> NKPA Order of Battle 25th of June 1950. Marines, United States Marine Corps, [https://www.marines.mil/Portals/1/Publications/The%20Sea%20Services%20in%20the%20Korean%20War%201950-1953%20PCN%2019000412100\\_6.pdf](https://www.marines.mil/Portals/1/Publications/The%20Sea%20Services%20in%20the%20Korean%20War%201950-1953%20PCN%2019000412100_6.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> “Cold War”. Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries, Oxford University Press, 2026, [Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/cold-war)



### 38th Parallel

“The line on the map that marks the border between North Korea and South Korea, established in 1945 after the Second World War. When US troops crossed it during the Korean War in 1950 this caused the Chinese to enter the war. It was again used as the border when peace was signed in 1953.”<sup>6</sup>

### Landing

“An act of bringing soldiers to land in an area that is controlled by the enemy.”<sup>7</sup>

### Colony

“A country or an area that is governed by people from another, more powerful, country”<sup>8</sup>

### Ceasefire

“a time when enemies agree to stop fighting, usually while a way is found to end the fighting permanently”<sup>9</sup>

### Axis Powers

“Germany, Italy, and Japan during the Second World War”<sup>10</sup>

### Allied Powers

“A group of countries (Initially the UK and France and later on the USA and the USSR), who were opposed to the expansionist ideology of the axis powers during World War II, where they also defeated them”<sup>11</sup>

### De Facto

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<sup>6</sup> “38th Parallel.” *Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, 2026, [Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries](#)

<sup>7</sup> “Landing.” *Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, 2026, [Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries](#)

<sup>8</sup> “Colony.” *Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, 2026, [Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries](#)

<sup>9</sup> “Ceasefire.” *Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, 2026, [Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries](#)

<sup>10</sup> “Axis Powers.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, 2026, [Cambridge Dictionary](#)

<sup>11</sup> “Allied Powers (World War II).” *New World Encyclopedia*, 2026, [Allied Powers \(World War II\) - New World Encyclopedia](#)

“Existing in fact, although perhaps not intended, legal, or accepted”<sup>12</sup>

## De Jure

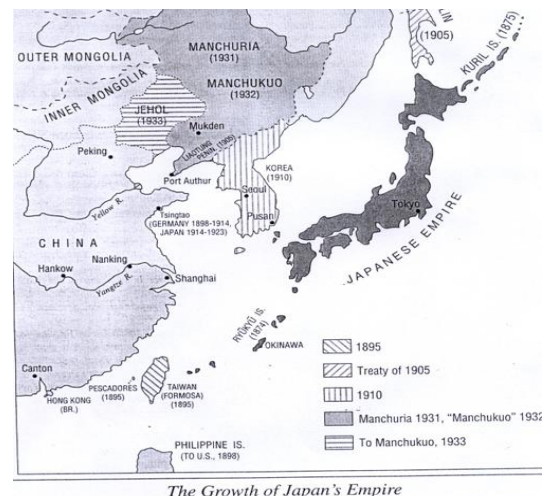
“Having a right or existence as stated by law”<sup>13</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Before looking deeper into the immediate causes and effects of the outbreak of the war in Korea, we must first look at the historical conditions which led to the current situation. More specifically, starting from the Japanese Occupation of the Peninsula, a recent experience, still engraved into the minds of the people of Korea.

### Japanese Occupation

Already by 1904, Japan had already heavily influenced every aspect of the Empire of Korea, the Kingdom in place of the Korean peninsula at the time, and after the considerable defeat of the Russians during the Russo-Japanese war of 1905, the Japanese established their hegemony over Korea. Finally, with the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1910<sup>14</sup> Korea was annexed into the Empire of Japan, administered however as a colony on behalf of the Emperor by a Governor-General. Although the Korean peninsula would be liberated by 1945, the State of Japan still hasn't relinquished their de jure claim over the Korean Peninsula.<sup>15</sup>



Map of the Territorial Expansion of Japan (1895-1933)<sup>16</sup>

<sup>12</sup> “De Facto.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, 2026, [Cambridge Dictionary](#)

<sup>13</sup> “De Jure.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, 2026, [Cambridge Dictionary](#)

<sup>14</sup> Akihiko, Tanaka. “Treaty Regarding the Annexation of Korea to the Empire of Japan.” *The World and Japan Database*, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia (IASA), The University of Tokyo, 29 Aug. 1910, [worldjpn.net/documents/texts/pw/19100822.T1E.html](http://worldjpn.net/documents/texts/pw/19100822.T1E.html).

<sup>15</sup> “Treaty of Peace with Japan (with Two Declarations).” *United Nations*, 8 Sept. 1951, [treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20136/volume-136-I-1832-English.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20136/volume-136-I-1832-English.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> Si Mi Au. *The Growth of Japan's Empire*. Hong Kong College Students Social Service Team, [https://www.hkcssst.net/papers/japanIssue08/japanWar\\_SiMi.htm](https://www.hkcssst.net/papers/japanIssue08/japanWar_SiMi.htm).



With the establishment of the colony of Chosen, it became clear that the Korean people weren't being treated as equals within the Japanese Empire, rather they became subjects to further Japan's imperialistic aims in Asia. Any opposition to Japanese rule, led to immediate reprisals, as the Japanese implemented a scorched earth tactic, of destroying any such voices. This obviously resulted in a rise of dissent among Koreans, both within the Korean Peninsula and in exile.

## Resistance Movements

In the 35 years of Japanese Occupation, various movements were established with the goal of obtaining independence for Korea.

### Korean Independence Movement (KIM)

The biggest resistance movement was the Korean Independence Movement,<sup>17</sup> which ignited the March First Movement in 1919. The movement consisted of a series of protests which aimed at self-determination and although it was finally repressed, it inspired the creation of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in Shanghai. The group would later move on to organize partisan activity and fight alongside the Nationalists, during the Second Sino-Japanese war.

### Communist Party of Korea (CPK)

Established in 1925, the Communist Party of Korea followed the same goals as the KIM, however believing that a communist society should be established in Korea instead. They fought alongside the Communist Chinese Party in the Second Sino-Japanese War and played the leading role in the insurgency in Manchuria. The Korean Volunteer Army,<sup>18</sup> which mainly oversaw partisan activity in the region was very successful and Kim-II Sung rose eventually to be one of its senior members, thus being ultimately chosen to lead the DPRK.

### National People's Government

The National People's Government was established in Southern Manchuria in 1929, made up of Korean refugees who had fled to Manchuria in order to continue fighting against the Japanese.<sup>19</sup> The partisan warfare waged in the region by both

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<sup>17</sup> "Independence Movement." *Korean Culture Centre*, [kccuk.org.uk/en/about-korea/history/independence-movement/](http://kccuk.org.uk/en/about-korea/history/independence-movement/).

<sup>18</sup> "THE KOREAN VOLUNTEER ARMY IN MANCHURIA." *Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)*, 16 Nov. 1947, [www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP82-00457R001100070007-9.pdf](http://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP82-00457R001100070007-9.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Jin, Guangxi. "The August Incident' and the Destiny of the Yanan Faction." *International Journal of Korean History*, Yanbian University, 2012, [ijkh.khistory.org/journal/view.php?number=413](http://ijkh.khistory.org/journal/view.php?number=413).

Nationalists and Socialists caused the Japanese to launch a counterinsurgency in 1931, which tied down their attention until as late as 1942.

## Allied Liberation

With the detonation of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Japan was forced to sue for peace with the Allied Powers. However, the Soviets had also joined the Pacific War by then and had commenced Operation August Storm in, occupying Manchuria and North Korea.



Red Army Order of Battle during Operation August Storm<sup>20</sup>

## Federation

The original plan for the future of Korea was to create a unified state, as declared in the Cairo Conference of 1943, whereby it was decided that: *"in due course, Korea shall*

<sup>20</sup> Tazadeperla, and SilverStar54. *Manchuria Operation Map*. 12 May 2023. *Wikipedia Commons*, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Manchuria\\_Operation\\_map-en.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Manchuria_Operation_map-en.svg).

*become free and independent*".<sup>21</sup> Additionally, during the Moscow Conference of 1945<sup>22</sup> between the delegates of the Allied Powers, a common US-Soviet Joint Commission over Korea was decided, which would be granted full independence after 5 years of the Trusteeship.

This plan never came into fruition finally, as it faced opposition both from Beijing and later Moscow. The communists put the final nail in the coffin of reunification with their rejection to participate in the 1948 Korean election, as proposed by UN General Assembly Resolution 112.<sup>23</sup>

## Division

As such the Korean Peninsula would be divided at the 38th Parallel by General Order No.1 for the Surrender of Japan.<sup>24</sup>



Kim-Il Sung delivers a radio address to all the Korean People<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Elzeny, Esraa. "From Cairo Declaration to Inter-Korean Summit." *Korea*, 19 Sept. 2019, [www.korea.net/NewsFocus/HonoraryReporters/view?articleId=163663](http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/HonoraryReporters/view?articleId=163663).

<sup>22</sup> Harriman. "COMMUNIQUE ON THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE OF THE THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS." *Office of the Historian*, US Department of State, 27 Dec. 1945, [history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1945v02/d268](http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1945v02/d268).

<sup>23</sup> United Nations General Assembly. "Resolution Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 14 at Its 112th Plenary Meeting." *Office of the Historian*, US Department of State, 14 Nov. 1947, [history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1947v06/d660](http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1947v06/d660).

<sup>24</sup> Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Revision of General Order No. 1." *Office of the Historian*, US Department of State, 11 Aug. 1945, [history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1945v06/d418](http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1945v06/d418).

<sup>25</sup> Go! 1950. *Alpha History*, <https://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/kimilsung1950.jpg>.

North of the 38th Parallel a Soviet Civil Administration in Korea was established, under the chairmanship of Kim-Il Sung. It ran parallel with various communist-aligned provisional governments until 1948, when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded, once again headed by Kim-Il Sung. It aligns itself with both the USSR and PRC.

In the South, the Americans established the United States Army Military Government in Korea, under General Douglas MacArthur, alongside the provisional government of the People's Republic of Korea under Syngman Rhee. In 1948, the US occupation zone would also establish a civilian government, the Republic of Korea under the presidency of Syngman Rhee once more.



Syngman Rhee depicted next to General Douglas MacArthur & John R. Hodge, during the declaration of the South Korean government in 1948<sup>26</sup>

### Prelude to the Invasion

As previously mentioned, the beginning of hostilities in Korea came as a surprise to the international community. It was most likely already planned out and recent developments in US-Soviet Relations, in addition to the conclusion of the Chinese Civil War, created the perfect storm for an incursion.

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<sup>26</sup> Ceremony Celebrating the Formal Establishment of the Republic of Korea. 15 Aug. 1948. Brunch, Harang, <https://brunch.co.kr/@ealinstipre/145>.

## Cold War

Nothing pertaining to the conflict can be explained outside the historical conditions of the Cold War, the competition of the USA & USSR over the dominance of their respective systems of Capitalism or Communism in the post-war world.

In 1946, with the Long Telegram<sup>27</sup> was sent by US diplomat George Kennan, detailing that the Soviet Leadership wished to overthrow the “*Capitalist West*” and as such peaceful coexistence would be impossible. This eventually led to the adoption of the Truman Doctrine<sup>28</sup> as US foreign policy, under which US President Truman delivered a speech to Congress, asking to pledge support for US-aligned nations against alleged authoritarian threats.



President Harry S. Truman addressing a joint session of Congress asking for \$400 million in aid to Greece and Turkey<sup>29</sup>

## Soviet Boycott of the UNSC

A crucial factor for the course of the war is the increasing détente between the USA and USSR, however an unseen result of this enmity is the boycott of the UN Security Council (UNSC), meaning that Moscow refuses to participate or sanction any proposals by

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<sup>27</sup> Kennan, George. “Long Telegram.” *National Security Agency (NSA)*, 22 Feb. 1946, [nsarchive2.gwu.edu/coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm](https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm).

<sup>28</sup> “The Truman Doctrine, 1947.” *Office of the Historian*, US Department of State, [history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/truman-doctrine](https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/truman-doctrine).

<sup>29</sup> President Harry S. Truman addressing a joint session of Congress asking for \$400 million in aid to Greece and Turkey. 12 Mar. 1947. *Harry S. Truman Library*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/articles/remembering-the-truman-doctrine>.



the UN. The reason behind their boycott is the refusal of the other permanent members of the UNSC to recognize the People's Republic of China, which proclaimed its victory over the Republic of China in 1949.

Another aspect of the communist victory in China, is the growing concern of America to contain the spread of communism. Even if they didn't really view Nationalists favorably,<sup>30</sup> a new Sino-Soviet Axis would seriously shift the balance of power in Asia, as well as in Korea.

### Securing Support

The importance of the shift in China has already been discussed, however securing support from the USSR appeared more challenging. Kim-Il Sung and Stalin had met many times, or sent representatives to negotiate support for a war in Korea. Initially, the Soviet ambassador Shtykov only agreed to provide support for a limited operation or a defensive war.<sup>31</sup>

The Soviet outlook on a potential war changed favorably as the balance of power shifted. Most importantly, following the establishment of the ROK, US forces started to withdraw from Korea, reducing their forces from 40,000 to roughly 7,500.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, between 1948-1949 the ROK faced severe communist uprisings, namely the Jeju Uprising<sup>33</sup> and the Yeosu-Suncheon Rebellion,<sup>34</sup> which Kim-Il Sung believes have seriously damaged the capabilities of the ROK Army (ROKA).

### Current Situation

As of June 25th, the international community is faced with a grim reality, soldiers of the Korean People's Army (KPA) have launched offensive operations across the entire 38th parallel. They claim that they are merely conducting counter-offensives, as it was the ROKA which initiated

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<sup>30</sup> White, David. "Chiang Kai-Shek and the USA: Puppet and Puppeteer, but Which Was Which?" *Open History Society*, 2015, [openhistorysociety.org/chiang-kai-shek-and-the-usa-puppet-and-puppeteer-but-which-was-which/](https://openhistorysociety.org/chiang-kai-shek-and-the-usa-puppet-and-puppeteer-but-which-was-which/).

<sup>31</sup> Archive of the Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation. "Meeting between Stalin and Kim Il Sung." *Wilson Center*, 5 Mar. 1949, [www.commonprogram.science/documents/112127.pdf](https://www.commonprogram.science/documents/112127.pdf).

<sup>32</sup> Truman, Harry S. "Statement by the President on the Decision To Withdraw U.S. Forces From Korea." *Harry S. Truman Library*, 27 Oct. 1952, [www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/public-papers/310/statement-president-decision-withdraw-us-forces-korea-1947-1949](https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/public-papers/310/statement-president-decision-withdraw-us-forces-korea-1947-1949).

<sup>33</sup> Sforza, Melodie, et al. "South Korea: The Forgotten Jeju Uprising and Massacre - Revisited." *France 24*, 13 Mar. 2026, [www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/revisited/20260313-south-korea-the-forgotten-jeju-uprising-and-massacre](https://www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/revisited/20260313-south-korea-the-forgotten-jeju-uprising-and-massacre)

<sup>34</sup> Sue-Young, Kim. "439 Civilians Killed in 1948 Massacre." *The Korea Times*, 9 Jan. 2009, [www.koreatimes.co.kr/southkorea/20090109/439-civilians-killed-in-1948-massacre](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/southkorea/20090109/439-civilians-killed-in-1948-massacre).

hostilities and that they will work towards removing the puppet government in the South for liberation of the Korean People.<sup>35</sup>



DPRK Propaganda Poster from 1950: *“Kill Your Enemies without Mercy! Pusan and Jinhae are located with a foot! Raise our Victorious Flags into the Sky and Move Forward! Move Forward!”*<sup>36</sup>

Conversely, the South Koreans claim that the invasion is a blatant violation of their sovereignty and of international law, as well as the peace treaties for the establishment of the Koreans. They await the aid of their Allies,<sup>37</sup> as even though the war has just begun, the ROKA seems to have been taken off guard and as such remains unprepared for further North Korean offensives.

<sup>35</sup> “Kim Il Sung’s Historic Radio Address.” Korean Friendship Association USA, 26 June 2014, [kfausa.org/kim-il-sungs-historic-radio-address/](http://kfausa.org/kim-il-sungs-historic-radio-address/).

<sup>36</sup> “Kill Your Enemies without Mercy! Pusan and Jinhae located with a Foot! Raise our Victorious Flags into the Sky and Move Forward! Move Forward!” Aug. 1950. US National Archives, Series P: North Korean Propaganda Posters, ca. 1950 – ca. 1950; <https://unwritten-record.blogs.archives.gov/2019/07/09/spotlight-propoganda/>.

<sup>37</sup> Truman, Harry S. “Radio and Television Address to the American People on the Situation in Korea.” The American Presidency Project, 19 July 1950, [www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/radio-and-television-address-the-american-people-the-situation-korea](http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/radio-and-television-address-the-american-people-the-situation-korea).



## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)\*

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was established on 10 July 1948, in the former Soviet occupation zone, as a Soviet ally and a Communist state. The 1948 North Korean parliamentary elections took place in August, electing Kim Il Sung as the country's leader.

### People's Republic of China (PRC)

The Proclamation of the People's Republic took place on 1 October 1949, following the victory of the Chinese Communist Party over the Kuomintang (forces of the Nationalist faction of the Republic of China). As a communist nation, China became allied to the USSR and the DPRK at the time of the Korean War.<sup>38</sup>

### Republic of Korea (ROK)\*

The 1948 South Korean general election, as instructed by the UN, was held in May. The resultant South Korean government promulgated a national political constitution on 17 July and elected Syngman Rhee as president on 20 July. The Republic of Korea (South Korea) was established on 15 August 1948 as a right-wing allied power to the US.

\*Both Korean governments recognized themselves as the sole legitimate government in Korea, refusing to identify the other as a proper state.<sup>39</sup>

### Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

Established in 1922 as a communist state, the USSR aspired to expand Communism to its neighbors and worldwide. Due to bordering the Korean Peninsula, the Soviet Union opted to expand its sphere of influence there, installing a communist government in the Soviet-Korean Zone of Occupation, led by Kim Il Sung. The Soviet Union withdrew its forces in 1948.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> "China." *Wikipedia*, 25 July 2026, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China).

<sup>39</sup> Birtle, Andrew J. "The Korean War : Years of Stalemate." *Hathitrust Digital Library*, 2000, [babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015049704771&seq=3](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015049704771&seq=3).

<sup>40</sup> Weathersby, Kathryn. "Soviet Aims in Korea and the Origins of the Korean War, 1945-1950: New Evidence from the Soviet Archives." *University of California San Diego*, Florida State University, Nov. 1993, [pages.ucsd.edu/~bslantchev/courses/ps142j/documents/weathersby-soviet-aims-in-korea.pdf](https://pages.ucsd.edu/~bslantchev/courses/ps142j/documents/weathersby-soviet-aims-in-korea.pdf).



## United Nations (UN)

The UN was formed in 1945 as the descendant coalition to the League of Nations. It included the vast majority of independent states, like the USA, UK, USSR, France etc. Though the UN's primary mandate was peacekeeping, the division between the United States and the Soviet Union often paralyzed the organization; this generally allowed it to intervene only in conflicts distant from the Cold War. One of the two notable exceptions was a Security Council resolution on 7 July 1950 authorizing a US-led coalition to repel the North Korean invasion of South Korea, passed in the absence of the Soviet Union.<sup>41</sup>

## United States of America (USA)

The United States Army Military Government in Korea (USAMGIK) was the official ruling body of the southern half of the Korean Peninsula from 9 September 1945 to 15 August 1948.<sup>42</sup> Citing the inability of the Joint US- USSR occupational Commission to make progress, the United Nations (UN) decided to hold an election to create an independent Korea. The US withdrew its forces in 1949.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| DATE                  | EVENT                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 22nd of August 1910   | Formal annexation of Korea by Japan through the signing of the “Annexation Treaty”                                                                                                       |
| August of 1945        | Agreement between the USA and the USSR, regarding the division of the Korean Peninsula at the 38th parallel                                                                              |
| 22nd of February 1946 | The Long Telegram was sent from G. Kennan in Moscow to the Secretary of State stating that peace with the USSR is not possible leading to the adoption of the Truman Doctrine by the USA |

<sup>41</sup> “United Nations.” *Wikipedia*, 25 July 2026, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations).

<sup>42</sup> “United States Army Military Government in Korea.” *Wikipedia*, 11 July 2026, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Army\\_Military\\_Government\\_in\\_Korea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Military_Government_in_Korea).

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14th of November 1947  | The UN Resolution 112(II) passes, leading to the establishment of a temporary UN commission in Korea, which was responsible for the observation of Korean elections.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| May of 1948            | The United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK) officials arrive in Seoul. Meanwhile, the creation of an independent South Korea has become a UN policy, much to the anger of the Communists in the south, who initiate partisan warfare in every province in the South. Said policy also led to the North Koreans blocking the commission from holding elections in the north. |
| 15th of August 1948    | Syngman Rhee was elected president of the Republic of Korea (ROK)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 9th of September 1948  | The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is created, with Kim Il Sung elected as its premier                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Late 1948 - Early 1949 | First the USSR and later on the USA withdraw their troops from Korea                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 25th of June 1950      | KPA troops cross the 38th parallel, invading the south and thus starting the Korean War                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## RELEVANT UN TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

### United Nations General Assembly Resolution 112(II)

Ratified on the 14th of November 1947, the UN passed a resolution regarding the creation of a multinational commission, tasked to oversee South Korean elections. The commission had members from Australia, Canada, China, El Salvador, France, India, Philippines, Syria and the



Ukrainian SSR. Furthermore, it suggested that the new Korean government that was to be formed should as soon as possible create and organize a national security force and dissolve military or semi-military factions. Last, but not least, a proposal to withdraw all foreign armies from the ROK, preferably within ninety (90) days from the creation of the new government, in arrangement with the occupying powers.

### United Nations Security Council Resolution 82

Ratified on the 25th of June 1950, the UN deemed the invasion as “a breach of the peace” and demanded that the DPRK withdraw all of its armies from South Korean territories.

### United Nations Charter, Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression

Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter concedes many important powers to the UN Security Council. It provisions that the UNSC “*shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security*”.<sup>43</sup> Articles 41 & 42 allow the UNSC to take both financial, political and military measures respectively against deemed “*aggressor states*” and later articles provision the structure of such intervention, the obligation of member states to support these missions and emphasize their mission for peace.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### NOTE

It is NOT necessary that one of those 3 solutions happens in the conference, you may also come up with a different one.

### Solution A: Two-State Solution (with or without border changes)

By signing a ceasefire, the world leaders can prevent the escalation of the war on a global scale. It is to the benefit of the planet that a third world war does not happen. In case there is no total or major victory, there are two possible two-state solutions. You could either suggest the borders remain unchanged and that the two states are still divided by the 38th parallel or that the borders change according to any minor or major occupation changes. The former is the definition of White Peace, where no party gains or loses any land, while the latter focuses on the results of the war, which may also lead to further instability as the solution will most probably be short-term and hostilities, both in the political and the literal sense may occur.

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<sup>43</sup> “Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression (Articles 39-51) | United Nations.” *United Nations*, 26 June 1945, [www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-7](http://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-7).



### Solution B: De facto two states, domination of one

In a situation akin to the one we see between the PRC and ROC (Taiwan), the victory of one of the two Koreas may lead to the defeated leader establishing their Korean state in a small area (e.g. Jeju Island in the south or Yanggang-do in the north), which is difficult for the victors to conquer. Said solution is a stalemate in international politics, as tensions will remain high in the area, but it clearly signifies which of the two Korean states has prevailed as time passes. There is also the probability of a government in exile (that being the one of the defeated party) which could function as a de facto state in the aforementioned areas, continuing the endless cycle of political imbalances and crises in the area. In such case, each party's claim on the other state will guarantee political hostility after the war, but the clear domination of one state provides more stability than the two-state solution.

### Solution C: One state solution

Should total victory be achieved by one of the two Koreas, the victorious state may usurp the defeated one, leading to the re-unification of the peninsula under one rule. This is highly improbable knowing the sheer power of both alliances, but it is still noteworthy, as a Superpower may decide to withdraw or strengthen their numbers in the peninsula, leading to imbalances of power. With Korea reunified, internal conflicts caused by the party of the defeated are highly probable, but on the international stage depending on the victorious state the results may differ. Should the South prevail, tensions with China and the USSR will rise, with the expansion of American influence beyond the pacific islands, Japan and Taiwan. Should the North prevail, a new east Asian block will rise, deeming the USA incapable of establishing a new foothold in the area.

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