The Korean War 1950-1953



Background

- Soviets liberated North Korea from Japanese
- USA liberated South Korea from Japanese
- 38th parallel becomes boundary for North & South Korea as they become independent nations
- North Korea invaded South Korea and Truman claimed the Truman Doctrine applied to Asia too



United Nations and Korea

- Security Council of UN passed a resolution to commit troops to Korea
- Soviets were boycotting Security Council ever since the USA vetoed letting Red China into the UN
- In all 16 nations took part under the UN flag but the Americans dominated these forces
- General Douglas MacArthur (American) was placed in command of all UN troops.



UN (American) Forces Advance

- US lands forces at Inchon
- On Oct 7, 1950 US crosses
 38th parallel into North Korea

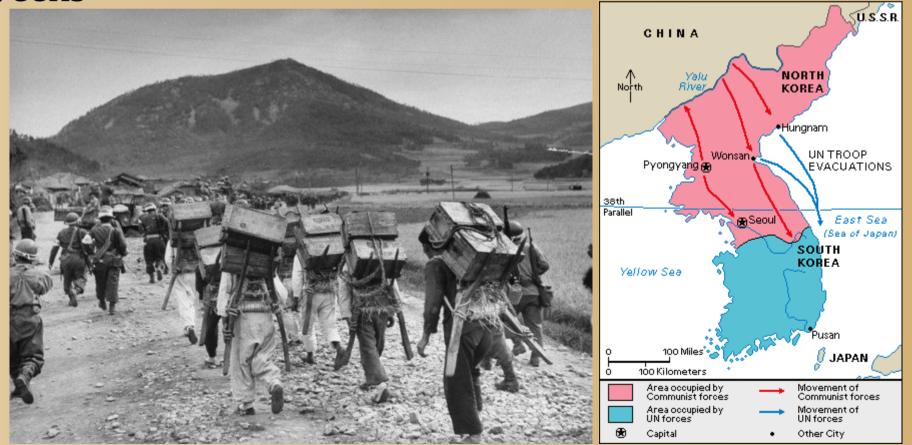


United Nations Forces Advance

- USA considered turning the conflict into a war of liberation
- Might involve a threat of Soviet retaliation in Europe
- NATO did some scrambling to re-arm in Europe
- Re-arming Germany was even being reconsidered
- Focus of Cold war was in Europe but Korea was a good example of a 'client war'

Communist advances

 On Oct 26 Chinese troops advanced and pushed the Americans well back of the 38th parallel within 2 weeks



American Responses

- Truman talked about using A-Bombs
- British Prime Minister visiyed Truman and talked him out of the A-Bomb approach
- Instead defence budget increased from \$13.5 \$50 billion as well as a 50% increase in army to 3.5 million men
- Jan-Feb 1951 MacArthur pushed Chinese back to 38th parallel



American Response

- Truman changed from war of liberation to containment
- MacArthur did not. Led to Truman-MacArthur split
- Truman fires MacArthur on Apr 11, 1951
- American people disappointed Truman denied them victory in Korea
- Un-American activities gained popularity in US



New Leaders and Peace

- War essentially over but peace talks dragged on for 2 years
- 1952 Eisenhower elected as US president (Nixon VP)
- They promised end to war
- Red China was threatened with A-Bomb if they didn't release American POW's
- Chinese agreed to POW terms on July 23, 1953 and military armistice

