

Galilee Model United Nations Conference 2018



Crisis

Research Report

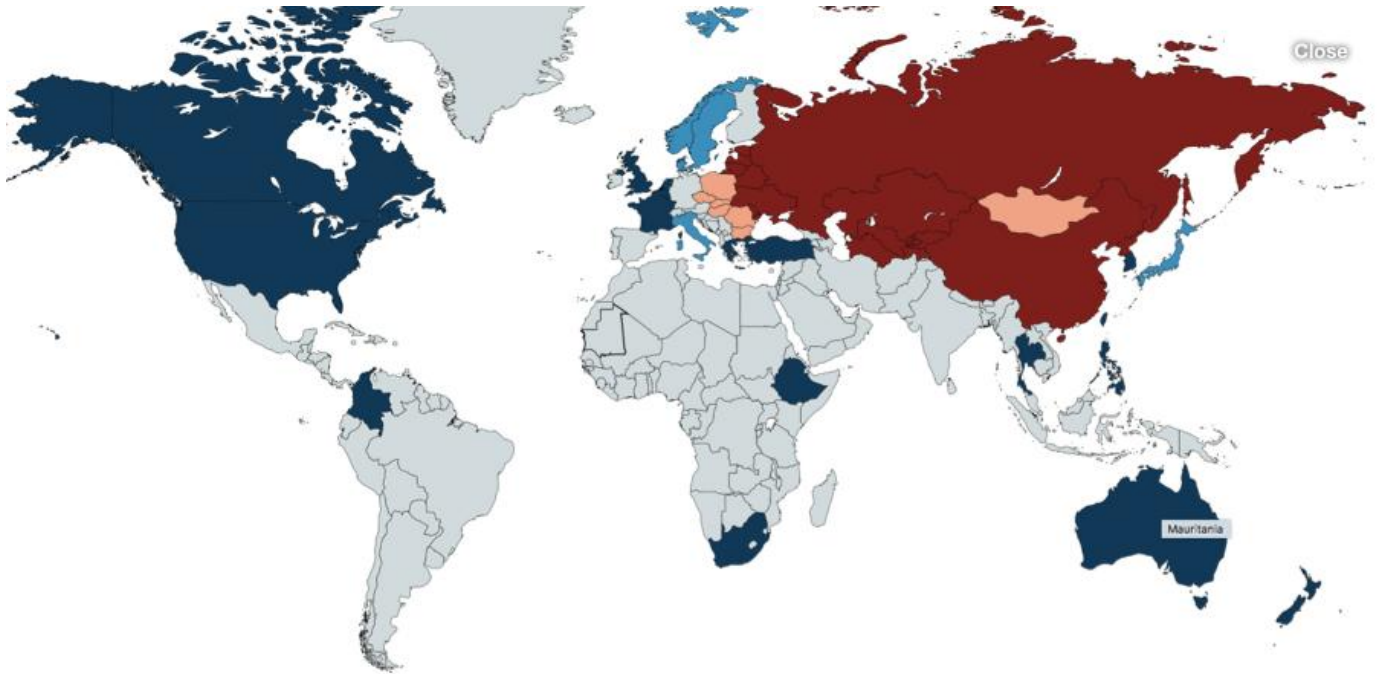
The Current Situation

It's October 16th, 1950, nearly 3 months since North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel and into South Korea. In response to the invasion, South Korean President Syngman Rhee orders his military to eliminate any and political leftist dissidents and prisoners, fearing they will join the Communist North. In the following several weeks, Rhee's forces are believed to have executed over 100,000 people, resulting in people calling it the "Summer of Terror". With the North Korean forces on the brink of conquering the entire Korean Peninsula, the South Koreans, backed by US and UN forces, launched a counteroffensive, pushing the North Korean forces back behind the 38th parallel. Now the US-Western backed South Korean forces are on the offensive, advancing rapidly across the Peninsula, and approaching the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. The Soviet Union, China, and other Communist countries are supporting the North Korean effort, in order to counter the South Korean offensive. How will the North Koreans respond to the South's counteroffensive? Will there be a united Korea? We'll see...



Remember Delegates: The Committee is taking place on October 16, 1950!

Background



Countries in dark and light red - Supported North Korea directly (in dark red), and indirectly (in light red).

Countries in dark and light blue - Supported South Korea directly (in dark blue), and indirectly (in light blue).

***Notice:** Yugoslavia is not on the map (the map shows the countries that were formed after the collapse of Yugoslavia), however if it were, it would be light red.

Ever since the end of World War II, conflict has been constantly brewing on the Korean Peninsula, which can be attributed to two main factors. The first is that this was the beginning of the Cold War, in which the two global superpowers of the world, The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR/Soviet Union) and the United States of America (USA), were in a race for global domination. The Korean Peninsula was the first war that the USSR and USA both participated in as adversaries, each supporting a different side. This was the first of many proxy wars the two superpowers would have in the coming decades. The second factor was the division

of the Korean Peninsula into two parts - the Communist North and the pro-imperialist, Capitalist South. This deep division in ideology caused great deal of tension on the Peninsula.

The Republic of Korea (ROK) was established on August 15th, 1948, with Syngman Rhee becoming its first president. Kim Il-Sung established the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on September 9th, 1948. Although guerrilla fighting continued to take place in the South, and clashes between North and South forces on the 38th parallel intensified, the US decided to withdraw its occupation forces from the Peninsula, leaving only about 500 military advisors. Many groups and organizations, such as the communist South Korean Workers' Party, led resistance movements and at times launched successful rebellions such as the one on Cheju Island in April, 1948. Countless mutinies and defections set back the South Korean military; however, they were eventually able to restore order. Rebellions have consumed a majority of the military's resources as well as their attention, especially the Yuso-Sunch'on rebellion in the southern part of the Peninsula. This led to a purge in the military that weakened its entire establishment. Following the Yuso-Sunch'on revolt, the government passed a law that made communism illegal; however, due to the law being quite vague, it was used to eliminate all opposition parties.

Meanwhile, North Korea was busy arming itself and improving its military. It was able to complete this through constant supply of weapons and equipment primarily from the Soviet Union. It also received aid from China, however, a majority if not all of its military power was aided by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union supplied North Korea with hundreds of T-34 tanks, Yak fighter planes, and assault rifles. Mandatory military training was also put in place in North Korea for all men and women ages 17 to 40. This numbered the North Korean military at a staggering 200,000 personnel. North Korea carried out these measures in order to be prepared for a possible war with South Korea, although the South Korean military was ill-equipped and numbered just above 100,000 personnel.

Timeline

September, 1947 - US to Withdraw Its Forces From Korea

President Truman withdraws the US forces from the Korean Peninsula, leaving the South under the pro-American, conservative leadership of Syngman Rhee.

May, 1948 - Syngman Rhee Elected as South Korean President

In the wake of South Korea's first elections, communists and other opposition parties and factions to Rhee's regime boycott the elections, questioning its legitimacy. As a result Rhee easily wins the elections and becomes the first President of South Korea.

August 1948 - Republic of Korea is Formed

The independent Republic of Korea is proclaimed by Syngman Rhee and his regime. Rhee's regime delegitimizes North Korea and proclaims that the entire Korean Peninsula belongs to the Republic.

September 1948 - Democratic People's Republic of Korea is Formed

Kim Il-Sung and his government proclaim the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a sovereign nation and, delegitimize the South Korean government, and claim the entire Korean Peninsula is part of the DPRK.

January 12, 1950 - Defensive Perimeter Declared by the United States

Dean Acheson, US Secretary of State, vows the United States shall defend any and all territories within its "Defensive Perimeter", which includes the Philippines and Japan.

March 1950 - Stalin Approves Invasion of South Korea

In a visit to Moscow, North Korean leader, Kim Il-Sung, requests permission from Soviet leader Joseph Stalin to invade South Korea. Stalin, troubled by the pledge of Dean Acheson that the United States will defend its territories in the "Defensive Perimeter", authorizes the invasion of South Korea by the North.

May 1950 - South Korean Elections

Although Rhee remains President, anti-Rhee moderates gain control of the South Korean Assembly over Rhee's widely unpopular, conservative faction.

June 25, 1950 - North Korea's Invasion of South Korea

The North Korean forces launch a full scale invasion of South Korea. Tanks and troops cross the 38th parallel and into South Korea, surprising and overwhelming the South Korean troops. North Korea gains a vast amount of land and continues to push forward, encountering little resistance.

June 25, 1950 - September 1950 - The Summer of Terror

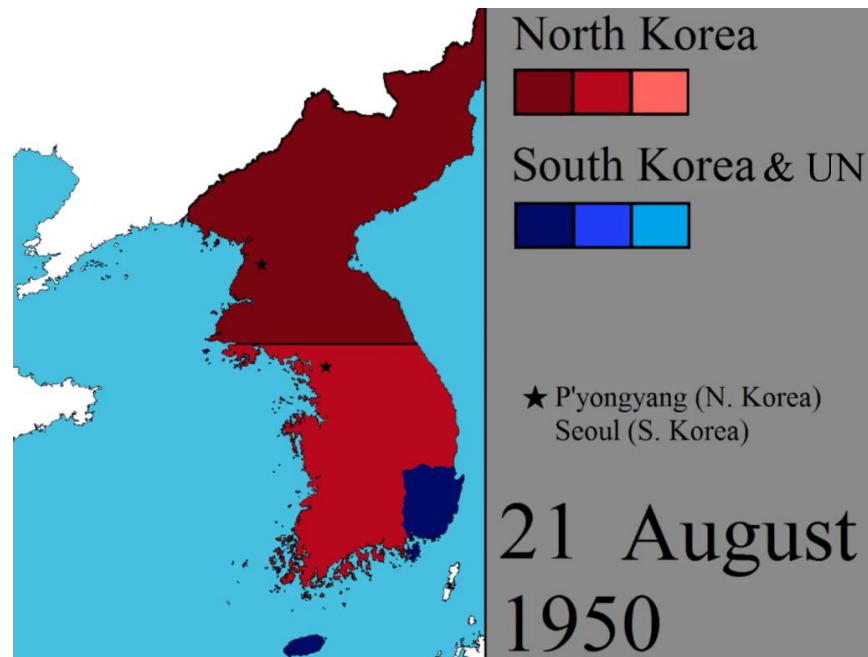
South Korean President Rhee, in response to the invasion, eliminates all threats to his regime; consequently, he orders the execution of over 100,000 people from opposition factions and communists.

June 27, 1950 - Condemnation for North Korean Invasion by the US and UN

The United Nations Security Council - being temporarily boycotted by the Soviet Union - passes a resolution, drafted by the United States, that condemns the North Korean invasion of South Korea, and calls on all member states to offer aid to South Korea and restore the peace.

August 4, 1950 - Retreat to the Pusan Perimeter

With North Korean forces capturing the South Korean capital of Seoul and continuing their advance a further 100 miles south of the capital, American and South Korean forces retreat to the Pusan Perimeter. After a month of constant retreat, South Korean and American forces finally set up a strong defensive perimeter to counter the North Korean offensive.



August 4, 1950 - September 16, 1950 - General MacArthur and the Inchon Landing

American General MacArthur coordinates one of the greatest tactical victories in the military history of the US. A massive operation to retake the city of Inchon, on the western coast of the Korean Peninsula, caught the North Koreans by surprise, enabling American forces to cut off key supply routes to North Korean forces.

September 27, 1950 - Truman Authorizes the Advance of American Troops

President Truman gives the green light to General MacArthur to further pursue the retreating North Korean forces. Within a week, South Korea regains almost all of its former territory, including its capital, and continues to further push into North Korean territory.



Points to Consider for North Korea and its allies

1. How should we counter the South Korean offensive?
2. What can our allies do to help us?
3. Should we negotiate a ceasefire?
4. What should we do about the South Korean allied forces?

Points to Consider for South Korea and its allies

1. Should we continue pushing further into North Korea?
2. What should we do about North Korea's allies?
3. How will we unite Korea?
4. Should the South Korean leader stay in power?

Tips for Crisis Committee

- Research your characters (Positions, achievements, views etc.)
- Research your countries at this time (Economy, military, alliances, etc.)
- Research the alliances different countries had with each other.
- Research the other countries in the committee and their military, economic, and political power at that time.

Helpful Sources

- <http://www.sparknotes.com/history/american/koreanwar/timeline.html>
- <http://www.sparknotes.com/history/american/koreanwar/terms.html>
- <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/28/world/asia/korean-war-fast-facts/index.html>
- <http://time.com/3915803/korean-war-1950-history/>

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