

# GALMUN 2024



## Historical Security Council

Research Report



## **The Korean War, 1950**

**July 25–November 30**

### **Security Council meeting: 30 November 1950**

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when the Northern Korean People's Army (NKPA) invaded South Korea in a coordinated general attack at several strategic points along the 38th parallel, the line dividing communist North Korea from the non-communist Republic of Korea in the south. Major nations later intervened in the war, when the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union supported North Korea, and the United States along with the United Nations forces joined to fight with the South Korean troops.

## **Background**

During WW2, Korea was under the occupation of the Japanese Empire. Local Korean fighters, both communist and nationalist, resisted the Japanese occupation of their country, which led to brutal put-downs by the Japanese military. By 1945 it became obvious that Japan was losing the war. In August 1945, Japan no longer occupied the peninsula, with the forces of the Soviet Union occupying the North and American forces occupying the South. The two opposing sides decided to divide the country using a line of latitude, the 38th Parallel, as the dividing line between the two. Under the supervision of the occupying forces, two politically divergent regimes developed: a Communist state in North Korea under the leadership of Kim Il-Sung (the grandfather of North Korea's present leader, Kim Jong-un) and a nominally democratic state in South Korea, led by President Syngman Rhee.

Immediately, there were tensions between the two sides. Occupying forces withdrew in 1948 but hostilities still increased. It should be understood that this division turned Korea into a small version of the bigger Cold War competition between communism and capitalism. It wasn't simply about maps but also different ideological beliefs. In the north, Kim Il-sung wanted to bring Korea together under communism, while in the south, Syngman Rhee wanted a democratic capitalist regime. As such, the Korea became a battlefield for international competing teams and ideologies such as the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States was afraid of communism spreading in Asia and saw the protection of South Korea as a bulwark to prevent the spread of communism and to protect its interests in the region. While the Soviet Union and China saw their support of North Korea as a chance to challenge the United States. There were also inner-Korean tensions: Kim Il-Sung, leader of the North, considered the division of Korea as illegal and done without consulting the Korean people, demanding the reunion of the North and the South. The South resisted reunion in order to avoid falling under communist-style government. This culminated with North Korea declaring war and starting an invasion of the South on 25 June 1950.



## The course of events

North Korea invaded South Korea, aiming to militarily conquer it and unify the entire peninsula under its communist North Korean regime. After several weeks of fighting, North Korean forces managed to conquer Seoul the capital and push South Korean forces all the way in the southernmost portion of the peninsula to the area called Pusan perimeter, which surrounded the city of Pusan. The UN security Council convened and demanded that North Korea retreat back behind the 38 parallel line. After refusals, the UN Security Council convened again and established the United Nations Command, a United Nations military force made up of soldiers from many countries that was to intervene in the Conflict on the side of the Republic of South Korea. On September 15th General Douglas MacArthur, who was commanding U.S. and allied forces as part of a UN mission, landed the UNC forces at Inchon, near the occupied South Korean capital of Seoul, in order to surprise North Korean troops and recapture Seoul. After the successful landing at Inchon, and the recapture of Seoul, The UN secretary-general convened the Security Council to discuss the situation in Korea, specifically whether to extend the UN military intervention north of the thirty-eighth parallel to try and bring together the Korean Peninsula. The decision was made to extend the UN military intervention, which only led to further complications as UN forces pushed the North Korean forces all the way to their borders with China. In late October 1950, a force of the People's Republic of China joined the conflict, catching UN forces by surprise, which caused them to retreat chaotically. The Soviet Union, after the Chinese military intervention, decided to provide air support to their North Korean and Chinese allies. By late November, UN forces were on the retreat towards the south, with Chinese forces surrounding many battalions of the UN forces in the battle of the Chosin Reservoir. It is at this moment on the 30 November 1950, with the UN forces fighting back against a fierce counterattack by the forces of the People's Republic of China and with them considering a retreat south to the 38th parallel line, that our simulation begins.

## Timeline

**June 25, 1950:** North Korean troops, led by Kim Il-sung, launched an invasion of South Korea by crossing the 38th parallel, which served as the boundary between the two countries established after World War II.

**June 27, 1950:** The United Nations Security Council took action by passing Resolution 83, urging North Korean forces to retreat from South Korea and asking member states to assist South Korea in defending against the invasion.

**June 30, 1950:** United States President Truman made the decision to send air and naval forces to help South Korea, and he also gave the green light for ground troops to be sent to the Korean Peninsula.



**July 1950:** The United Nations gathered soldiers from different countries, with a big part of them coming from the United States, to create a multinational force call the United Nations Command. They were brought together to protect South Korea. General Douglas MacArthur was chosen to lead these UN forces.

**September 15, 1950:** Under General MacArthur's command, UN forces launched an attack on Inchon, a city close to Seoul, the capital of South Korea. They managed to push back North Korean forces.

**September 25, 1950:** UN forces broke through the defensive line known as the Pusan Perimeter and started moving north.

**October 1950:** UN troops kept moving forward, pushing North Korean forces even further back. They took control of Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, on October 19.

**October 25, 1950:** Forces from the People's Republic of China, known as the People's Volunteer Army (PVA), secretly entered North Korea to help out the North Koreans. This caught UN troops off guard.

**November 1950:** The PVA launched a big attack against UN forces, causing heavy losses and stopping their advance. This led to major battles like the one at the Ch'ongch'on River and the one at the Chosin Reservoir, where many soldiers were lost.

**November 27, 1950:** Chine PVA forces surrounded and fought US troops, including the 1st Marine Division and parts of the 7th Infantry Division, at the Chosin Reservoir. This became known as the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

**November 30, 1950:** UN troops found themselves deeply embroiled in intense combat with Chinese and North Korean forces around the Chosin Reservoir. The circumstances were grave, as UN soldiers grappled with severe winter weather conditions and found themselves surrounded by enemy forces.

## **Current Situation and Relevant issues**

Our simulation takes place on 30 November 1950. At that time, the war has become international with a large UN backed coalition supporting South Korea and with the People's Republic of China, and to a certain extent, the Soviet Union supporting the North Korea. Though the US-backed UN forces managed to push back the North Korea's People's Army all the way North to the borders with China, the Chinese People's Volunteer Army counter-invasion has surprised the UN and South Korean forces and put them on the back foot. Many are considering retreating and defending the 38 Parallel line to prevent the Chinese and the North Koreans from pushing South again.



It is within the interest of the international community to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, as it threatens the stability and peace of the world, just a few years after the end of the Second World War. The humanitarian toll on the civilian population has also reached extreme levels with many facing hunger and distress, with many fleeing and becoming refugees, with political retribution against political dissidents on both sides and the prevalence of human rights abuses. As such, the Security Council must address the following issues:

- Preventing the escalation of the conflict.
- Elevating the humanitarian crisis developing as a result of the conflict.
- Answering The Question of Unification and deciding whether to unify the Korean Peninsula, to keep it separated or to reach a different arrangement.

## **Relevant Organization and countries:**

### **United Nations**

The United Nations was recently formed in 1945 and included all recognized countries around the globe. Its chief aim was to prevent the repeat of WW2 and to insure international stability and peace. Its security council has the power to put sanction on countries who disturb international security and to even assemble a military task force to deal with the matters at hand.

### **The United States of America**

the United States, along with its Western Allies, pushed for the creation of the UN military force that was sent to intervene in the War.

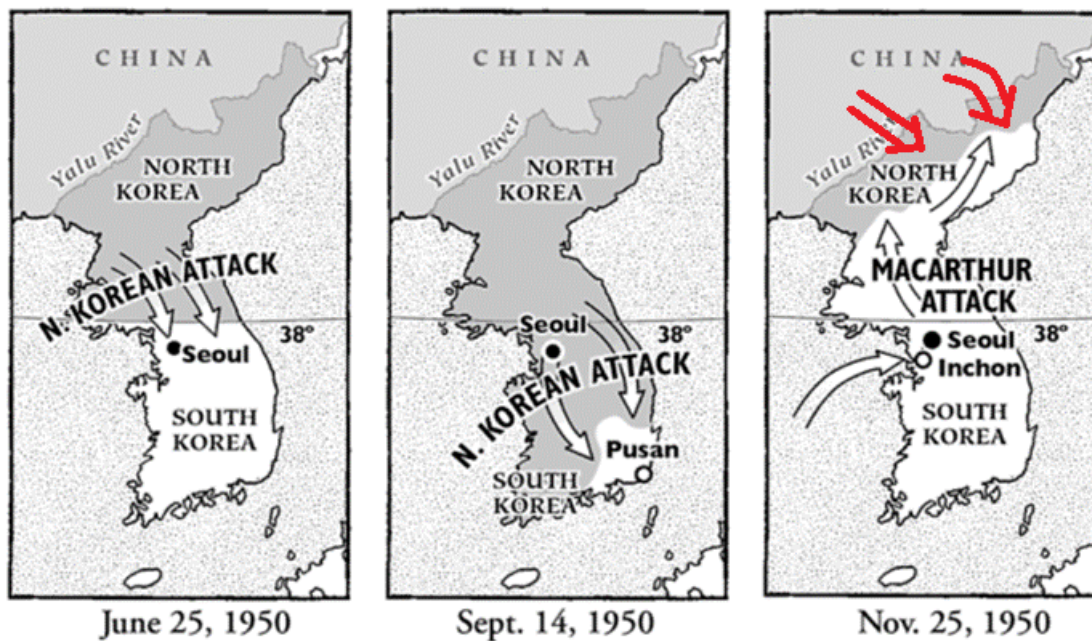
### **The People's Republic of China**

As North Korea's closest Communist ally, China military intervened in the conflict. It also was not recognized by the UN, who recognized only the Republic of China (modern day Taiwan) as the only legitimate representative of China. As such, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the permanent member of the Security Council with veto power, should not be confused with the People's Republic of China, the country that has intervened militarily in the conflict.

## Relevant Media:



## The 3 phases of the attack:





## Questions to consider:

- What are the underlying causes of this conflict?
- What is your country's stance? What is its influence on the course of events? Did it interfere directly?
- In what ways does this conflict violate human rights?
- How can we prevent the conflict from escalating?
- What are possible solutions to the humanitarian crisis caused by this conflict?

## Bibliography and Instructive Resources:

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<https://www.alliiertenmuseum.de/en/thema/korean-war-1950-1953/>
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- Life of Korean War refugees  
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