

82 (1950). Resolution of 25 June 1950
III
Calls upon all Member States to render every assistance to the United Nations in the execution of this resolution
 and to refrain from giving assistance to the North Korean authorities.

KOREAN WAR

On Sunday, June 25, 1950, President Harry Truman was spending the weekend in his hometown of Independence, Mo. At 9:20 in the morning he received a phone call from Secretary of State Dean Acheson: "Mr. President, I have very serious news. The North Koreans have invaded South Korea."

That afternoon the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously for an end to hostilities and immediate North Korean withdrawal to the 38th parallel. The vote was unanimous because of a Soviet boycott over the U.N.'s refusal to admit Communist China in place of Nationalist China. On June 27, a stronger resolution was passed calling on member nations

to "render assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security to the area."

The attack was a total surprise. The last American troops had recently been removed from South Korea.

Truman was caught between needing to win the first conflict of the Cold War and avoiding World War III. After about a year of trading territory, the war settled into a deadly two-year stalemate that resembled the trench warfare of World War I. On July 27, 1953, an armistice was signed that established a border near the original one of three years earlier.

After World War II



North Korean invasion



The 38th parallel
 The 38th parallel had no basis in Korean geography or culture. It was arbitrarily chosen at the end of World War II to facilitate the surrender of Japanese troops simply because it was on most existing maps. Japanese troops north of the line surrendered to Russia; those south of it surrendered to the United States.

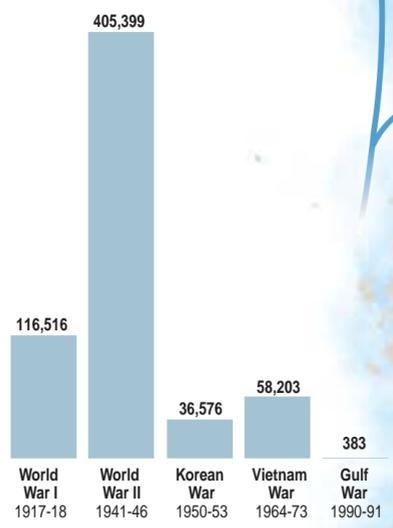
United Nations counterattack



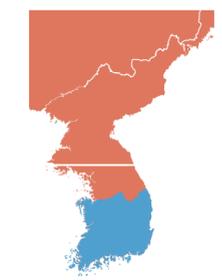
Panmunjon
 Armistice was signed July 27, 1953, two years and 17 days after talks began at Kaesong on July 10, 1951. Forty-five percent of American casualties occurred after the first armistice talks began. On Aug. 5, 1953, 3,607 Americans were returned to the United Nations. Twenty-one Americans chose to remain in North Korea or China. Technically the agreement is only a truce.

War deaths compared

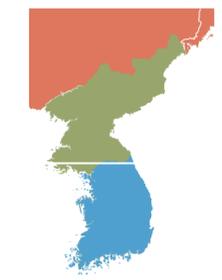
Total deaths of Americans in Korea compared to other wars. Total deaths are battle deaths and deaths in the war theater. Figures are as of Sept. 30, 2001.



Chinese intervention



Stalemate



MIG-15
 First appeared over Korea in November 1950. By 1953, 830 MiGs were deployed. Manufactured in the Soviet Union and flown mostly by Chinese pilots. Initially very effective against American B-29 bombers and F-80 jets.



The air war
 North Korea didn't have much in the way of strategic targets and its forces quickly learned to move at night so the strategic bombing common in World War II wasn't much use in Korea. However, the Korean War did see the first air combat between jet fighters. Most aerial combat took place over North Korea.

F-86 Sabre
 Became the principal jet fighter of the U.N. Never more than 150 deployed in Korea. The MiG could outclimb the Sabre but was slower. The Sabre jet dominated the skies over Korea. A total of 792 MiGs were shot down in the war while 78 Sabre jets were lost.

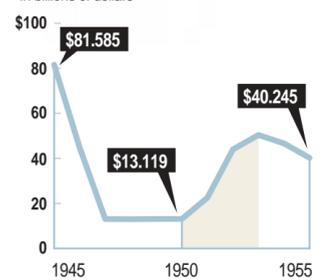
Combat forces

Nation	Forces	Combat deaths
North Korea	260,000	214,899
China	2,300,000	401,401
TOTAL	2,560,000	616,300
United Nations Command		
Australia	2,282	304
Belgium	900	99
Canada	6,146	309
Colombia	1,068	140
Ethiopia	1,271	121
France	1,119	288
Greece	1,263	196
Netherlands	819	120
Luxembourg	44	2
New Zealand	1,389	31
Philippines	1,496	112
South Africa	826	20
South Korea	590,911	58,809
Thailand	1,294	129
Turkey	5,455	741
United Kingdom	14,198	722
United States	302,483	36,576
TOTAL	932,964	95,772

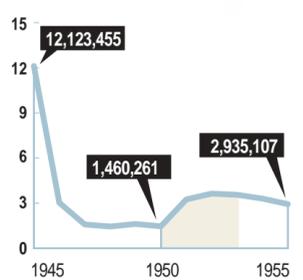
Note: Figures vary with sources
 Medical assistance was provided by Denmark, India, Italy, Norway and Sweden

Sources: The Korean War, by Max Hastings; Truman, by David McCullough; Korean War Almanac; The Times Concise Atlas of World History; The History Atlas of Asia; Globalsecurity.com; The United Nations; National Geographic

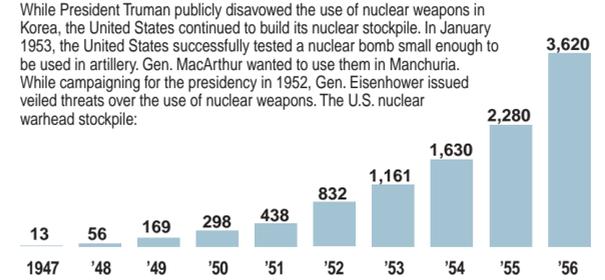
U.S. national defense budget



U.S. military personnel



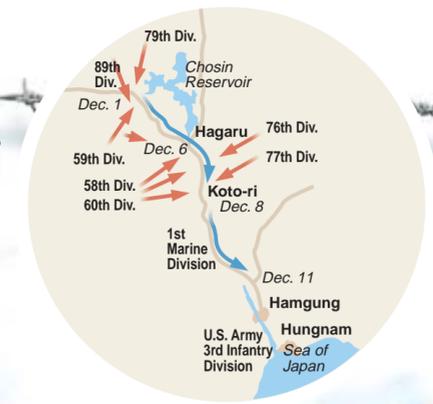
Nuclear warheads



While President Truman publicly disavowed the use of nuclear weapons in Korea, the United States continued to build its nuclear stockpile. In January 1953, the United States successfully tested a nuclear bomb small enough to be used in artillery. Gen. MacArthur wanted to use them in Manchuria. While campaigning for the presidency in 1952, Gen. Eisenhower issued veiled threats over the use of nuclear weapons. The U.S. nuclear warhead stockpile:



Incheon invasion Sept. 15 - Sept. 27, 1950
 One of the most daring maneuvers in U.S. military history, it caught the North Korean forces completely by surprise. It was also one of the last successful moves by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. It cut off the North Korean supply routes and allowed the 8th Army to break out of the Pusan Perimeter and advance north, ultimately pushing the North Koreans back over the 38th parallel.



Chosin Reservoir Nov. 27 - Dec. 11, 1950
 Initially part of Gen. MacArthur's race to the Yalu River. When Marines encountered a large Chinese force, they began to withdraw to the Hungnam perimeter while Chinese forces attempted to cut them off near Koto-ri. The Marines were able to be resupplied and reinforced along the route and made it to Hungnam on Dec. 11. The Marines suffered more than 700 killed in action or from wounds, 192 missing in action, 3,508 wounded and thousands of casualties from frostbite. It is estimated the Chinese had 37,500 men killed, wounded or lost to the cold. The Chinese 9th Army was ineffective afterward and the Chosin campaign is regarded by the Marines as a victory over superior forces.



Imjin River (Battle of Gloucester Hill) April 23-25, 1951
 On April 22, 1951, Chinese Communist forces launched their spring offensive with an army of 250,000 men along a 40-mile front. British and Belgian forces were part of the 8th Army defensive line. After three days of fighting they were ordered to withdraw. The Gloucesters were cut off and attempts to resupply them failed. Out of 850 Gloucesters, 169 made it to brigade headquarters, about 250 were killed or wounded and the rest were captured. However, the Chinese suffered greater losses and the offensive failed to gain significant ground.