

The War

- With Soviet tanks and air power the North Koreans had swept through the South with relative ease. The capitol of South Korea, Seoul, fell to the communists.
- The South Korean military was forced to the southeastern part of the country near the city of Pusan. Only this area remained under South Korean control. Here the South Koreans set up a defensive known as the "Pusan Perimeter".
- With North Korean supply lines stretched thin, MacArthur first reinforced Pusan.
- He next launched a surprise invasion at Inchon. He landed troops and attacked enemy supply lines from the rear. It was extremely successful. (Sept, 1950)
- North Korean forces fled back across the 38th parallel and U.N. forces pursued them northward. The North Koreans were forced across the Yalu River into China.
- U.S. and South Korean leaders began considering a unified Korea under democratic control

Problems

- The Chinese had warned that we should not approach too close to the border.
- MacArthur announced the "Home by Christmas Offensive"
- Thanksgiving, 1950: Nearly 300,000 Chinese and North Korean forces poured across the border into Korea.
- U.N. forces retreated well below the 38th parallel. For a second time communist forces had captured Seoul. A stalemate developed.

MacArthur vs Truman

- MacArthur favored opening a second front (Chiang Kai shek)
- MacArthur advocated the use of atomic weapons in China
- On the advice of the Joint Chiefs, Truman opposed this strategy.
- MacArthur sent letters to members of Congress criticizing the President's policies.
- In April of 1951, Truman fired General MacArthur for insubordination. *"old soldiers never die, they just fade away"*

The End

- The war dragged on for another two years. During that time peace talks would take place, stall and then resume.
- Eisenhower was elected in 1952
- Stalin died in March of 1953, He was replaced by Malenkov who was interested in seeing the war conclude.
- A truce was signed in 1953 with Korea divided at the 38th parallel.