

Segment One



At the end of WWII, Soviet and American troops liberate Korea from the Japanese. As occupying powers, the Soviet Union and the U.S. agree to divide Korea along the 38th parallel, as a temporary measure. South of the divide, the Americans create the new Republic of Korea (ROK) and install an anti-Communist government under Syngman Rhee. North of the divide, the Soviet Union establishes a Communist regime and appoint Kim Il Sung president of the new Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Kim appeals to Stalin to help him unite Korea under Communist rule; Stalin initially refuses Kim's requests, but then in the spring of 1950, offers his support for a North Korean attack. On June 25, 1950, armed with Russian tanks and artillery, the North Korean Army invades the South.

- Why and how was Korea divided at the 38th parallel after WWII?
- Who were the appointed leaders of North and South Korea? What was the name given to North Korea? To South Korea?
- According to the eyewitnesses, how did the North's Kim Il Sung plan to unify the two Koreas?
- Why did Stalin reject Kim's requests in March of 1949? How did the changes by the end of 1949 affect Stalin's decisions? Why did Stalin decide to support the North Korean invasion?
- How does North Korean soldier Yan Von Sik describe North Korea's war goals?

Segment Two



South Korea asks the U.S. for help. The U.S. takes the matter to the Security Council at the United Nations. The Security Council votes to create a U.N. military force to defend South Korea; soldiers from 16 countries prepare to enter the war. General Douglas MacArthur, a hero from the Pacific Theater in WWII, is appointed to lead the U.N. forces. The North Korean Army achieves its initial objective. It captures South Korea's capital, Seoul, in three days.

- According to the video, why did the United States take the North Korean invasion to the U.N. instead of acting on its own?
- Using the comment by Han Pyo Wook, what did the South Koreans hope would happen as a result of the U.N. resolution? Compare this statement with that of Kim Ren Ok of North Korea? How do their goals compare? What can you infer from these statements?
- According to Niles Bond, what were the U.S. assumptions about the Soviet Union's role in the invasion of South Korea?
- What can you infer about what might have been Western European concerns at the outset of the invasion of South Korea?

Segment Three



At first American troops are driven back to a tiny enclave at Pusan. On September 15, 1950, American and Korean marines go ashore at the port of Inchon in big numbers. Within two weeks, U.N. troops engage in a fierce battle to recapture Seoul. After capturing Seoul, MacArthur reinstates Syngman Rhee. U.N. troops advance into North Korea.

- Based on eyewitness accounts, describe America's readiness for the Korean War.
- Using the map, describe General MacArthur's gamble to turn the tide of the war.
- How do eyewitnesses describe the South Korean president, Syngman Rhee?
- Compare the reactions of the U.S. soldier and the South Korean as they describe moving north across the 38th parallel. What can you infer from this comparison?

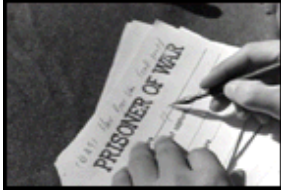
Segment Four



As U.N. and South Korean armies continue to move north, the Chinese fear the American army in North Korea will invade the Chinese mainland. The Communist leadership in Beijing is torn over intervention. Mao receives secret cables from Stalin telling him to enter the war to save North Korea. On October 19, the North Korean capital of Pyongyang falls to the U.N. forces. With American troops close to the borders of China and the Soviet Union, Mao orders Chinese army troops, called People's Volunteers, to enter Korea. U.N. forces are thrown back.

- Looking at the [map](#) of Korea and Southeast Asia, why do you think the Chinese became concerned about American and U.N. forces in North Korea? Find Pyongyang. How close were the U.N. troops when Mao sent in his army?
- How does eyewitness Chan Boliang describe China's role in the Korean War? How do you interpret the words of the Chinese volunteer song?
- Why do you think that the Soviet Union did not enter the Korean War but that Stalin urged Mao to enter the war?
- What was America's reaction to Chinese intervention?
- Based on the statement by Nikolai Federenko, hypothesize why this conflict stayed conventional as opposed to nuclear.

Segment Five



MacArthur calls for the bombing of Chinese cities and the pursuit of the war in China. Clashes with Truman result in MacArthur's discharge from command. By the summer of 1951, the two sides have fought to a stalemate. Armistice talks begin but the fate of POWs on both sides delays negotiations. Estimates suggest that in North and South Korea, approximately 3 million are dead, wounded, or missing. ****This segment depicts graphic scenes of war. We strongly suggest you preview before showing to students.**

- Why did the Soviet government demand complete secrecy about the fact that there were Soviet pilots participating in the Korean War?
- According to archive footage of Truman's speech, when and why did he relieve MacArthur of his command?
- Using eyewitness accounts, describe life as a POW in both North and South Korea during the war.
- What role did Japan play in the Korean War?
- Why do you think it took so long for both sides to achieve an armistice?

Segment Six



In 1952 General Dwight D. Eisenhower wins the election for president. After Stalin dies in 1953, his successors move to end the war in Korea. A cease-fire is signed on July 27, 1953. In the war, approximately 54,000 Americans lose their lives, 8,000 more are missing in action. In China, Mao calls the Korean War a "great victory," though more than half a million Chinese soldiers have died in the war. In North and South Korea, 3 million are killed, wounded or missing, 5 million are left homeless. The Korean War marks the beginning of the permanent armed mobilization of the United States that will last through the Cold War.

- How does Ten San Din describe the Soviet and the North Korean assessment of the possibility of victory?
- How did the fact that this was an international effort rather than a unilateral effort on the part of the United States affect the outcome of the war?
- What were the goals of each of the parties involved in the war? Based on what you have learned so far, who do you think won the Korean War? Was anyone victorious?