**The Cold War Goes Global: The Korean War 1950-53**

The US policy of containment, developed to fight the spread of Communism in Europe, soon lead the Americans into resisting Communism anywhere in the world where it was perceived as a threat. The **domino effect** had to be avoided at all costs.

Please read pages 57-69 (chapter 5)



**US Foreign Policy 1949-1950**

* Why was the US pleased with the impact of NATO in 1949?
* Why did the **balance of power** shift between the US and SU in 1949? Consider Stalin’s atomic bomb test and Mao establishing communist China.
* Explain the Red Scare in the US. How did it help influence Truman’s foreign policy?
* What was the **NSC-68** report and **“Total Containment**”? Provide key quotes from the excerpt on page 60. Why is it one of the key documents of the Cold War?



**Cold War Crisis – North Korea Invades South Korea, 1950**

* What happened on June 23, 1950 to convince Truman the “total containment “of Communism was necessary on a global scale? How did Truman perceive the attack with respect to Stalin’s policy and aims?
* Explain Truman’s decision. Make specific reference to the excerpt on page 61. Explain his idea of the “**domino effect.”**
* Why did North Korea attack South Korea in 1950? Explain the background to the conflict. Include the establishment of the ROK and DPRK.



* Why did the superpowers get involved? Explain the role of Kim Il Sung, Stalin, and Mao in starting the war.
* Explain the events of the war. What do the maps on page 64 reveal about this conflict?
* What were the results of the Korean War? Actions of the US, impact of US actions on Korea, China USSR, and Southeast Asia.
* What were the effects of the Korean War on the Cold War?

**Your Views**

* Was the American policy of Containment successful in Korea? Did anyone win the Korean War?
* What was the significance of the Korean War?

**Primary Sources –** Please read the documents below and explain how each contributes to your understanding of this Cold War conflict.

**Document 1. June 26 in Pyongyang: the Leader of North Korea Kim Il Sung spoke to the nation:**

*Dear brothers and sisters! Great danger threatens our motherland and its people! What is needed to liquidate this menace? Under the banner of the Korean People's Democratic Republic, we must complete the unification of the motherland* *and create a single, independent, democratic state! The war which we are forced to wage is a just war for the unification and independence of the motherland and for freedom and democracy*."

**Document 2. Diplomatic Correspondence During the Invasion of South Korea Between the United States and the Soviet Union**

Aide-Memoire from the U.S. government delivered to the Soviet deputy foreign minister by the U.S. ambassador, June 27, 1950:

*My Government has instructed me to call to your attention the fact that North Korean forces have crossed the 38th parallel and invaded the territory of the Republic of Korea in force at several points. The refusal of the Soviet Representative to attend the United Nations Security Council meeting on June 25, despite the clear threat to peace and the obligations of a Security Council member under the Charter, requires the Government of the United States to bring this matter directly to the attention of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In view of the universally known fact of the close relations between the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the North Korean regime, the United States Government asks assurance that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics disavows responsibility for this unprovoked and unwarranted attack, and that it will use its influence with the North Korean authorities to withdraw their invading forces immediately.*

The Soviet reply, June 29, 1950:

*1. In accordance with facts verified by the Soviet Government, the events taking place in Korea were provoked by an attack by forces of the South Korean authorities on border regions of North Korea. Therefore the responsibility for these events rests upon the South Korean authorities and upon those who stand behind their back.*

*2. As is known, the Soviet Government withdrew its troops from Korea earlier than the Government of the United States and thereby confirmed its traditional principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. And now as well the Soviet Government adheres to the principle of the impermissibility of interference of foreign powers in the internal affairs of Korea.*

*3. It is not true that the Soviet Government refused to participate in meetings of the Security Council. In spite of its full willingness, the Soviet Government has not been able to take part in the meetings of the Security Council inasmuch as, because of the position of the Government of the United States, China, a permanent member of the Security Council, has not been admitted to the Council, which has made it impossible for the Security Council to take decisions having legal force.*

**Document 3. Truman Address to the Nation – July 19, 1950**

*My fellow citizens:*

*At noon today I sent a message to the Congress about the situation in Korea. I want to talk to you tonight about that situation, and about what it means to the security of the United States and to our hopes for peace in the world. Korea is a small country, thousands of miles away, but what is happening there is important to every American. On Sunday, June 25th, Communist forces attacked the Republic of Korea. This attack has made it clear, beyond all doubt, that the international Communist movement is willing to use armed invasion to conquer independent nations. An act of aggression such as this creates a very real danger to the security of all free nations. The attack upon Korea was an outright breach of the peace and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations. By their actions in Korea, Communist leaders have demonstrated their contempt for the basic moral principles on which the United Nations is founded. This is a direct challenge to the efforts of the free nations to build the kind of world in which men can live in freedom and peace. The attack came without provocation and without warning. It was an act of raw aggression, without a shadow of justification. I repeat that it was an act of raw aggression. It had no justification whatever… The Communist invasion was launched in great force, with planes, tanks, and artillery. The size of the attack, and the speed with which it was followed up, make it perfectly plain that it had been plotted long in advance. As soon as word of the attack was received, Secretary of State Acheson called me at Independence, Mo., and informed me that, with my approval, he would ask for an immediate meeting of the United Nations Security Council. The Security Council met just 24 hours after the Communist invasion began.*

*One of the main reasons the Security Council was set up was to act in such cases as this--to stop outbreaks of aggression in a hurry before they develop into general conflicts. In this case the Council passed a resolution which called for the invaders of Korea to stop fighting, and to withdraw. The Council called on all members of the United Nations to help carry out this resolution. The Communist invaders ignored the action of the Security Council and kept fight on with their attack. The Security Council then met again. It recommended that members of the United Nations help the Republic of Korea repel the attack and help restore peace and security in that area. Fifty-two of the 59 countries which are members of the United Nations have given their support to the action taken by the Security Council to restore peace in Korean presented squarely. We must meet it squarely…*

*These actions by the United Nations and its members are of great importance. The free nations have now made it clear that lawless aggression will be met with force. The free nations have learned the fateful lesson of the 1930's. That lesson is that aggression must be met firmly. Appeasement leads only to further aggression and ultimately to war. The principal effort to help the Koreans preserve their independence, and to help the United Nations restore peace, has been made by the United States. We have sent land, sea, and air forces to assist in these operations. We have done this because we know that what is at stake here is nothing less than our own national security and the peace of the world. So far, two other nations--Australia and Great Britain--have sent planes to Korea; and six other nations--Australia, Canada, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and New Zealand--have made naval forces available. Under the flag of the United Nations a unified command has been established for all forces of the members of the United Nations fighting in Korea. Gen. Douglas MacArthur is the commander of this combined force.*

*The prompt action of the United Nations to put down lawless aggression, and the prompt response to this action by free peoples all over the world, will stand as a landmark in mankind's long search for a rule of law among nations. Only a few countries have failed to indorse the efforts of the United Nations to stop the fighting in Korea. The most important of these is the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has boycotted the meetings of the United Nations Security Council. It has refused to support the actions of the United Nations with respect to Korea. The United States requested the Soviet Government, 2 days after the fighting started, to use its influence with the North Koreans to have them withdraw. The Soviet Government refused. The Soviet Government has said many times that it wants peace in the world, but its attitude toward this act of aggression against the Republic of Korea is in direct contradiction of its statements…*

*We know that the cost of freedom is high. But we are determined to preserve our freedom--no matter what the cost. I know that our people are willing to do their part to support our soldiers and sailors and airmen who are fighting in Korea. I know that our fighting men can count on each and every one of you. Our country stands before the world as an example of how free men, under God, can build a community of neighbors, working together for the good of all. That is the goal we seek not only for ourselves, but for all people. We believe that freedom and peace are essential if men are to live as our Creator intended us to live. It is this faith that has guided us in the past, and it is this faith that will fortify us in the stern days ahead.*

**Document 4. Mao Zedong, October 1950**

*“We are still convinced that dispatching our troops to Korea would be beneficial to us. In the first phase of the war, we may concentrate on fighting the puppet [South Korean] army, which our troops are quite capable of coping with. We may open up some bases in the mountainous areas north of Wonsan and Pyongyang. This will surely raise the spirits of the Korean people… The adoption of the above-mentioned active policy will be very important to the interests of China… If we sent none of our troops and allowed the enemy to reach the banks of the Yalu River, the international and domestic reactionary bluster would surely become louder…”*