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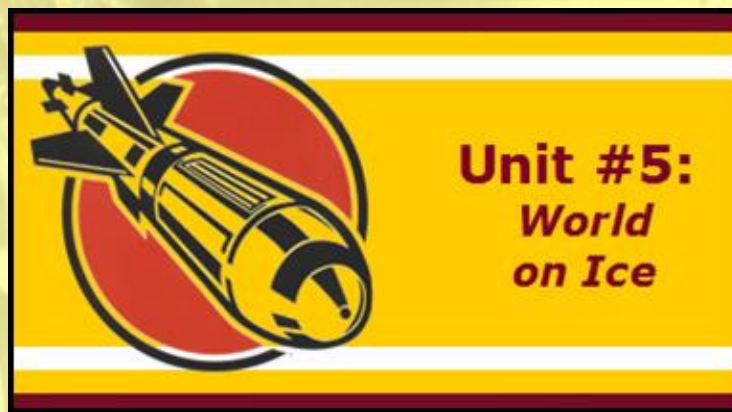


World on Ice





TODAY'S UNIT & LESSON



Lesson 3

(MW 5.03)



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KOREAN WAR:

Japan occupied Korea during
WWII (1939-1945).



The Allies fought to get Japan
out of Korea in August 1945.



On August 10, 1945, the U.S.
made the decision to occupy
the southern half of Korea.



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KOREAN WAR:

U.S. did so out of fear that the U.S.S.R. (which had joined the fight against Japan in northern Korea a week earlier) **would take the entire peninsula.**

Remember – even though the Americans and Soviets are wartime allies, neither side likes (or trusts) the other side.



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KOREAN WAR:

The **U.S.** chose the **38th** parallel as its divisional line **because** the **capital** of **Seoul** was **beneath it** and, essentially, on “their half” of Korea.



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KOREAN WAR:



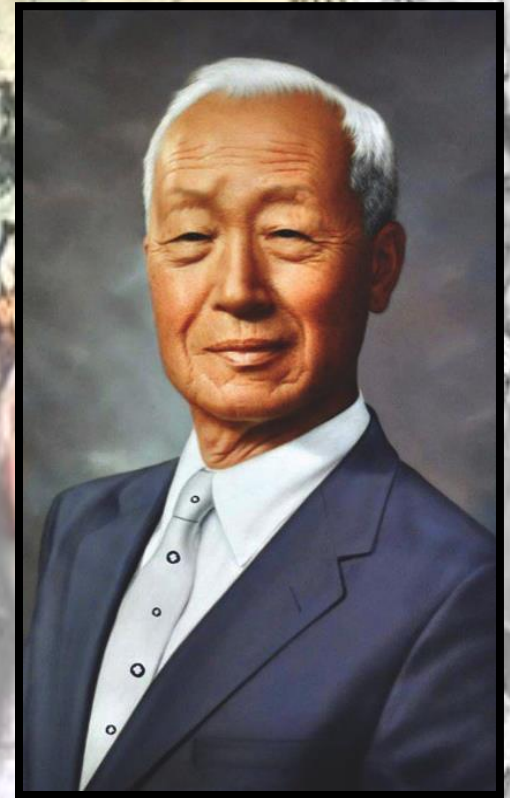
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KOREAN WAR:

Both the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. proceeded, with help from the Koreans, to **build regimes in their halves of Korea** that supported their interests.

For President in South Korea, U.S. backed Syngman Rhee, a 70-year-old anti-communist expatriate who lived for 35 years in the U.S.



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KOREAN WAR:

In North Korea, the U.S.S.R. supported Kim Il Sung, age 33, who also received significant support from North Koreans and from China. Kim was a Korean guerrilla soldier who had fought *with* Chinese Communist forces against the Japanese in Manchuria in the 1930s.



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KOREAN WAR:

The division of the peninsula was formalized in **1948** when the **Republic of Korea (ROK)**, backed by the **U.S. and the United Nations**, emerged in the **South** under Rhee, and the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)** emerged in the **North** under Kim, backed by the **U.S.S.R. and China**.



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KOREAN WAR:

Border skirmishes soon broke out along the 38th. The U.S.S.R. informed North Korea it would not support an invasion of the South; the U.S. informed South Korea it would not support an invasion of the North.



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KOREAN WAR:

Kim launched a surprise **invasion** of the South **on June 25, 1950**, when he peeled several divisions off in the midst of summer war games; many high officers were unaware of the war plan. **Seoul fell in three days**, and the **Korean War (1950-1953)** had **started**.



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Korean War (1950-1953)

BATTLE

Seoul

June
25-28, 1950

Seoul, SK

SK

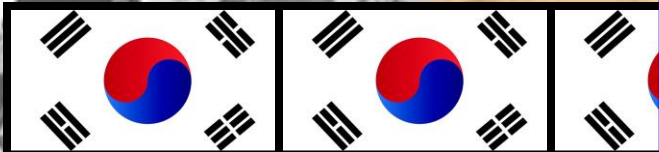
NK



44,000 total
(KIA or MIA)

1,112 KIA

Using blitzkrieg-style
invasion, NK crosses 38th.
SK's capital Seoul falls.



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KOREAN WAR:



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KOREAN WAR:

Key leaders in Korean War...

North Korea: Kim Il Sung

South Korea: Syngman Rhee

U.S.S.R.: Joseph Stalin

U.S.: Harry Truman

China: Mao Zedong



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KOREAN WAR:

After the North invaded the South, **President Truman** decided it was time for the U.S. to enter, despite objections from many U.S. military commanders who felt Korea was the wrong place to ***“make a stand against communism”***.



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KOREAN WAR:

Why was the U.S. concerned?

The **U.S.** had meddled in China prior to the Korean War.

Since 1927, China had been fighting a civil war between the **Communists** (led by Mao Zedong) and the **Nationalists** (led by Chiang Kai-shek).



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KOREAN WAR:

During the war, the **U.S. sent** the **Nationalists \$3 billion in aid** (\$35 billion today).

The **aid wasn't enough**, and the **Nationalists lost in 1949.**

The **U.S. was stunned** that **China had become communist.** In their eyes, **containment had failed.**



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KOREAN WAR:

This time, **Truman** knew the U.S. HAD to succeed... and Korea would be his chosen battleground.

To make his decision to get involved in Korea appear sanctioned by the world, Truman **went to** the newly formed **United Nations**.



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KOREAN WAR:

Truman used semantics to defend his decision not to ask for a formal declaration of war from Congress.

If the word “war” was not used, then a President could send troops *anywhere* in the world for *any* purpose... like war on the Korean Peninsula.



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KOREAN WAR:

Korea would be a “**police action**”, the first of many such “**undeclared**” wars.

U.S. ground **troops** were led by the **WWII hero General Douglas MacArthur**.

With the best army in the world, all signs pointed to an “**easy**” win. Right?



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KOREAN WAR:

The **Korean War** would go very **badly... very quickly** and almost right from the start.

By the **summer of 1950**, the **North Koreans** pushed **southward**, inflicting one humiliating **defeat after another** on **U.S. forces**.



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KOREAN WAR:

**This was the same U.S. Army
that had just defeated
Germany and Japan 4 years
earlier... and it now found itself
beaten by what many in
Washington, D.C. jokingly
called a “peasant army”.**



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KOREAN WAR:

By the end of July 1950,
North Korean forces occupied
roughly 90% of South Korea.

The U.S. and South Korea held
only the Pusan Perimeter (now
called Busan).



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Korean War (1950-1953)

BATTLE

Pusan Perimeter

August 4-
Sep. 18, 1950

Pusan, SK

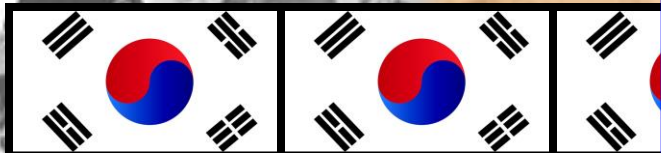
✓ UN/SK

NK ✓

60,504 total
(4,605 KIA,
12,075 WIA;
SK losses placed
at 40,000+)

63,590 total
(3,380 captured)

UN forces pushed to Pusan;
U.S. holds. NK wins initial
battles; UN wins by Sept.



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KOREAN WAR:

Soon the U.S. realized it needed to play to its strengths... and “D-Day them” with an amphibious landing.

In **September 1950**, the **U.S.** amphibiously landed at Incheon and fought to recapture Seoul.



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Korean War (1950-1953)

BATTLE

Incheon

September
10-19, 1950

Incheon, SK

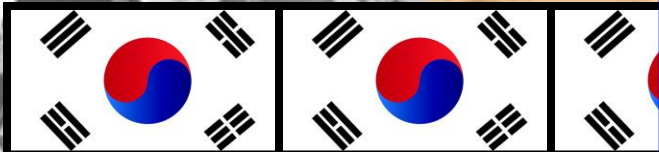
✓ UN/SK

NK

1,033 total
(224 KIA,
809 WIA)

1,350 KIA

Amphibious landing by UN
troops cuts off NK's supply
line. UN recaptures Seoul.



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KOREAN WAR:



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KOREAN WAR:

The **U.S.-led forces** could have reestablished the 38th parallel, ended the war, and declared that **containing communism** had been achieved...

...but **instead**, the **UN** instructed MacArthur to cross the 38th parallel and reunite the **Koreas.**



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KOREAN WAR:

MacArthur followed orders and sent troops into North Korea.



Truman now had an opportunity. He could not just contain communism... but defeat it.



MacArthur was told to use *only* Koreans near China's border so as not to alarm China.



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KOREAN WAR:

Soon, **UN troops** captured NK's capital of **P'yŏngyang**.



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Korean War (1950-1953)

BATTLE

P' yŏngyang

October
17-19, 1950

P' yŏngyang,
NK

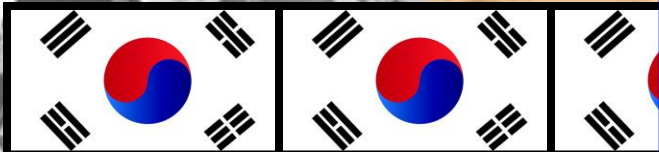
✓ UN/SK

NK

No reliable
numbers

300 KIA

UN troops capture capital of
NK, but in so doing, draw
China into war.



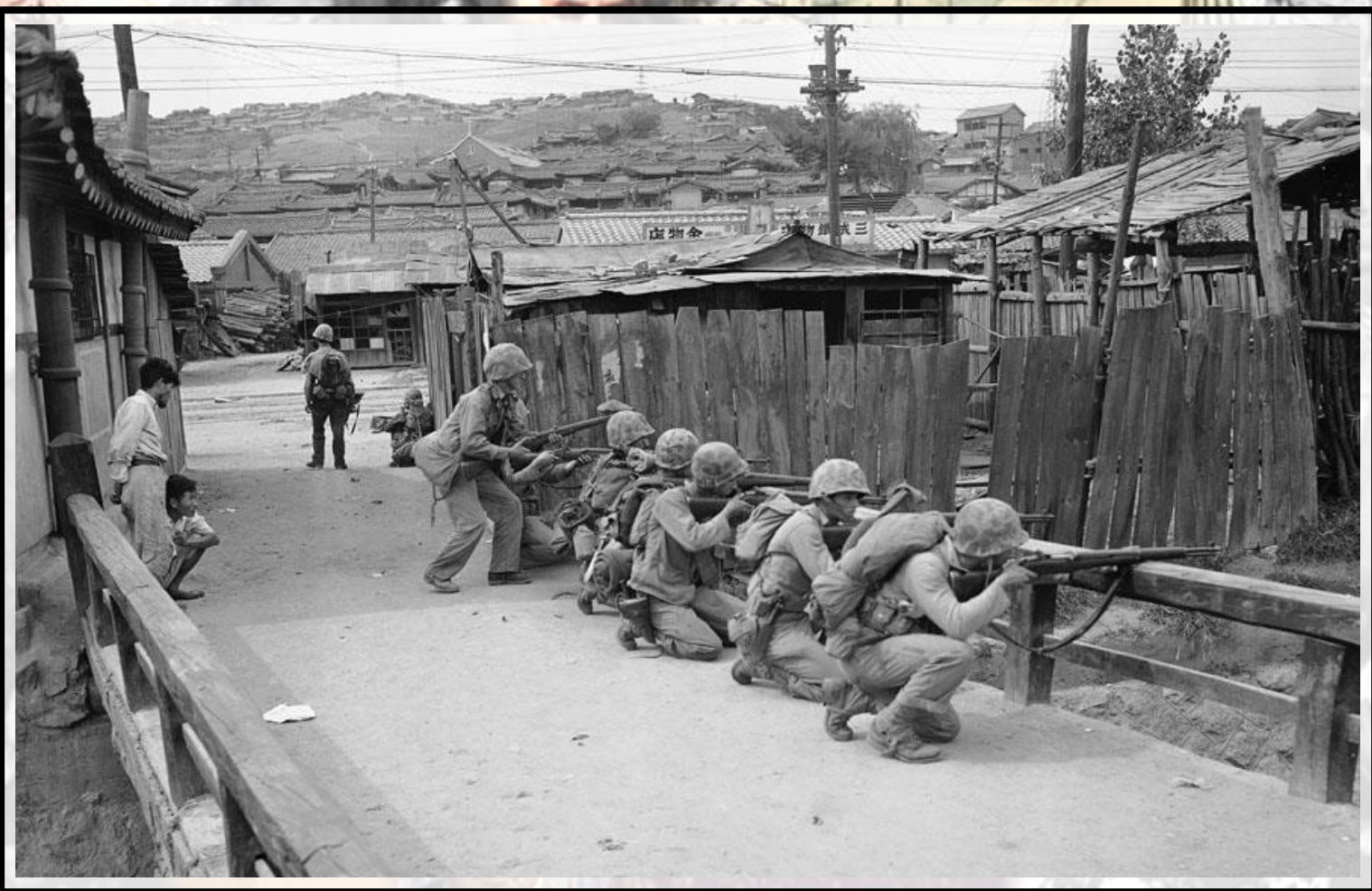
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*"Do not forget the U.S.
imperialist wolves!"*



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KOREAN WAR:

This “revised” strategy to now eradicate communism in Korea prompted China to enter the conflict.

China waited until the UN was well inside North Korea in order to stretch the UN’s supply lines.



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KOREAN WAR:

China and North Korean troops
(over 200,000) **overwhelmed**
U.S. and South Korean troops
(had fewer than 20,000) in
November 1950.

The **U.S. 1st Marine Division**
found itself pinned down at the
Chosin Reservoir... and needed
to get out NOW.



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KOREAN WAR:

A **battle** in freezing weather (temps at 100 degrees below zero) made it more **difficult**.

In their withdrawal, however, the **Marines** were able to **destroy** or effectively **disable** all 7 attacking Chinese divisions that tried to block their escape.





KOREAN WAR:

Despite the heroism of the Marines, it was decided to withdraw from North Korea.



The **Chinese** took **52,098 casualties** (**30,732** suffered from frostbite).



UN forces took **17,843 casualties** (**7,338 cold-related injuries**).





KOREAN WAR:

The **Marines** consider the **Chosin** to be one of their proudest moments. Those who fought in this battle were dubbed "**Chosin Few**".

But, on New Year's Eve, **China** and North Korea *again* captured Seoul. It is considered the **worst American defeat** since Bull Run.



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Korean War (1950-1953)

BATTLE

Chosin Reservoir

Nov. 27-
Dec. 13, 1950

Chosin
Reservoir, NK

UN/SK

NK/CH



17,843 total
(1,029 KIA,
4,582 WIA,
4,894 MIA,
7,338 frostbite)

52,098 total
(7,304 KIA,
14,062 WIA,
30,732 frostbite)

Chinese drive UN troops from
Chinese border; heroics of
U.S. Marines halts Chinese.



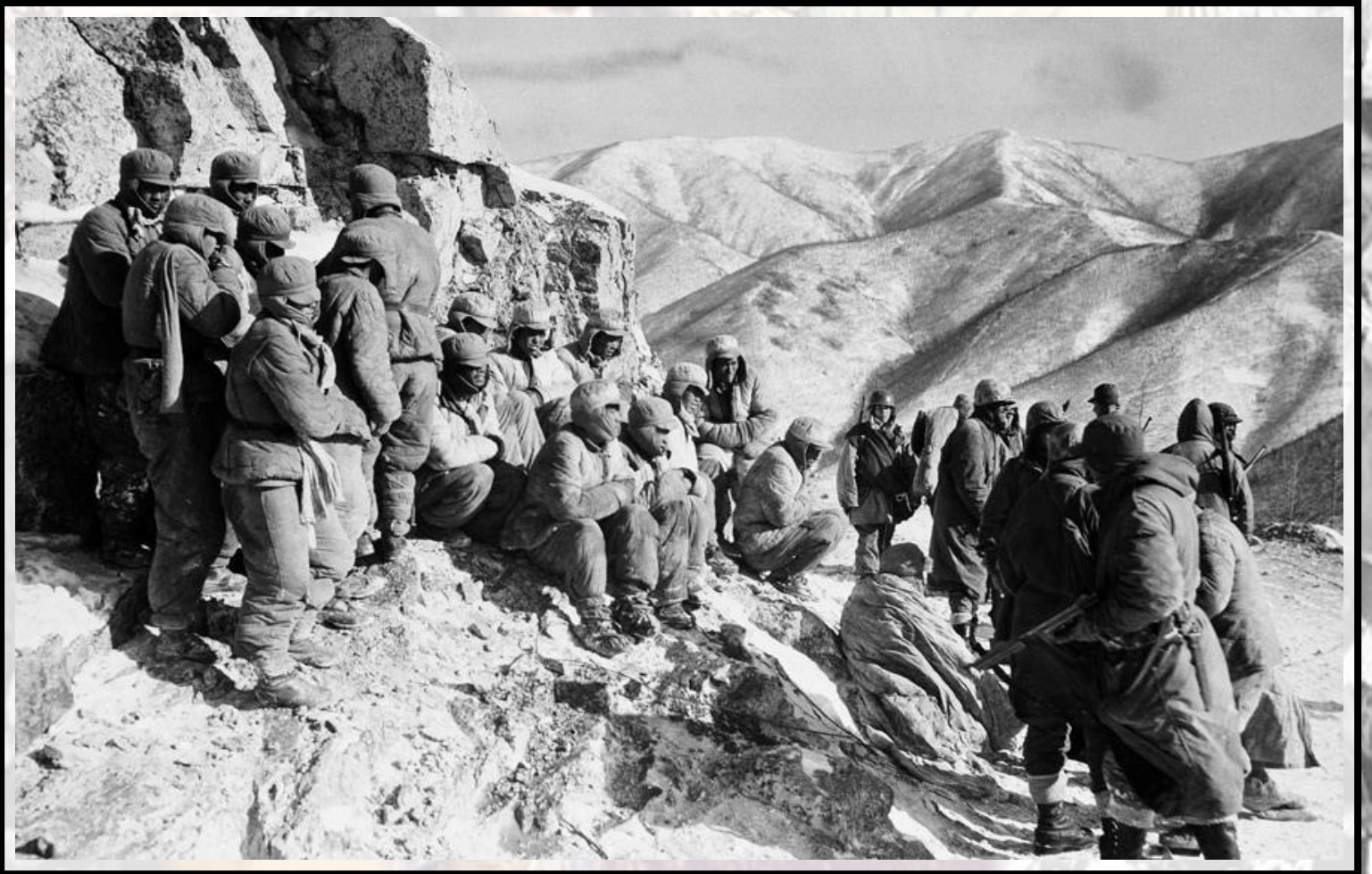
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KOREAN WAR:

Inevitably, the **use of nuclear weapons** was considered.

President **Truman** said dropping an atomic bomb on North Korea was under “**active consideration**”.





KOREAN WAR:

B-29 bombers, capable of carrying atomic bombs, were **sent to Guam**, though the **bombs lacked the necessary plutonium cores.**

General MacArthur didn't mince words when it came to his belief on the use of nuclear weapons during the war.





KOREAN WAR:

MacArthur wanted to drop
“between 30 to 50 atomic
bombs ... strung across the
neck of Manchuria” that would
have “spread behind us ... a
belt of radioactive cobalt.”

Truman disagreed.



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KOREAN WAR:

Quickly, **two sides emerged** in the U.S.:

Truman vs. MacArthur.

Weighing the nuclear option,
Truman didn't want to see the U.S. go down that path.
MacArthur, on the other hand,
suggested the **U.S. nuke China.**



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KOREAN WAR:

Truman told MacArthur that he was to fight a “limited war”.

Keep in mind that Truman had approved the use of atomic bombs to help end WWII in 1945. While he always felt he made the right decision, Truman regretted the loss of life in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.





KOREAN WAR:

There were also concerns that if the U.S. used nuclear weapons on China, then the U.S.S.R. (an ally of China) might enter the war. The Soviets developed their own atomic bombs in 1949. This could result in a nuclear war between the superpowers.



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KOREAN WAR:

Truman did not want to be responsible for triggering a nuclear war.

MacArthur went over Truman's head and wrote to newspapers and Republicans for support. (Truman was a Democrat.)

In response, on April 11, 1951, Truman fired MacArthur.

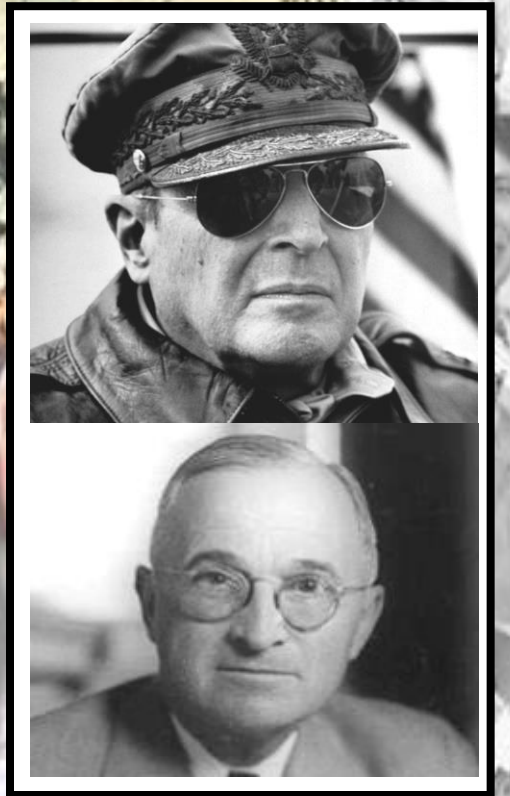




KOREAN WAR:



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KOREAN WAR:

Many Americans were outraged. (Almost 70% backed MacArthur). **Truman**, acting as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, **had the power (and right) to fire him.**

Truman's approval rating (which had hit 87% in June 1945) bottomed out at 22% in November 1951.



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KOREAN WAR:

In recognition of his service, Congress invited MacArthur to speak before a joint session on **April 19, 1851**. He ended with:

“Old soldiers never die – they just fade away. ... I now close my military career and just fade away – an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty.”



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KOREAN WAR:

Approval ratings and speeches aside, one key issue remained: the war still wasn't won.

For the next 2 years, bloody fighting along the 38th parallel (much of it as trench warfare reminiscent of WWI) would devastate the Korean Peninsula, the Korean people, and the armies involved.



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WHAT
DID WE
LEARN
TODAY?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 3 (MW 5.03)

QUESTION

1



1. Why was Korea split along the 38th parallel during WWII?

After the war, what side influenced North Korea? What side influenced South Korea?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 3 (MW 5.03)

QUESTION

2



2. Why did President Truman, despite warnings from military commanders, press for war in Korea? How did he circumvent (go around) Congress?



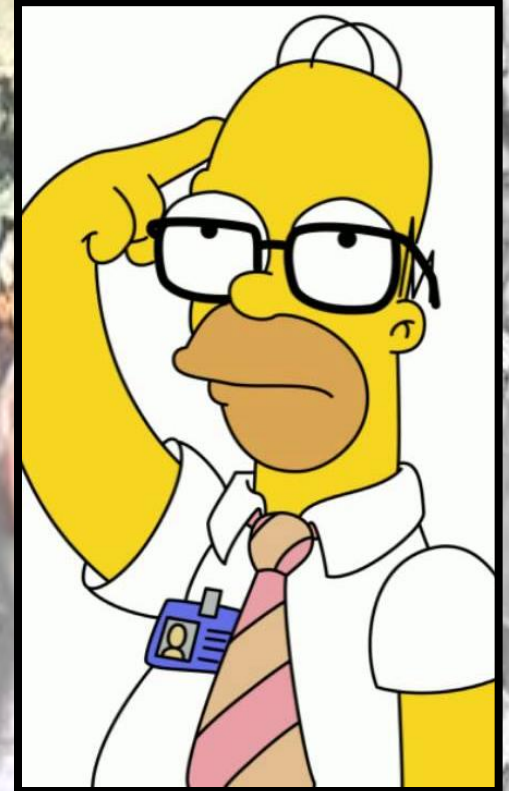
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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 3 (MW 5.03)

QUESTION 3

3. Who led U.S. troops at the start of the Korean War? What happened to the U.S. and South Korean forces early in the war? What did the U.S. do to break free from the Pusan Perimeter?



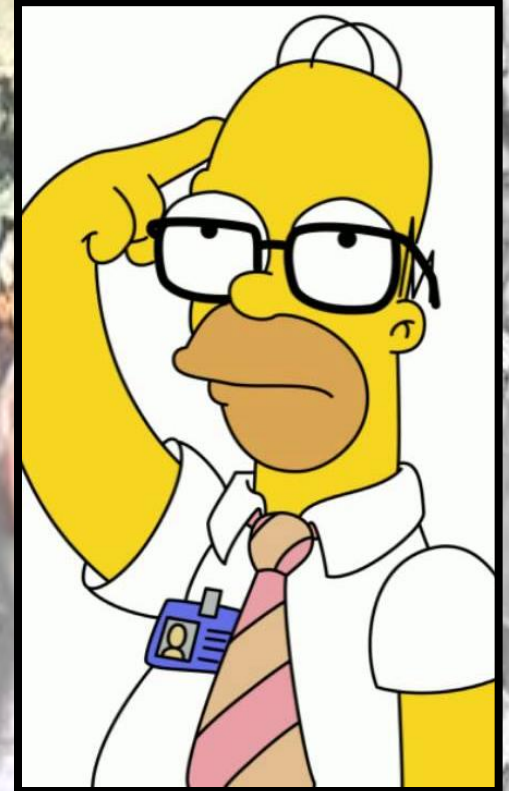
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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 3 (MW 5.03)

QUESTION 4

4. What made the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir more dangerous than usual? What incredible feat did the U.S. 1st Marine Division accomplish? Who were the "Chosin Few"?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 3 (MW 5.03)

QUESTION

5

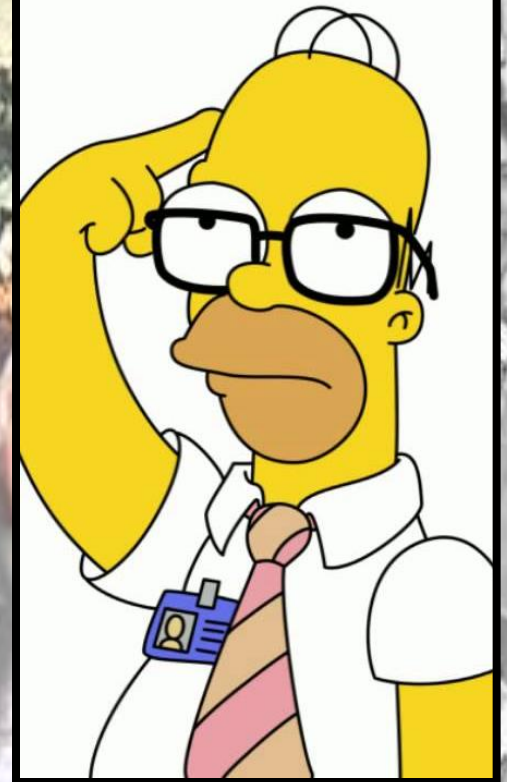


5. Why did President Truman fire General MacArthur during the Korean War? Why did Truman have the power to fire MacArthur? What happened to Truman's approval rating?

! THINK

✓ CHECK

> SUBMIT



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