

THE KOREAN WAR

AND WHY NORTH & SOUTH KOREA ARE TECHNICALLY STILL AT WAR

HOW IT BEGAN & HOW....HOW IT END – DID IT?

THE EFFORTS FOR PEACE & “THE SUMMIT”

218



THIS ARTICLE IS IN FOUR PARTS

PART 1: HOW / WHY THE KOREAN WAR STARTED

PART 2: WHY NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA ARE TECHNICALLY STILL AT WAR

PART 3: THE EFFORTS FOR PEACE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA

PART 4: THE EFFORTS TO ATTAIN PEACE BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES

PART 1

HOW / WHY THE KOREAN WAR STARTED



Though the Korean War started on this day 65 + years ago—June 25, 1950—when North Korean tanks crossed the 38th parallel, the boundary with South Korea, TIME’s reporting from the following week reveals it took several days for the United States to realize the scope of what had happened.

It was early Sunday morning in Korea, the middle of Saturday afternoon in Independence, Mo. In the former, TIME reported, “North Korean radio broadcast war whoops” as “past terraced hills, green with newly transplanted rice, rumbled tanks.” In the latter, U.S. President Harry Truman was visiting with friends and supporters in his home state when he received a telephone call from Secretary of State Dean Acheson

About a day passed. In Korea, American civilians were evacuated as the Southern army rallied to try to hold the line. The 38th parallel was, one State Department official admitted, an entirely arbitrary line, chosen by the World War II victors in Potsdam with no consideration for the geographical, economic, or political realities of the country—but it was the border, nonetheless, and it had been crossed. In the U.S., Truman returned to the capital to meet with advisers.

The nation had already taken a side and promised help, but the question of how to help was unresolved. "As the tense White House conferences stretched through Sunday night and Monday," TIME reported, "that question merged with another: Would the rapidly retreating South Koreans be able to hold out long enough for the U.S. to act?"

South Korean President Syngman Rhee said publicly that he was disappointed with the American response:

"Our soldiers are very brave. They sacrifice themselves against the tanks . . . Korea is very hard up because aid was so slow. It is too little and too late." Via North Korean radio, the South was urged to surrender.

Then, on Tuesday, June 27, President Truman and his advisers came to a decision. "Shortly after 11 a.m., the U.S.'s political and military policymakers began to arrive at the White House from the State Department, the Pentagon and Capitol Hill," TIME reported. "By 11:30 they had closed the high doors of the Cabinet Room behind them.

Outside 100 reporters thronged the executive lobby or stood by telephones in the adjacent press room. Exactly at noon, Presidential Secretary Charles Ross stirred them into a whirlwind as he **passed out the text of the gravest, hardest-hitting answer to aggression that the U.S. has ever made in its peacetime history.**



The President's statement, as reprinted in the magazine, began:

In Korea, the government forces, which were armed to prevent border raids and to preserve internal security, were attacked by invading forces from North Korea. The Security Council of the United Nations called upon the invading troops to cease hostilities and to withdraw to the 38th parallel.

This they have not done, but on the contrary have pressed the attack. The Security Council called upon all members of the United Nations to render every assistance to the United Nations in the execution of this resolution.

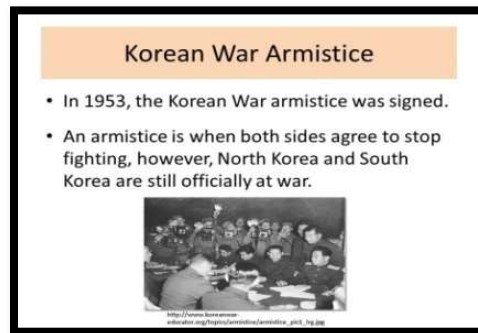
In these circumstances, **I have ordered United States Air and Sea forces to give the Korean government troops cover and support.** The attack upon Korea makes it plain beyond all doubt that Communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war.

It has defied the orders of the Security Council of the United Nations issued to preserve international peace and security. In these circumstances, the occupation of Formosa by Communist forces would be a direct threat to the security of the Pacific area and to United States forces performing their lawful and necessary functions in that area.

After the statement was read in Congress, some (like Missouri Senator James Kem) questioned whether the President was in effect declaring war without the proper congressional path to action. Those in Congress who supported the President's actions carried the day, and the **House quickly approved an appropriation bill to fund the military action, which would officially continue for about three more years.**

PART 2

WHY NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA ARE TECHNICALLY STILL AT WAR



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in may be meeting each other for the first time on Friday, but there's a sense of déjà vu in the air.

They're meeting at Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone on the border of the two countries, the same place where an armistice was signed — by U.S. Army Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison Jr. of the United Nations Command Delegation and North Korean General Nam Il, who also represented China — **on July 27, 1953**, putting an end to the roughly three years of fighting of the 1950-1953 Korean War.



General W. K. Harrison, Jr., left, and North Korean General Nam Il, right, sign the armistice ending the three-year Korean conflict, Panmunjom, Korea, July 1953.

But the armistice was a ceasefire, not a permanent peace treaty. That means the countries are technically still at war, in a decades-long “conflict without hostilities,” says historian Charles K. Armstrong, a Korean Studies specialist. That’s a fact about which U.S. President Donald Trump expressed surprise this month. “People don’t realize the Korean War has not ended,” he said.

So why wasn’t a permanent peace treaty signed back then? And why wasn’t South Korea on board in the first place?

“The top commanders, like everyone else, were glad that the bloodshed was ended, but they took no pride in their achievement, and they felt no satisfaction in the armistice they were ordered to sign,” TIME reported the week after the signing. “They knew the argument that in this war freedom had been defended and aggression repelled, but, cabled TIME Correspondent Dwight Martin, ‘they all seem concerned that someday they will be called on to explain why they signed the present armistice.’”

Several I’ve talked to specifically think in terms of investigating committees demanding to know whether it is a fact that they sold out Korea. They frankly admit that complex justifications and explanations, currently acceptable, may look pretty lame in a year or so.”

(In fact, there were fears of a nuclear war then as now.)

South Korea didn't even sign the armistice, though the nation recently confirmed that it has discussed signing a peace treaty with North Korea.

Even so, the parties who signed the armistice certainly didn't plan for the conflict to remain unresolved for more than half a century. They planned to reach a permanent peace agreement the following year, at a conference in Geneva. The promise of such a conference – perhaps tellingly – was a crucial step in allowing both sides to agree to sign the armistice agreement even without having all their concerns addressed at the time.

That conference, which also addressed many other global issues, convened precisely 64 + years ago Thursday, on April 26, 1954. But, when it came time to set the final terms there, leaders couldn't agree on the best path forward.

“The idea of the Geneva conference was that there would be a new unified Korean government established after a new election, but [delegates] couldn't agree on the process of how that would happen,” says Armstrong. “So the Geneva conference collapsed and we've been in the same situation ever since. There have been periodic discussions, but the situation of conflict has never been resolved.”



South Korea didn't sign the armistice because its President, Syngman Rhee, thought that “the U.S. should have done more to extend South Korea's control over the peninsula,” says Armstrong. Another obstacle was America's refusal to recognize the People's Republic of China as a legitimate government, symbolized by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles refusing to shake hands with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai during the Geneva Conference.

North Korea and South Korea later signed a pact promising to refrain from aggression. In Dec. 1991, in keeping with the peacetime spirit of the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the two sides promised to work towards reconciliation, following a U.S. pledge to withdraw nukes from South Korea. The U.S. announced it would suspend joint military exercises with South Korea a month later. The pact wasn't very effective, but “that agreement also hasn't been abandoned either,” Armstrong adds. “But then in 1992 the U.S. began to accuse North Korea of possibly developing a secret nuclear weapons program, so we didn't get very far after that.”



The armistice has always been on shaky ground. “There have been numerous violations of the armistice agreement since 1953, and things seemed to escalate around 2010,” says Armstrong. He points to the sinking of the warship Cheonan, which killed 46 sailors in March of 2010 and for which South Korea blames the North, and the North firing artillery shells onto the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong in November of the same year, killing two marines and two construction workers and wounding more than a dozen others. ***In 2013, North Korea even declared the armistice invalid.***

“The line between a state of conflict and active hostilities is pretty thin, and there isn’t much to restrain either side from going to war if that’s what they wanted to do,” says Armstrong. “I don’t expect a grand bargain, but I feel there’s a lot of potential we haven’t seen in decades. All three sides seem keen on making something work. We’ll see what happens.”

WHAT THE ARMISTICE PROVIDED FOR:

The armistice is still the only safeguard for peace on the Korean peninsula. The agreement provided for:

1. A suspension of open hostilities
2. A fixed demarcation line with a 4km (2.4 miles) buffer zone - the so-called demilitarization zone
3. A mechanism for the transfer of prisoners of war
4. Both sides pledged not to “execute any hostile act within, from, or against the demilitarized zone”, or enter areas under the control of the other.
5. The agreement also called for the establishment of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) and other agencies to ensure the truce held.
6. The MAC, which comprises members from both sides, still meets regularly in the truce village of Panmunjom.
7. Despite the relative peace since the war ended, tensions remain high between the two Koreas, and their border remains the most heavily militarized frontier in the world.

PART 3

THE EFFORTS FOR PEACE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA



THE DMZ

APRIL 27, 2018

The leaders of North Korea and South Korea have vowed to finally end the Korean conflict, which has been merely dormant since the two sides ended outright war with an armistice 65 years ago.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un crossed the border into the south side of the demilitarized zone on Friday morning for a historic meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in. In the afternoon, local time, the two issued a joint statement in which they said they would hold talks on establishing a formal peace treaty.

The countries will work towards ridding the peninsula of nuclear weapons, and the border area will become a “peace zone,” the leaders said “We hope we will not repeat our mistake of the past,” said Kim. “I hope this will be an opportunity for the two Korean peoples to move freely from North to South. We need to take responsibility for our history.”

According to the joint statement, all propaganda activities will stop on May 1st. The two Korea's defense ministers will meet in that month, and Moon will visit Pyongyang in the fall. The countries will work to "ease the sharp military tensions on the Korean peninsula."

Kim is due to meet U.S. President Donald Trump around May or June. However, Trump said last week that he would pull out of the meeting if he thought it wouldn't be "fruitful."

While Friday's announcement was reportedly short on details about how denuclearization would be achieved, it may ensure that Trump comes to the tab.

A week ago, Kim made the surprise announcement that North Korea was suspending its nuclear tests. While this set the stage for this Friday's meeting, it subsequently emerged that the north's nuclear test site is out of commission, as the last test—in September 2017—partially collapsed the mountain above it.

[LINK TO FULL TEXT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA](#)

[\(COPY AND PASTE INTO YOUR BROWSER\)](#)

https://www.usfk.mil/Portals/105/Documents/SOFA/G_Armistice_Agreement.pdf

A couple of the more significant agreements are:

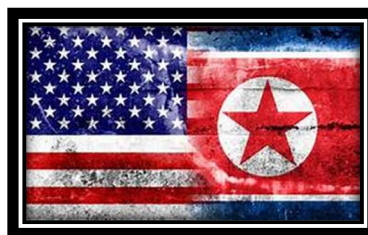
1. South and North Korea agreed to **completely cease all hostile acts against each other in every domain**, including land, air, and sea, which are the source of military tension and conflict. In this vein, the two sides agreed to transform the demilitarized zone into a peace zone in a genuine sense by ceasing as of May 1 this year all hostile acts and eliminating their means, including broadcasting through loudspeakers and distribution of leaflets, in the areas along the Military Demarcation Line. South and North Korea reaffirmed the Non-Aggression Agreement that precludes the use of force in any form against each other and agreed to strictly adhere to this Agreement.

2. South and North Korea agreed to endeavor to swiftly resolve the humanitarian issues that resulted from the division of the nation and to convene the Inter-Korean Red Cross Meeting to discuss and solve various issues including the reunion of separated families. In this vein, South and North Korea agreed to proceed with reunion programs for the separated families on the occasion of the National Liberation Day of August 15 this year.

The Korean War ran between 1950 and 1953, claiming millions of lives. The U.S. backed the South, while China and the Soviet Union backed the North.

PART 4

THE EFFORTS FOR PEACE BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES



THE "SUMMIT" CHAIN OF EVENTS

MAY 10, 2018

President Trump says his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will take place on June 12 in Singapore. **It would be the first meeting ever for a U.S. president and the head of North Korea.**

MAY 21, 2018

THE MIKE PENCE FOX NEWS INTERVIEW

In the interview, Pence repeated threats made by other members of President Donald Trump's administration, such as national security adviser John Bolton, concerning the planned summit between the president and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un scheduled to take place in Singapore on June 12.

Pence said Trump would still walk away from the negotiating table should Kim not be serious about denuclearization.

MAY 24, 2018

NORTH KOREA'S REPLY AGGRESSIVE REPLY TO VICE PRESIDENT PENCE'S STATEMENTS ON MAY 21

North Korea has issued a strong response to recent statements made by Vice President Mike Pence to Fox News in an interview aired on Sunday, warning that it's up to the U.S. to avoid a nuclear showdown.

The statement, published on Thursday by the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) and attributed to deputy foreign minister and longtime negotiator Choe Son Hui, called Pence's remarks "ignorant and stupid" and dubbed the vice president a "political dummy" who was jeopardizing the peace talks.

THE FULL TEXT OF NORTH KOREA'S RESPONSE

At an interview with Fox News on May 21, US Vice-President Pence made unbridled and impudent remarks that North Korea might end like Libya. A military option for North Korea never came off the table, the US needs complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization, and so on.

Chloe Son Hui's statement in full:

As a person involved in US affairs, I cannot suppress my surprise at such ignorant and stupid remarks gushing out from the mouth of the US vice president.

If he is vice-president of the "single superpower" as is in name, it will be proper for him to know even a little bit about the current state of global affairs and to sense to a certain degree the trends in dialogue and the climate of détente.

We could surmise more than enough what a political dummy he is as he is trying to compare the DPRK, a nuclear weapon state, to Libya which had simply installed a few items of equipment and fiddled around with them.

Soon after the White House National Security Adviser Bolton made the reckless remarks, Vice-President Pence again spat out nonsense that the DPRK would follow in Libya's footsteps.

It is to be underlined, however, that in order not to follow in Libya's footsteps, we paid a heavy price to build up our powerful and reliable strength that can defend ourselves and safeguard peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the region.

Because of the remarks of the US high-ranking politicians who have not yet woken up to this stark reality and compared the DPRK to Libya which met a tragic fate, I come to think that they know too little about us.

To borrow their words, we can also make the US taste an appalling tragedy it has neither experienced nor even imagined up to now.

Before making such reckless threatening remarks without knowing exactly who he was facing, Pence should have seriously considered the terrible consequences of his words.

It is the US who has asked for dialogue, but now it is misleading the public opinion as if we have invited them to sit with us.

I only wonder what is the ulterior motive behind its move and what is it the US has calculated to gain from that.

We will neither beg the US for dialogue nor take the trouble to persuade them if they do not want to sit together with us.

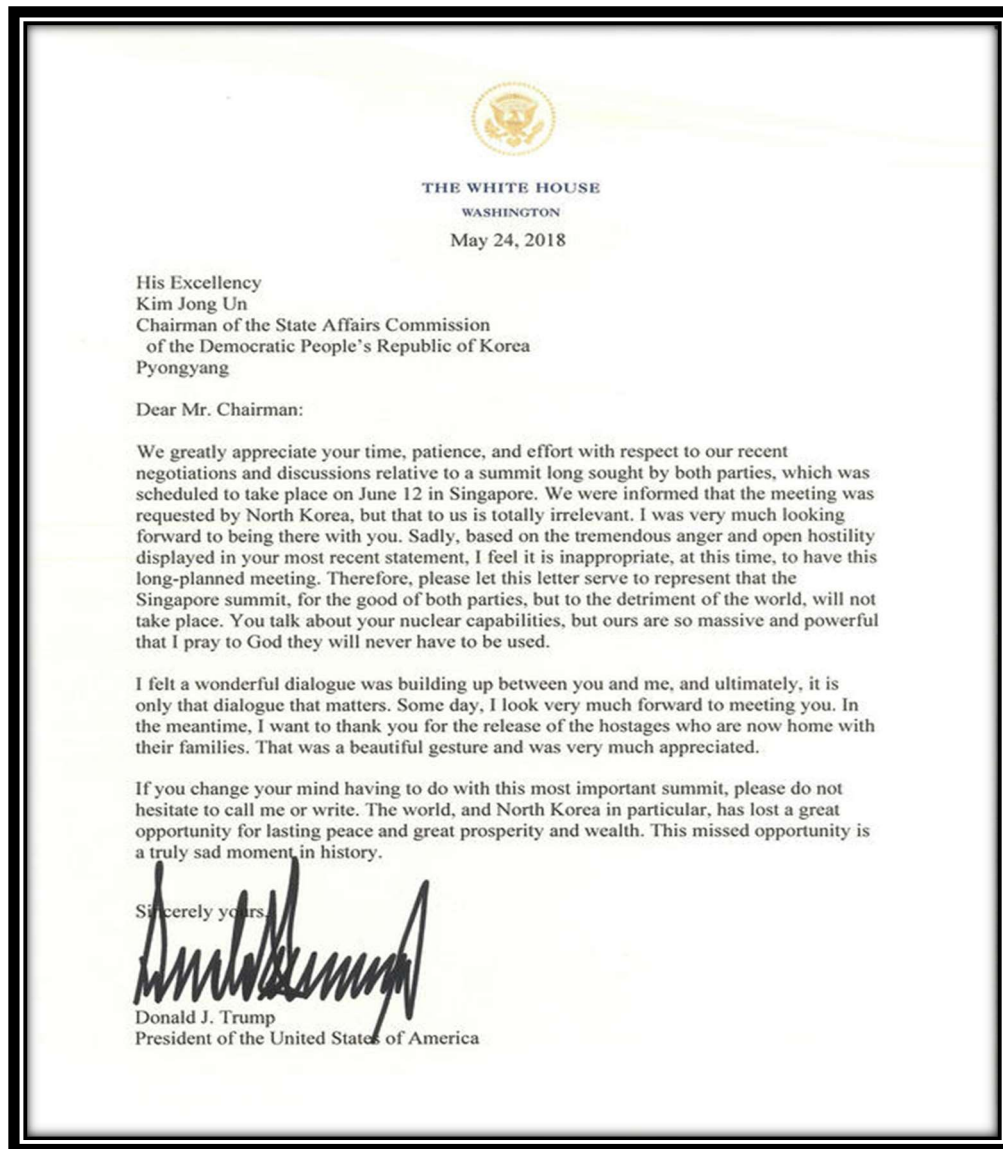
Whether the US will meet us at a meeting room or encounter us at a nuclear-to-nuclear showdown is entirely dependent upon the decision and behavior of the United States.

In case the US offends against our goodwill and clings to unlawful and outrageous acts, I will put forward a suggestion to our supreme leadership for reconsidering the DPRK-US summit.

MAY 24, 2018

WHITE HOUSE CANCELS THE SUMMIT

The White House canceled the highly anticipated meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. President Donald Trump said that he had been looking forward to the summit but that "tremendous anger and open hostility" in the North Korean government's recent statements compelled the president to cancel the meeting. The meeting was set to occur on June 12 in Singapore. ***Below is a copy of the letter President Trump wrote to the North Korean leader canceling the scheduled meeting.***



PRESIDENT TRUMP'S LETTER TO KIM JONG UN CANCELLING THE MEETING

JUN 1 2018

THE SUMMIT IS BACK ON!

President Trump on Friday said the June 12th summit in Singapore with North Korea is back on, after meeting with top North Korean official Kim Yong Chol for more than an hour in the Oval Office. "We'll be meeting on June 12th in Singapore," the president said Friday, one week after canceling the summit.

JUNE 12, 2018

THE MEETING TAKES PLACE



President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un prepare to sign a document at a ceremony marking the end of their historic nuclear summit at the Capella Hotel on Singapore's Sentosa Island on Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

The world just witnessed history in the making: A little before 2 pm local time in Singapore, President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed an agreement committing to work together to "build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula"

Sitting side by side at a table flanked by alternating US and North Korean flags, Trump and Kim each signed copies of what Trump described as a "very important" and "pretty comprehensive document," though he declined to elaborate on the details of the agreement at the time.

"We had a historic meeting and decided to leave the past behind and sign a historic document," Kim told reporters at the signing ceremony, speaking through a translator. "The world will see a major change."

The signing ceremony, which took place at the Capella Hotel on Singapore's Sentosa Island was the dramatic climax of a nearly five-hour summit between the two leaders and their top aides.

Shortly after the ceremony, the text of the document was released to journalists covering the summit. The agreement consists of four major points:

1. The United States and the DPRK commit to establishing new U.S.-DPRK relations following the desire of the people of the two countries for peace and prosperity.
2. The United States and the DPRK will join their efforts to build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.
3. Reaffirming the April 27, 2018, Panmunjom Declaration, the DPRK commits to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.
4. The United States and the DPRK commit to recovering POW/MIA remains, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified.

It's far from a peace treaty or a comprehensive agreement to dismantle North Korea's nuclear arsenal. Nor does it even clarify what each side means by "denuclearization."

As Vox's Zack Beauchamp has written, that word means very different things to the US and North Korea. But it's still progress.

Less than a year ago, Trump was threatening to rain down "fire and fury like the world has never seen" on North Korea and Kim was calling Trump a "mentally deranged US dotard" and "carefully examining" plans for a missile strike on US military bases in Guam.

But after a day spent talking, laughing, eating, and strolling with one another, the two men have "developed a very special bond," according to Trump.

It's a stunning turn of events. And while it's just the beginning of what will likely be a long and complicated negotiating process — one that could break down at any time — it's certainly a positive start.

"We'll be meeting again a great many times," Trump said after signing the document. Asked if he plans to invite Kim to the White House, Trump responded, "Absolutely I will."

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE SUMMIT:

US President Donald Trump said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" in a meeting which he described as "honest, direct and productive".

Trump spoke at a news conference after signing a joint agreement with Kim.

The US President said sanctions will remain in effect until North Korea has lived up to its commitments. He also said he halted plans for 300 sanctions designations last week because it would have been "disrespectful" to impose them.

Human rights were discussed, Trump said. "It will be discussed more in the future," he added.

Trump said Kim "wants to do what's right" and thanked the North Korean leader for taking "the first bold steps towards a bright new future for his people".

Trump said North Korea is already destroying a "major missile engine testing site". "That's not in your signed document, we agreed to that after the agreement was signed," the president explained.

Asked how he could be certain North Korea's commitments amounted to more than "all talk no action", Trump said, "You can't ensure anything. All I can say is that they want a deal". He added: "I just feel very strongly, my instinct, my ability or talent - they want to make a deal."

Trump said he would probably need another summit or meeting with Kim.

Talking about the potential for economic development of North Korea, Trump praised the country's beaches. "I said to [Kim], you could have the greatest hotels in the world," Trump told reporters

History will tell us if all the "promises" will be kept this time!

WOW

ONLY A POLITICIAN COULD TAKE THIS MUCH CRAP !!!!!



YES ! NO! YES! NO! OK! **MAYBE!** NO!
WHOOPS!

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FROM WEBSITES & OTHER SOURCES THAT APPEAR TO BE AUTHENTIC, I CAN NOT ENSURE THAT ALL THE
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