

Chapter 3

Causes of the Korean War:

- After the end of WWII, Korea was freed from Japanese control in 1945.
- Korea was split and divided along the 38th parallel
 - The North was occupied by the USSR
 - The South was occupied by the US
- The US was determined to defend Korea fearing the Domino effect (If one country becomes communist, surrounding countries would also follow and become communist).
- In 1947, the UN called for free elections in Korea with the intention to supervise them. However, the USSR did not let UN officials into North Korea.
- In 1948, separate governments were set up in both North and South Korea.
 - In the North, Kim Il Sung led the communist government with support by the USSR and China.
 - In the South, Syngman Rhee led the democratic government supported by the West (USA)
 - Both governments claimed the right to rule the entire country of Korea.
- In 1949, both the USSR and the US pulled their troops out of Korea.

Course of the Korean War:

- June 25, 1950 - North Korean soldiers launch a surprise attack on South Korea after its leader Syngman Rhee boasted about planning to attack North Korea.
- The Capital of South Korea, Seoul, was caught within 3 days.
- The US raised the matter in the UN Security Council. The USSR was absent and could not use its veto power.
- June 27, 1950 - UN Security Council sent forces to drive North Korea back to the 38th parallel.
- 16 member states contributed troops, commanded by US General Douglas MacArthur.
- September 15, 1950 - UN troops land at Incheon, Korea, and cut the North Korean army into half and push them out of South Korea to the 38th parallel (in which the UN regarded as a mission accomplished)
- October, 1950 - General MacArthur with Truman's permission strikes deep into North Korea in hope of driving communists out altogether.
- China protested claiming it was an illegal aggression - demanding troops be pulled back.
- November 1950 - MacArthur's troops reached Yalu River (border between North Korea and China)

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- He reassured Truman that the Chinese would be crushed if they had intervened.
- December 1950 - The Chinese (led by Mao Zedong) launched an attack on MacArthur, pushing them back to South Korea.
- MacArthur asks Truman for permission to authorize a blockade and military attack on China. However, Truman refused as it could lead to another World War.
- April 1951 - Truman insisted that the conflict remained a 'limited war' and dismissed MacArthur from his position.
- A Stalemate developed between the two sides at the 38th parallel.
- The UN had technological superiority, and the North Korean/Chinese forces had numerical superiority.
- In 1953, a ceasefire was agreed upon at Panmunjom (which continues to this day)
- No peace treaty had been signed, and millions of troops patrol the border.

Impact of the Cold War:

- The US now committed itself to supporting other countries in Asia resisting communism. It also strengthened land forces in Europe and encouraged Greece and Turkey to join NATO. The defense budget tripled.
- September 1954 - SEATO - Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (including USA, Britain, France, New Zealand, Australia, Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan) was set up. Its purpose was to stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.
- The USSR was concerned of the US strengthening its armed forces, and began to increase its own armed forces. In 1950, the Red Army had 2.8 million soldiers. By 1955, numbers increased to 5.6 million.
- In 1955, West Germany joined NATO, and the USSR responded by creating the Warsaw Pact, in which member states were expected to defend any member attacked by an outside force.
- Overall, it increased suspicions and distrust between the two sides, and increased both armed forces in the case that a war would happen. This eventually led to the Arms Race.

The Arms Race:

- As of 1945, the USA was the only country with access to atomic bombs, and felt secure. The bomb was an important counter to the Soviet Union's large stock of conventional weapons. Its power was proven at the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing of August 1945 in which 70,000 people were killed.

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- However, Stalin instructed scientists to focus on developing a Soviet atomic bomb, which happened in 1949.
- The US then followed by developing the hydrogen bomb in 1952 (which was 1000x more powerful than the atomic bomb), and restored American advantage. This was eventually nullified when the USSR developed the hydrogen bomb a year later.
- The USA then developed the inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) in 1957, which could fire a nuclear weapon up to 5000km away. The USSR followed up with their own a few months later.
- The Arms Race was making both sides more powerful. They were both spending a large amount of money on developing large armies, navies, submarine fleets, conventional weapons, and nuclear weapons.
- It was important for both to stay ahead in the race as the military superiority would give them more power in disagreement with the opponent.
- However, in the early 1950's, their weapons were powerful enough to have destroyed the whole world.
- The development of weapons were used not for winning wars, but for maintaining superiority, and ensuring that the other side would not wage war. Both sides understood the risks of the nuclear weapons, and acted as deterrents (force preventing something from happening, in this case, a war)

New Leaders:

- From 1953, the USSR and the US both had new leaders.
- The US led by president Dwight Eisenhower was elected in 1952, and took office in 1953. His campaign focused on defeating communism. He along with John Foster Dulles (secretary of state) were very anti-communist.
 - Eisenhower was determined to block communist expansion, but was also aware of the dangers of nuclear weapons. As a result he was open to listen to proposals from the USSR and would negotiate to improve relations.
- After Stalin's death on 5 March, 1953, there was a power struggle as Stalin had not named any successor. In 1956, Nikita Khrushchev became the ruler of the USSR.
 - He publicly criticized Stalin's policies at the Communist Party Congress of that year, and suggested peaceful co-existence with the West.

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Peaceful Coexistence:

- Based on the growing belief in the USSR that the communist philosophy was superior to that in the West that capitalism would eventually collapse. This meant that there was little point in having open confrontation which could lead to war.
- Both Eisenhower and Krushchev took a positive approach, in effort to reduce tensions and move towards peaceful co-existence.
- Other factors for peaceful co-existence include:
 - The borders between capitalist West and USSR were clearly defined (Iron Curtain). They had both accepted the new map of Europe.
 - The war in Korea (with US and Soviet support on different sides) had ended.
 - Both the US and USSR were spending a lot of their armed forces. Although they were still ready to keep on spending, they understood that reducing the spending on armed forces would be good for their economies.
- An agreement in 1955 on how Austria should be governed, in addition to the Geneva Summit meeting (July 1955) strengthened the hope. Although the Summit failed to reach an agreement over disarmament and the future of Germany, the atmosphere of co-operation at the meeting reduced tensions between the East and West.
- However, this relation would last short, until West Germany would eventually join NATO in May 1955.

The Warsaw Pact:

- West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) joined NATO in May of 1955, which increased Stalin's fears, as this meant that there would be an armed and powerful Germany on the border of Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe.
- Within a week, the USSR formed their own communist defensive military alliance called the Warsaw Pact, which included the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, and East Germany (German Democratic Republic). These became known as the 'Eastern bloc'. The leadership of the Warsaw Pact was completely under command of the Soviet Union.
- Europe was undoubtedly seen as split into two, in which one was under US protection working to defeat communism, and the other led by the USSR seeking to extend communist control.

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Soviet Rule over Hungary:

- When the Red Army liberated Hungary from German occupation in 1945, they had been under strict Soviet control. Non-communist political parties were banned, and key officials in government, police, and army were chosen by Stalin.
- The Hungarian Communist Party Leader, Matyas Rakosi supported Stalin and dealt strongly with opponents of communism. More than 300,000 Hungarians were sent to prison and 2000 were executed between 1949 to 1956.

De-Stalinization:

- After Krushchev's speech criticizing Stalin's repressive regime, Soviet Union Satellite states got the opportunity to push for a relaxation of Soviet control over their nations.
- Poland's new leader Wladyslaw Gommulka introduced a series of moderate reforms, which encouraged Hungarians to also push for changes - Poznan protest.
- Krushchev eventually sent troops into Poland to put down the rebels.

Reasons for the Hungarian Uprising:

- Hungarians were poor, but much of the food and industrial goods they produced were sent to the USSR.
- The Hungarians were very patriotic, and disliked Soviet control (such as censorship, the vicious secret police (AVH), and the control over schools)
- Hungarians were religious, but the communist party had banned religion, and put the leader of the Catholic church in prison.
- Hungarians thought that the UN or US would help them rebel.

Hungarian Uprising - Soviet Invasion:

- In 1956, Hungarians began to protest about their lack of political freedom and issues due to fuel shortages and poor harvests.
- In October 1956, there were riots at the capital, Budapest, and the police fought against the protestors. Statues of Stalin were destroyed.
- The policy of De-Stalinization began threatening the stability of the Warsaw Pact.

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- Khrushchev decided to send the Red Army to restore order, in which they withdrew later on.
- He also decided to replace Rakosi with Imre Nagy, a former prime minister who had been thrown out of the Communist Party arguing against Rakosi.
- Nagy was a communist but believed personal freedoms could exist within a communist regime.
- Nagy at the end of October 1956 announced a set of proposed reforms which included Hungary leaving the Warsaw Pact to become neutral, as well as relations with non-communist groups
- When Nagy had proposed leaving the Warsaw Pact, the rebels expected support from the USA and the West. A US funded radio station (Radio Free Europe) broadcasted messages encouraging Eastern Europe to rebel against the communist regime.
- The US had offered financial aid through the Marshall Plan, and Eastern Europeans assumed that the US would be willing to help them in other ways. This gave them confidence in rebelling.
- Between October and the start of November, the Hungarian government introduced democracy, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion (in which the leader of the catholic church was freed from prison).

Reaction to the Soviet Invasion of Hungary:

- Nagy at the end of October 1956 announced a set of proposed reforms which included Hungary leaving the Warsaw Pact to become neutral, as well as relations with non-communist groups.
- These proposals concerned Khrushchev as other nations may also follow. This would threaten the strategy of surrounding the USSR with pro-communist government for Soviet security.
- As a result Khrushchev ordered a Soviet invasion of Hungary.
 - On November 4, tanks arrived at Budapest.
 - Supporters of Nagy fought and begged the West for support (which did not happen).
 - Up to 20,000 Hungarians were killed as Soviet forces re-established control.
 - A new pro-communist government was set up under Janos Kadar and Nagy was later executed.

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Impact of Hungarian Uprising:

- Eisenhower was sympathetic to Hungarians, and some European nations took in Hungarian refugees, but no military support was provided during the uprising.
- The US policy of containment meant that although the US would take military action against the Soviet Union spreading communism beyond satellite states, it was unprepared to interfere with already communist countries. Attacking the Soviet satellite state could cause a nuclear war, which would result in the destruction of both sides.
- The Hungarian Uprising made Khrushchev's position in the USSR stronger, as well as within the Warsaw Pact.
- Members of the Warsaw Pact were now afraid of rebelling, especially as they would not get US support. This made Khrushchev more confident in dealing with the US as they were unlikely to risk taking military action.
- Western countries were terrified, and many British communists left the communist party.
- However, Khrushchev had still followed the policy of peaceful coexistence.
- The failure of the Hungarian Uprising reflected badly on the West, and despite encouraging communist countries to rebel against the USSR, they were not willing to provide military support.

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Causes of the Berlin Crisis - Berlin a Problem by 1961:

- In 1949 Germany had been split into two: the democratic West Germany, and East Germany under the control of the communist Soviet Union.
- The West had received Marshall Aid and became wealthy during the 1950s with many enjoying a high standard of living.
- However, East Germany did not receive any economic aid, and the government's economic policies were unsuccessful. As a result East Germans had a low standard of living, and the communist regime became unpopular.
- The citizens however were limited to what they could say or do due to the secret police.

Course of the Berlin Crisis:

- In 1953, there were riots against the government, but order was restored after the Soviet government sent armed forces.
- As a result, many East Germans chose to leave their homes and move to West Germany, where they could have better lives - the quality of life was higher, and borders were easy to cross.
- By 1958, 3 million East Germans (1/6 of the country's population) had crossed to the West. Many of them were the kind of people needed to build East Germany such as engineers, technicians, and teachers (left to have higher salaries)

Khrushchev's Berlin Ultimatum

- Khrushchev was unhappy as East Germany was losing valuable people.
- In Berlin, people had a choice between communist East and the capitalist West, and it was clear that most preferred the West.
- Khrushchev's answer to the situation was to have all of Berlin become part of East Germany, as it would make it difficult for East Germans to travel to the West.
- However, Britain, France, and the US refused to leave.
- In November 1958, Khrushchev demanded that the West should recognise East Germany as an independent country, but the West refused believing that the two Germanys could be reunited.
- On November 27th, Khrushchev issued the Berlin Ultimatum with the following:

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- Berlin should be demilitarised and Western troops should withdraw.
- Berlin should become a free city (with its own government - under soviet control)
- The west was given 6 months to make these changes, or Krushchev was willing to give control of routes into Berlin to the government of East Germany.

Impact of the Ultimatum:

- Khrushchev's Ultimatum would force the Western powers to talk to East German authorities about accessing Berlin, and force them to accept East Germany as an official country.
- The West was angered by Khrushchev's demands and saw this as another example of how the Soviet Union was seeking to extend communism.
- Krushchev saw his demands as essential to solve the problem of Western controlled areas existing in communist East Germany and to stop the flood of skilled citizens from East Germany to West Germany.
- By 1958, both sides had a large number of nuclear weapons. The West German chancellor Adenauer strongly opposed recognizing East Germany officially, but did not think that the Ultimatum was big enough of an issue to start and justify a nuclear war.

Summit Meetings:

- In effort to solve the Berlin problem, a series of meetings were held between 1959 - 61.
- Geneva Summit (May 1959)
 - The First summit between foreign ministers.
 - Both sides proposed how Berlin should be governed but no agreements were made.
- Camp David Summit (September 1959)
 - Eisenhower and Krushchev meet in person for the first time at the Presidential Ranch.
 - No agreements were made, but the Soviets agreed to withdraw the Ultimatum.
 - The meeting established better relations, and agreed upon further talk in Paris in the following Summer.

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U2 Incidents, Paris Summit (May 1960), and its impact:

- On May 1, the Soviet Union shot down an American U2 spy plane flying over the USSR.
- The Americans attempted to disguise it as a weather aeroplane flying off course.
- However, the Soviets interrogated the pilot, Gary Powers, who admitted to being on a spying mission.
- President Eisenhower was embarrassed by the conflict, but refused to apologise, claiming that spying operations had to happen.
- Krushchev walked out of the Paris Summit Conference which ended without any agreements or decisions made.

Vienna Summit:

- In January 1961, John F Kennedy became president of the USA, and followed a policy of building the US military forces, but also trying to resolve difficulties with the USSR through talks.
- Krushchev believed that he could take advantage of Kennedy as he was inexperienced in foreign affairs. He also knew that his reputation had fallen from the failure of an American invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961.
- At the talks in Vienna (June 1961) Krushchev took a tough approach and renewed the Berlin Ultimatum of 1958.
- Kennedy was extremely concerned, but was determined to appear strong.
- He refused concessions, and no final decisions were made.
- After Vienna, Kennedy increased spending on armed forces (\$2 billion) to protect the US in case of war. The US was prepared to fight over Berlin.

Increasing Tensions :

- As tensions increased, more East Germans crossed to the West before borders closed.
 - In August 1961, 40,000 Eastern Germans crossed into West Germany.
- The East German leader, Walter Ulbricht, acted upon instruction from Krushchev, and closed the border.
- On the Night of August 12, East German troops built a barbed wire fence around Berlin and between East and West Berlin.
- This would eventually become the Berlin Wall (stretching 165 km)

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The Berlin Wall:

- The Berlin wall cut through streets and buildings - many attempted to escape during the building process of the wall, but some failed to do so.
- By the end of Summer (1961), the wall was complete (43km of two walls - one facing the East, and one facing the West).
- The walls were separated by a section: no-man's land (in which booby traps, barbed wire, minefields, car barriers, lookout towers, machine gun nests were set).
- Berliners could not visit family and friends on the other side for the next few years.
- In desperation, some people attempted to cross the wall, but East German guards were instructed to shoot them (over 130 people were killed).

Impact on Relations between East and West:

- When the wall was built, there was an outrage in West Germany, and relations had worsened. The West were hoping for reunification of Germany, and the USSR seemed to have considered it.
- Protests in East Germany were quickly put down.
- However, building the wall may have improved relations between the two countries. The issue of refugees crossing to the West had strained relations, but now that the stream had stopped, (and protests had stopped) improving relations would have been possible.

Impact on the USA and Soviet Union:

- Positive outcomes:
 - USSR: The wall stopped refugees from leaving East Germany to the West. It implied that communism would survive in Berlin, and any attempt to reunite Germany under Western control would fail.
 - USA: The Wall implied that Khrushchev had been forced to accept Western control over West Berlin, and that the West would not let him go any further. West Berlin was a symbol of freedom and defiance against communism.
- Negative outcomes:
 - USSR: Khrushchev had to abandon plans to unite Germany under Soviet control. The wall implied that the Soviet Union had to keep people in East Germany to stop them from leaving, as they preferred capitalism over communism.
 - USA: The USSR had closed borders without consulting the US. The people who wanted to escape from communism could no longer do so.