

# WARS AND CONFLICTS

## The Korean War

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Grade 11

# WHAT IS A WAR?

A war is typically fought by a country or group of countries against an opposing country with the aim of achieving an objective through the use of force. Wars can also be fought within a country in the form of a civil or revolutionary war. Wars have been a part of human history for thousands of years, and have become increasingly destructive as industrialization and technology have advanced.

# SOLDIERS STRUGGLING DURING COMBAT



# WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF CONFLICT?

- There is no one single, clear cause of conflict and war. The causes of war are usually a lot, and several reasons for a conflict can be mixed in a complicated way.
- There are eight main causes of war, each cause will be stated and explained in the next slide.

# THE EIGHT MAIN CAUSES OF WAR

1. Economic Gain
2. Territorial Gain
3. Religion
4. Nationalism
5. Revenge
6. Civil War
7. Revolutionary War
8. Defensive War

# 1 ECONOMIC GAIN

- Often wars are caused by one country's wish to take control of another country's wealth. Whatever the other reasons for a war may be, there is almost always an economic motive underlying most conflicts, even if the stated aim of the war is presented to the public as something more noble.
- In pre-industrial times, the gains desired by a warring country might be precious materials such as gold and silver, or livestock such as cattle and horses.
- In modern times, the resources that are hoped to be gained from war take the form of things like oil, minerals, or materials used in manufacturing.

## 2 TERRITORIAL GAIN

- A country might decide that it needs more land, either for living space, agricultural use, or other purposes. Territory can also be used as “buffer zones” between two hostile enemies.
- Related to buffer zones are proxy wars. These are conflicts that are fought indirectly between opposing powers in a third country. Each power supports the side which best suits their logistical, military, and economic interests.

# 3 RELIGION

- Religious conflicts often have very deep roots. They can lie dormant for decades, only to re-emerge in a flash at a later date.
- Religious wars can often be tied to other reasons for conflict, such as nationalism or revenge for a perceived historical slight in the past.
- While different religions fighting against each other can be a cause of war, different sects within a religion battling against one another can also instigate war.



# 4 NATIONALISM

- Nationalism in this context essentially means attempting to prove that your country is superior to another by violent subjugation. This often takes the form of an invasion.
- Related to nationalism is imperialism, which is built on the idea that conquering other countries is glorious and brings honor and esteem to the conqueror.
- Racism can also be linked to nationalism, as can be seen in Hitler's Germany. Adolf Hitler went to war with Russia partly because the Russians (and eastern Europeans in general) were seen as Slavs, or a group of people who the Nazis believed to be an inferior race.

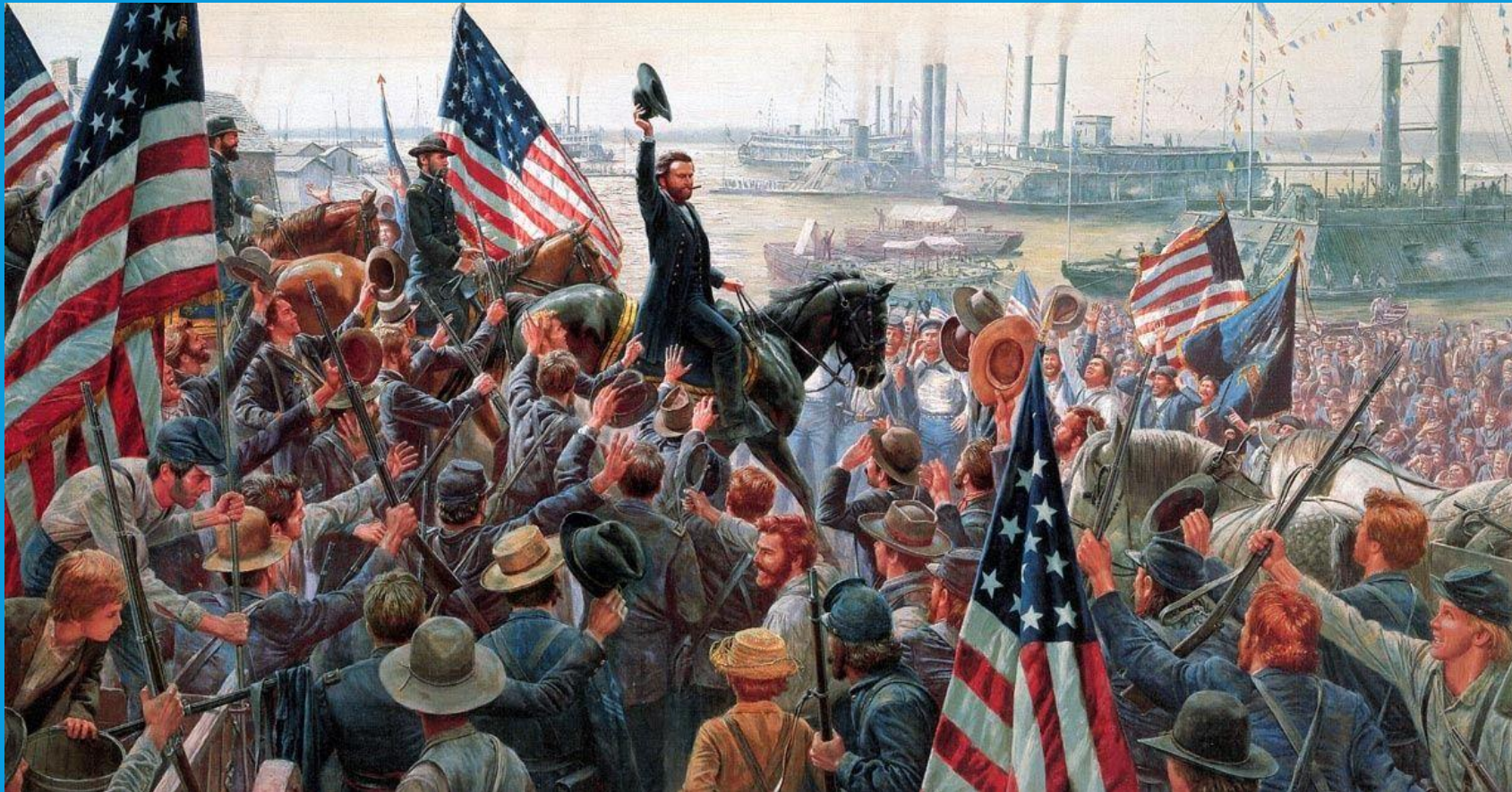
# 5 REVENGE

- Seeking to punish, redress a grievance, or simply strike back for a perceived slight can often be a factor in the waging of war. Revenge also relates to nationalism, as the people of a country which has been wronged are motivated to fight back by pride and spirit.

# 6 CIVIL WAR

- These generally take place when there is sharp internal disagreement within a country. The disagreement can be about who rules, how the country should be run or the people's rights. These internal rifts often turn into chasms that result in violent conflict between two or more opposing groups.
- Civil wars can also be sparked by separatist groups who want to form their own, independent country, or, as in the case of the American Civil War, states wanting to secede from a larger union.

# CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA



# 7 REVOLUTIONARY WAR

- These occur when a large section of the population of a country revolts against the individual or group that rules the country because they are dissatisfied with their leadership.
- Revolutions can begin for a variety of reasons, including economic hardship amongst certain sections of the population or perceived injustices committed by the ruling group. Other factors can contribute too, such as unpopular wars with other countries.
- Revolutionary wars can easily descend into civil wars.

# 8 DEFENSIVE WAR

- In the modern world, where military aggression is more widely questioned, countries will often argue that they are fighting in a purely defensive capacity against an aggressor, or potential aggressor, and that their war is therefore a “just” war.
- These defensive wars can be especially controversial when they are launched preemptively, the argument essentially being that: “We are attacking them before they inevitably attack us.”

# THE KOREAN WAR



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA BEFORE WORLD WAR II

- Here is an overview of some of the major historical events in the Korean peninsula up to its political division at the 38th parallel:
- 668 AD: The Silla unite the three kingdoms of the Korean peninsula — Silla, Paekche, and Koguryo — establishing the Silla Dynasty and beginning a decade of fighting to expel the forces of China's T'ang Dynasty.
- 936: General Wang Kon overthrows the Silla and establishes the Koryo Dynasty. The English word Korea comes from Koryo.
- 1392: General Yi Song-gye, a Confucian scholar, overthrows the Koryo dynasty and founds the Yi Dynasty. The kingdom is renamed Choson.
- 1443: Hangul, the Korean phonetic alphabet, is invented.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA BEFORE WORLD WAR II (2)

- 1592: Japan invades Korea. With help from China, Korea repels the Japanese forces.
- 1627: Manchuria attacks northwestern Korea in preparation for a larger attack on China. The battles in 1592 and 1627 result in the loss of many cultural artifacts and assets and the weakening of the centralized government.
- 1876: Following a treaty with Japan, Korea's mostly isolationist policies shift, and the peninsula is opened up to the West.
- 1894: The Donghak Peasant Revolution, a series of antifeudal attacks on government officers. The Korean government asks for aid from China. The Qing Dynasty of China sends 2,700 soldiers to help without alerting the Japanese, in violation of the Treaty of Tientsin. This begins the Sino-Japanese War for control of Korea between its two co-protectorates, China and Japan.

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA BEFORE WORLD WAR II (3)

- April 17, 1895: The Treaty of Shimonoseki ends the SinoJapanese war; Korea gains independence.
- 1904-05: The Russo-Japanese War. Japan defeats Russia in a battle for influence in Korea and Manchuria.
- 1910: Japan formally annexes Korea, bringing the Yi Dynasty to an end. Japan makes efforts to supplant Korean language and culture.
- 1945: World War II ends, and Korea is divided at the 38th parallel. Administration of the two halves is divided temporarily, with the USSR administering the northern half and the USA administering the south.
- 1948: Two separate nations — North Korea and South Korea — are formally established.

# REASON OF THE WAR

- In 1910, Korea was still under Japan's ruling even after the World War II ended. After Japan lost and surrendered, the United States and the USSR had agreed to split Korea into two temporary zones with USSR occupying the North and USA occupying the South. This step was only meant to be for a short time. In Moscow Conference in December 1945, the United States and USSR had agreed on Korea having a temporary government set up quickly before a real government is ready. It was difficult time because of the growing Cold War.
- The Cold War was an important cause in the Korean War. Relations between the two occupying powers were bad and when China became Communist in October 1949, the President of the USA, Harry Truman, was very worried that other countries around China may also become Communist, such as Japan. The American Army was about one twelfth the size of five years earlier and Joseph Stalin had recently lost a Cold War dispute over the Berlin Blockade and subsequent airlift. They mainly argued over fair border lines and the spread of communism therefore starting the war.

# A TANK BEHIND TWO KIDS DURING THE WAR



# TERRITORIAL CHANGES

Korea had become two parts with completely different leaders, different governments, and different lands.

# WHERE DID THE WAR OCCUR?

The war occurred in Korean Peninsula, Yellow Sea, Sea of Japan, Korea Strait, and China–North Korea border.

# MAP OF SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA



# COUNTRIES THAT FOUGHT IN THE WAR

- There was two teams in the war.

- Team North Korea:

North Korea, China, and Soviet Union.

- Team South Korea:

South Korea, United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Turkey, Australia, Philippines, New Zealand, Thailand, Ethiopia, Greece, France, Colombia, Belgium, South Africa, Netherlands, and Luxembourg.



US=United States  
SK=South Korea  
NK=North Korea  
UK=United Kingdom  
SU=Soviet Union  
C=China

# COMMANDERS AND LEADERS

## Team South Korea

- (SK)Syngman Rhee
  - (SK)Chung Il-kwon
  - (SK)Paik Sun-yup
  - (SK)Shin Sung-mo
  - (US)Harry S. Truman
  - (US)Dwight D. Eisenhower
  - (UK)Clement Attlee
  - (UK)Winston Churchill
- (US)George C. Marshall
  - (US)Douglas MacArthur
  - (US)Matthew Ridgway
  - (US)Robert A. Lovett
  - (US)Mark W. Clark

## Team North Korea

- (NK)Kim Il-sung
  - (NK)Pak Hon-yong
  - (NK)Choe Yong-gon
  - (NK)Kim Chaek
  - (C)Mao Zedong
  - (C)Peng Dehuai
- (C)Deng Hua
  - (SU)Joseph Stalin
  - (SU)Georgy Malenkov
  - (SU)Pavel Zhigarev
  - (C)Chen Geng

# JOSEPH STALIN (SOVIET UNION LEADER THAT FOUGHT TOGETHER WITH NORTH KOREA)



# FORCES

## Team North Korea troops

- 972,334 soldier

## Team South Korea troops

- 1,742,000 soldier

# OTHER NAMES OF THE WAR

- In South Korea, the war is usually called as "625" which is reflecting the date of its commencement on 25 June.
- In North Korea, the war is officially called as "Fatherland Liberation War."
- In China, the war is officially referred as the "War to Resist America and Aid Korea."

# LOSSES OF THE WAR

## Team South Korea

South Korea - 205,000 deaths - 905,800 wounded

United States - 100,503 deaths - 92,073 wounded

United Kingdom - 1,078 deaths - 2,674 wounded

Turkey - 721 deaths - 2,109 wounded

Canada - 507 deaths - 1,001 wounded

Australia - 380 deaths - 1,192 wounded

New Zealand - 34 deaths - 80 wounded

The Netherlands - 150 deaths

France - 69 deaths

Luxembourg - 2 deaths - 2 wounded

## Team North Korea

- North Korea - 257,806 deaths

- China - about 25,000 Deaths

- Soviet Union - about 300 Deaths

# KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

- The Korean Armistice Agreement is the armistice that brought about a complete cessation of hostilities of the Korean War. It was signed by U.S. Army Lieutenant General William Harrison, Jr. representing Team South Korea, North Korean General Nam Il representing Team North Korea. The armistice was signed on 27 July 1953.
- South Korea never signed the Armistice Agreement, due to President Syngman Rhee's refusal to accept having failed to unify Korea by force. China normalized relations and signed a peace treaty with South Korea in 1992. In 1994, China withdrew from the Military Armistice Commission, essentially leaving North Korea and the UN Command as the only participants in the armistice agreement. In 2011, South Korea stated that North Korea had violated the armistice 221 times.

# DURING KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT



# RESULTS

Country	Positive	Negative
USA	Stopped communist expansion. Greece and Turkey joined NATO. Upheld Truman Doctrine.	Far too aggressive, this made other countries nervous.
United Nations	First major success.	Could only win through violence, not peace talks.
Both Koreas	North Korea got a treaty with China. South Korea stayed Capitalist.	Many people died; much property was wrecked. No re-unification.
China	Foreign war united the country and improved rulers' prestige.	USSR relations became worse. Banned from the UN Security Council.
Soviet Union	North Korea stayed Communist. Tested their Air Force against the United States.	Chinese relations became worse. Lost a large amount of money.



# WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT CONFLICTS?

- War teaches us to appreciate the simple things we take for granted, or perhaps walk outside in the fresh air knowing that we are free to walk the streets without fear of being targeted by bombs or guns. Individuals who go to war usually don't come back the same. The fortunate ones return home and successfully reintegrate back into society. However, many don't. The visible, invisible and moral injuries can plague and paralyze even the strongest. War teaches about the value of the mission. We want to believe that the fight was fought for a noble purpose or reason and that people, hearts and minds were not sacrificed in vain. Veterans of war are courageous, mindful, mission driven and loyal to the core. We can all learn to appreciate life no matter how challenging the situation we may be going through. War can teach us that we are stronger than believe ourselves to be and that we may possess strength, wisdom and insight beyond expectation.

# MY OPINION ON WARS

War is mass murder. It is performed by the pawns of power elites in two or more nations-states to advance their political economic interests, wasting hundreds of thousands of lives. It is egregiously wrong and evil. It cannot be justified except as truly last resort self-defense, which it never is. The idea of a war is infuriating.

# RESOURCES

- <https://harvestinghappiness.com/war-teaches-us-life/>
- <https://www.dummies.com/education/history/world-history/a-brief-history-of-the-korean-peninsula-before-world-war-ii/>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/korea/korean-war>
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War>
- <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/2408/1/U615357.pdf>
- <http://www.china.org.cn/e-America/actives/dprk.htm>
- <https://apjjf.org/2012/10/31/Tessa-Morris-Suzuki/3803/article.html>