South Korean Committee

TritonMUN XII

Chaired by John Murillo

Topic: The Korean War

I. Background

Korea has spent the majority of its history as a united nation, not one divided into north and south. Korea has been frequently fought over by powerful regional powers (China, Russia, and Japan) throughout history due to its strategic importance in the region. This has contributed to the strong desire for sovereignty and independence that is present in both Koreas today. In the last century, Korea has had a history of centralized authority and autocratic rule - first through the Korean Monarchy 1897-1910, then through the Japanese rule of Korea 1910-1945, and, when the two Koreas split, into two governments administered by military rule. South Korea eventually transitioned to democracy in 1987, whereas North Korea still remains under military rule.[1]

The Korean War took place from June 25, 1950 to July 27 1953. In 1945, five years before the war began, South Korea was enduring a brutal Japanese occupation. Koreans had been forced to take Japanese names, religions, and language. Their land was confiscated, and they were made to work in factories for Japan during the war. During the 1943 Cairo Convention, however, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Winston Churchill, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek of the Republic of China agreed that within twenty or thirty years Korea would become free and independent.[2] However as the Allied forces turned the fight to Japan at the end of World War II, Russia immediately took over, and began to occupy the northern part of Korea. The United States then decided to divide Korea at the 38th parallel; the northern half would be under Soviet control and the southern half under United States control. Russia and the United States attempted reunification negotiations, but they failed with the

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[1] "The Hidden History of the Korean War." Google Books. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.
[2] "The Korean War: An International History." Google Books. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.

atmosphere of the Cold War which made negotiation difficult.[3] The United States handed the issue over to the United Nations and passed resolution A/RES/112(II)A-B, which called for the reunification of Korea and the holding elections to establish a single government.[4] The situation quickly deteriorated as Moscow's North Korea and its capital city, Pyongyang, refused to hold elections.[5] The North and South decided to hold separate elections instead. In 1948 the Republic of Korea (more commonly referred to as South Korea) was established and led by President Syngman Rhee. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (more commonly referred to as North Korea) was established led by Supreme Leader Kim Il-Sung.

In South Korea, President Rhee, an educated Korean national and advocate for Korean independence during occupation, was now tasked with building a democracy from scratch. Rhee would leave a legacy of autocracy at the end of his rule. He ruled the people directly instead of allowing democracy to take its course by consolidating power to the executive branch and appointing cabinet members based on personal benefit rather than merit. The South Korean economy had suffered from high inflation and had difficulty starting up after the war due to many lost factories and depleted human resources. Due to intense fear and paranoia instilled by the Cold War, Rhee had a strict anticommunist stance and was always prepared for a North Korean insurgency. Despite this, North Korean spies eventually organized a communist revolution in 1948. Communist guerillas attacked police and government officials on the South Korean island Cheju; Rhee eventually suppressed this insurrection, however, there was a large amount of damage to deal with. He decided to confront the infiltration of North Korean

[3] "The Impact of the Korean War on the Cold War." The Impact of the Korean War on the Cold War. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.
[4] "General Assembly Resolutions 2nd Session." UN News Center. UN, n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.
[5] "The Korean War." Google Books. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.

communism by establishing the National Security Law in 1948.[6] The goal of this law was to suppress anti-state acts that endangered national security by outlawing communism and support for North Korea. This law also gave unlimited power and latitude to Rhee to use the military to suppress any activity suspected as communist, although it was oftentimes misused to eliminate political opposition.

During this period, Russia had been supplying North Korea with heavy arms. Meanwhile, South Korea was not supplied arms by the United States because the U.S. credibly believed that North Korea would not cross into South Korea. The U.S. even went so far as to reduce the amount of U.S. military presence on the 38th Parallel.[7]

On June 25, 1950, in an effort to take back the Korean Peninsula, North Korea crossed the 38th parallel and caught Seoul, the South Korean capital, by surprise. They had seen North Korean troops near the border but had believed it to be a training exercise.[8] Since the Republic of Korea (ROK) had no U.S. military presence or weaponry to assist in their defense, Seoul was overrun in days and President Rhee was forced to flee south.[9] Contrary to popular belief that Russia prompted North Korea to invade, it was actually Kim Il Sung who spearheaded attack and convinced Stalin to assist him.[10] Immediately the United Nations Security Council passed resolution 82 to aid South Korea with a joint, military effort led by the United States.[11] It was later revealed in the National Security Council Report 68 (NSC-68) that President Truman

[6] "The Impact of the Korean War on the Cold War." The Impact of the Korean War on the Cold War. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.
[7] Heo, Uk, and Terence Roehrig. South Korea since 1980. New York: Cambridge UP, 2010. Print.
[8] Ibid
[9] Ibid
[10] Ibid
[11] "Security Council Resolutions 1950." UN News Center. UN, n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.

justified the United States' entrance into the war by saying it was necessary to fight the spread of communism.[12]

United States' General McArthur led the 1950 operation to assist South Korea and they quickly pushed back the North Korean forces and continued to push north until the U.N. force took over the North Korean capital city of Pyongyang in 1950.[13] China warned the United States and South Korea that continuing to progress into North Korea would lead to Chinese intervention. The US did not heed China's warning and continued to press north; China stepped in and pushed the coalition back across the 38th parallel[14], briefly overtaking Seoul before U.N. forces recovered it.[15] In 1951, a stalemate between the armies led to the 1953 agreement at the 38th parallel between China, South Korea, North Korea and the United States.[16] With the exception of South Korean President Syngman Rhee, all parties signed an armistice ending hostilities. Rhee had refused to sign the treaty because he wanted the Korean peninsula under his control.[17] This armistice did not end the war, however, it only called for a ceasefire – the war is technically ongoing today.

Arriving at the ceasefire cost South Korea 3 billion dollars for the war effort. In addition, domestic politics were becoming tenser. Rhee had won the 1948 election, but by the 1952 election he had to intimidate the legislature to change the constitution to allow for the direct popular election of the president and to increase the power of the president.[18] He won reelection again in 1956, but by 1958, waning support led Rhee to institute more draconian measures. All of

[12] "89 American Journal of International Law 1995 Korean War: On What Legal Basis Did Truman Act, The." 89 American Journal of International Law 1995 Korean War: On What Legal Basis Did Truman Act, The. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.
[13] "The Hidden History of the Korean War." Google Books. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.
[14] "China's Road to the Korean War." Google Books. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 July 2015.
[15] Ibid
[16] Heo, Uk, and Terence Roehrig. South Korea since 1980. New York: Cambridge UP, 2010. Print.
[17] Ibid
[18] Ibid

the U.S. aid money was being lost to heavy corruption and the South Korean economy continued to be weak, showing little signs of improvement. Protests began after Rhee won the 1960 election through massive fraud and the South Korean populace began to demand change.[19]

II. United Nations Involvement

Relevant United Nations involvement in South Korea begins just before the outbreak of the Korean War in 1948. Up until 1948 South Korea had been subjected to a series of imperial and autocratic rules. They had no established democracy, constitution, or written law. Once South Korea was free of Japan's rule and divided into a southern and northern portion (controlled by the United States and Soviet Union respectively) the issue of the style of government that would be implemented arose. Since the United States and Soviet Union could not agree on a way to merge the two Koreas or form a joint government over both of them, the United States turned to the United Nations General Assembly for help in September 1947.

The United Nations General Assembly responded with Resolution 195 (III) in November which called for a general election in Korea, to be monitored by the United Nations.[20] The South accepted and held elections in May 1948; however the North declined the resolution. Meanwhile the South established a constitution loosely structured similar to the United States', Syngman Rhee was elected as President, and the Republic of Korea was established on August 15, 1948. Meanwhile in the North, Kim Il Sung established the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on September 9, 1848 with Soviet aid.

The next wave of significant United Nations involvement in South Korea comes during the Korean War, the first being on June 25, 1950. The United Nations Security Council

[19] Heo, Uk, and Terence Roehrig. South Korea since 1980. New York: Cambridge UP, 2010. Print.

[20] " Resolutions Adopted by the General Assembly." United Nations General
Assembly. N.p., n.d. Web.

unanimously denounced North Korea's invasion of South Korea through UN Security Council

Resolution 82.[21] Just two short days later the Security Council moved to support Resolution 83

which asked member states to provide military assistance to the Republic of Korea, and placed

the United States as head of the UN forces.[22] Some argue that the passing of Resolution 83 was

out of the UN Charter's scope because of the Soviet Union refusing to participate in meetings,

and because North Korea was not invited as a temporary member of the council.[23] Regardless,

condemnations of North Korea's aggressions continued in Security Council Resolutions 84, and

85.[24] Resolution 88 was the last one by the Security Council concerning the war, and allowed a

representative of the People's Republic of China to be present during discussions on the UN

Command in Korea.[25]

During this period the United Nations General Assembly also passed two resolutions on

the topic of the Korean War. On October 7, 1950 they published Resolution 376 (V) which called

for stability in the Korea's through an end of the hostilities, and it establishes a committee known

as the United Nations Commission for the Reunification and Rehabilitation of Korea whose goal

is to reunify the two Koreas.[26] The Resolution also recommends the assistance of the Economic

and Social Council in dealing with long term economic development in the Korea's.[27] The last

resolution from the General Assembly came on December 14, 1950, they released Resolution

384 (V) which acknowledges the gravitas of the Korean War and the intervention of the Central

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[21] "Security Council Resolutions." United Nations Security Council. N.p., n.d. Web.
[22] Ibid
[23] Gross, Leo (February 1951). "Voting in the Security Council: Abstention from Voting and Absence from Meetings". The Yale Law Journal 60 (2): 209–57.
[24] "Security Council Resolutions." United Nations Security Council. N.p., n.d. Web.
[25] Ibid
[26] " Resolutions Adopted by the General Assembly." United Nations General Assembly. N.p., n.d. Web.
[27] Ibid

People's Republic of China.[28] The Resolution calls for "immediate steps" to be taken in stopping the spread of the Korean War to other areas of the world and recommends the immediate negotiation of a "peaceful settlement".[29]

Overall, Resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly during this time period first focus on garnering military assistance for South Korea, then calling for an end to the Korean War. The United Nations had a very involved role in the war as they quickly came to South Korea's aid during the initial invasion, and established the United Nations Commission for the Reunification and Rehabilitation of Korea in order to bring the war to a peaceful and reunified end.

III. Bloc Positions

United States

The United States initially encountered the Korean War during the Truman Administration. President Truman feared the Korean War could have wide ramifications in either spurring another World War, or shaking up the global power dynamic that was still settling.[30] If the War were to persist beyond Korea it could have global implications. One major factor that influenced the United States decision to get involved into the War once North Korea invaded was worry of what would happen to Japan if South Korea were to fall to North Korea and

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[28]" Resolutions Adopted by the General Assembly." United Nations General Assembly. N.p., n.d. Web.

[29] Ibid

[30] Kim, Yŏng-jin (1973). Major Powers and Korea. Silver Spring, MD: Research Institute on Korean Affairs. OCLC 251811671

communism.[31] Not only that, but President Truman was concerned if he did not intervene, it could set a dangerous precedent of Soviet aggression going unchecked, and the spreading of communism going uncontained.[32] This also was a time for the United Nations to perform its duty as an international organization in part designed to assist in global conflicts.[33] Fearful to go 'all in' in assisting South Korea, Truman initially only sent the local naval and aerial vessels he had in the region to assist, and began to send ground troops in much later in the conflict.[34]

North Korea

Tensions between North Korea and the global community began when the Soviets refused to negotiate with the United States and find a way to reunify the two Koreas following the end of World War II.[35] Tensions continued to rise when North Korea refused to follow the United Nations recommendation to hold democratic elections, and instead turned to communism. In 1949 South Korea had eradicated approximately 4,000 North Korean communist insurgents in the South.[36] Yet Kim Il Sung believed that his insurgents had weakened the South Korean military forces and that the South Korean people would welcome the war for the reunification that would follow. Stalin initially did not agree that the war on South Korea was necessary, but once U.S. troops had withdrawn, Stalin began arming the North Korean forces.[37] Kim Il Sung

[31] Kim, Yǒng-jin (1973). Major Powers and Korea. Silver Spring, MD: Research Institute on Korean Affairs. OCLC 251811671

[32] Ibid

[33] Ibid

[34] Ibid

[35] Stueck, William (2004). The Korean War in World History. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. p. 38. ISBN 0-8131-2306-2

[36] Weathersby, Kathryn (1993), Soviet Aims in Korea and the Origins of the Korean War, 1945–50: New Evidence From the Russian Archives, Cold War International History Project: Working Paper No. 8

[37] Stewart, Richard W., ed. (2005). "The Korean War, 1950–1953". American Military History, Volume 2. United States Army Center of Military History. CMH Pub 30-22. Retrieved 20 August 2007.

decided on a general attack along the border as opposed to Ongjin Peninsula and at dawn June 25, 1950, South Korea was attacked.[38]

Russia

Russia's involvement in the Korean War inadvertently began during the Soviet-Japanese War. As the Russian army was not focused in the Pacific War like the rest of the Allies, they turned to Japan and began by occupying the Northern part of the Korean peninsula.[39] The United States feared Russia would begin a total invasion of the Peninsula and negotiated that the Soviets and U.S. would split the Peninsula, and Russia surprisingly held its bargain.[40] The United States and Soviet Union were then unable to come to consensus on how to reunite the two Koreas, and when the United Nations called for elections, the Soviets refused to participate on the basis that it would not be fair.[41] The Soviet Union then helped to establish the communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea and eventually withdrew their forces from North Korea in 1948.[42] When approached by Kim Il Sung regarding an invasion into South Korea Stalin initially disagreed, however as time went on he agreed and began to arm the North Korean soldiers, viewing the attack as a proxy war with the United States.[43] Stalin was also instrumental in getting China involved in the confrontation on their side.[44]

[38] Stueck, William (2004). The Korean War in World History. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. p. 38. ISBN 0-8131-2306-2.

[39] Stokesbury, James L (1990). A Short History of the Korean War. New York: Harper Perennial. ISBN 0-688-09513-5.

[40] Weathersby, Kathryn (2002), "Should We Fear This?" Stalin and the Danger of War with America, Cold War International History Project: Working Paper No. 39

[41] Ibid

[42] Stokesbury, James L (1990). A Short History of the Korean War. New York: Harper Perennial. ISBN 0-688-09513-5.

[43] Weathersby, Kathryn (2002), "Should We Fear This?" Stalin and the Danger of War with America, Cold War International History Project: Working Paper No. 39

[44] Chosun Ilbo (in Korean). 6 August 2009. Retrieved 16 July 2010.

China

China's involvement in the Korean War begins at the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 where North Korea had just aided the Chinese Communists with their victory over the Chinese Nationalists.[45] The new Peoples Republic of China in return promised aid to North Korea in the event South Korea ever invaded and China became a major communist presence in the East.[46] When Stalin approached Chinese Communist Party Chairman Mao to ask for assistance in the invasion of South Korea, Mao initially was hesitant fearing American intervention, but needed the resources and aid Stalin promised in return of Chinese support.[47] Mao's support was critical to fast tracking the road to war, and China ended up playing a large role in eventually pushing the United States and South Korea out of North Korea in 1950.[48]

Internal Conflicts

Throughout the Korean War there were many internal conflicts. One of which was the many communist insurgents North Korea had sent in to South Korea. The purpose of these insurgents was to cause uprisings and riots by the South Korean people against the government. Another internal conflict was that some South Koreans did believe that they should be reunited with the North, and chose to not assist in the war effort. There was also a conflict during the war over whether the United States and South Korean troops should continue to push into North Korea, which they eventually did temporarily until China pushed them back. Another internal

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[45] Chen, Jian (1994). China's Road to the Korean War: The Making of the Sino-American Confrontation. New York: Columbia University Press. ISBN 978-0-231-10025-0.22.

[46] Ibid

[47] Chinese Military Science Academy (September 2000). History of War to Resist America and Aid Korea (抗美援朝战争史) I. Beijing: Chinese Military Science Academy Publishing House. pp. 35–36. ISBN 7-80137-390-1.

[48] Halberstam, David (2007). The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War. New York:Hyperion. ISBN 978-1-4013-0052-4.

conflict came after the war in the shape of student protests against the authoritarian South

Korean government.[49]

IV. Character List

Dean Acheson

Considered the main architect of American Cold War policy Dean Acheson during his early tenure as Assistant Secretary of State following the United States' entry into WWII he devised the famous Lend-Lease-program while setting the agenda for the post-war economic climate through the creation of the International Monteray Fund, the World Bank, and the Marshall Plan. In 1945 under President Truman, Acheson was promoted to Undersecretary of the State Department. Initially a seeker of détenté with the USSR, Stalin's reluctance to a free Eastern Europe changed Acheson mind about Stalin and on his initiative Truman sought funds from Congress to aid in the Greek Civil War and in Turkey. Promoted to Secretary of State in 1949, under his tenure the US Foreign policy developed into a policy of containment where Communist influences were to be stopped from spreading anywhere in the world, such as in Greece and Turkey, this policy became known as the Truman Doctrine. At first the Korean Peninsula was not specified as a part of the 'line of defense' but at the dawn of the North Korean invasion Acheson convinced Truman that an American intervention was vital to uphold the policy of containment and not succumb to the mistake of appeasement like Neville Chamberlain in 1938.

Lieutenant Colonel Park Chung Hee

Lieutenant Colonel Park Chung Hee was born on November 14, 1917. He was born into a middle class family and soon became educated and joined military academies. He joined the Manchuko Imperial Army quickly, which allowed him to have the experience needed to rise through the ranks of the South Korean army he later joined. While Park performed well in the War, he is most well known as the instigator of a military coup in the South Korean government. He quickly seized power after Syngman Rhee was exiled by protests, and South Korea was now run by a military junta run by Park. He is known as being a harsh and authoritative ruler. He put in place a National Security Law that allowed for no political opposition, and even created a new constitution that allowed him unlimited power and presidency for life. He put many oppressive policies in place and his presidency was rampant with students protesting many of his rulings.

Syngman Rhee

Syngman Rhee was born on April 18, 1875 into a poor rural family. He quickly became involved in many independence movements, protesting the Japanese rule of Korea. In 1939 he left to the United States and fought there for Korean independence and the establishment of a provisional government.

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[49] Savada, Andrea, ed. (1997). South Korea: A Country Study. Diane Pub Co. p. 34. ISBN 078814619X. Retrieved 5 April 2013.

Once Japan surrendered Rhee headed to South Korea and became President of the Independence Promotion Central Committee and President of the Headquarters for Unification. He refused to negotiate with the Soviets or North Koreans, and argued for separate South and North Korean governments. In 1948 Rhee was elected President of South Korea, and desired to take North Korea back under the South Korean government. During the Korean War Rhee wanted to take back North Korea so badly he was willing to risk a nuclear war with the Soviet Union. The Rhee regime was infamous for corruption, and political repression. This led to many student protests, which eventually led to his exile in 1960.

Kim Chang-ryong

Kim Chang-ryong was born on January 30, 1920 to a poor family in a Japanese ruled Korea. He quickly entered the military, and thanks to his reputation of catching moles, he rose within the ranks of the military. After being hunted by communists and eventually captured, Kim escaped and headed to the then American controlled South Korea. He joined the Republic of Korea Army shortly after arrival and entered the intelligence sector. Having fostered a strong dislike for communism, he quickly rose through the ranks and eventually became the right hand man of Syngman Rhee. Rhee saw Kim as a way to neutralize his opposition and any communism rooted in the South Korean government. He became the head of the KCIA, or Korean Central Intelligence Agency. Nicknamed "Kim the Snake" by General MacArthur, Kim was relentless in capturing and interrogating those who were 'suspected' of being North Korean insurgents and was not popular among the South Korean people because of his ruthlessness.

Sir Hubert Miles Gladwyn Jebb

Jebb started his diplomatic career with his first foreign posting in Tehran, Iran in 1924 where he became known to the Foreign Office for his actions. He was subsequently promoted to the position of the Private Secretary to the Head of the Diplomatic Service. In 1940 Jebb was appointed Assistant Under-secretary in the Ministry for Economic Warfare, and in 1942 he was tasked with heading the Reconstruction Department before becoming a Counselor in the Foreign Office and thus attending the conferences at Tehran, Potsdam, and Yalta along with Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin. After the war Jebb partook in the creation of the United Nations as the Executive Secretary of the Prepatory Commission of the United Nations and served as the first temporary UN Secretary General before the appointment of Trygve Lie. Jebb later served as a Deputy to the British Foreign Secretary before becoming the UN adviser for the Foreign Office. In 1950 Jebb was appointed the British Ambassador to the UN until 1954.

Jean Chauvel

After his first diplomatic posting in China for the French ministère des Affaires étrangères he assumed the position as the 'Haut-Commisariat' of Lebanon and Syria from 1929 to 1934 where he meet the Charles de Gaulle, the future commander of the free French Forces and subsequent President of France. After his positing in the Middle East, Chauvel was promoted to the general Consul of the French embassy in Vienna, following the German Anchluss of Austrian in 1938 he issued visas to a number of Austrian Jews before being moved back to France. After the French surrender to Germany, Chauvel joined the French collaborator government of the Vichy Regime, where he acted as a spy, passing on valuable information to London. In 1942 he joined the French Resistance and was involved in the

underground civilian sector until he in 1944 joined the French government in exile under general Charles de Gaulle in Algeria. After the end of the war de Gaulle became the president of the French Republic and subsequently appointed his close acquaintance Chauvel as the French ambassador to the newly established United Nations. Post-war France struggled with its idea of still being a world power, de Gaulle's and the general French sentiment wished to retain its historic role as a major player in international politics while at the same time the post-war French society was burdened by a destroyed economy and limited resources to control its vast empire of colonies. Thus Chauvel as the envoy to the UN cultivated the idea of the proud French empire, playing a major role in international politics with its permanent seat on the Security Council, while in reality French power was in a dismal state. At the time of the Korean War most of the French military resources were tied down in a costly guerrilla war in the French colony of Indochina against the Vietcong. If Indochina fell, the French government feared that other colonies will follow on the path of armed revolt, their limited resources meant that they were unable to aid its' allies in the Korean War, while fearing an escalation of hostilities in the region considering the close proximity to Red China and its limited resources.

John Foster Dulles

John Foster Dulles started his career at a law firm having specialized in International War. With the outbreak of WWI he tried to enlist in the army but was rejected, instead he served on the War Industries Board. In 1918 Woodrow Wilson appointed Dulles as a legal counsel on the American Delegation to the Versailles Peace conference where he served under his uncle, Secretary of State Robert Lansing. Afterwards he served on the War Reparations Committee and supported an American entry into the League of Nations. Despite his close encounters with Woodrow Wilson and support for the League of Nations, Dulles later in life became a staunch isolationist and Republican. He served as the chief foreign advisor for the Republican presidential nominee in 1944 and 1948. At the San Francisco Conference, Dulles served as an adviser to a senior US delegate that helped draft the UN Charter, subsequently he served as the American delegate to the UN General Assembly in 1946, '47, and '50. Dulles strongly opposed the use of nuclear weapons against Japan. He never abandoned his opposition to nuclear weapons even as the news of a USSR nuclear weapon dawned in 1949. As a strong anti-communist he outlined in his publication: 'War or Peace' he attacked Truman's policy of containment and instead argued for a policy of 'Liberation' this policy became the main policy of conservatives, favoring a rollback of Communist hegemony over nations in Europe and Asia. Before becoming there US Secretary of State under President Eisenhower in 1953, Dulles had on prior occasions meet with Syngman Rhee before the war in 1950 and during a conversation learned of his mutual wish of rolling back communism and a unified Korea. However as Dulles signed the armistice in 1953 his hopes of rolling back communism had failed in this theatre to instead be called a relative success of the Truman Doctrine of mere containment of the spread of Communism.

John Muccio

John Muccio was an Italian-born US diplomat that served as the first US Ambassador to South Korea from April 1949 to September 1952 when he was replaced by President Eisenhower by Ellis O'Briggs. Muccio had previously served at minor diplomatic positions before becoming the US consul in Hong Kong from 1927 to 1929

Kim Koo

Kim Koo was born on August 29, 1876 in Korea. In his youth he joined the Donghak movement, a rebellious group aimed against the government and any foreign oppressors. He rose within the ranks of organization and eventually was in charge of a district, and army regiment. He launched many attacks against the government but eventually had to go into hiding as the rebels began to be targeted. In 1905 he protested the Eulsa Treaty and was a part of many organizations aimed at Korean independence. In 1948 he unsuccessfully ran for the office of President for the newly formed Republic of Korea, but lost to Syngman Rhee. Kim believed this was because he made it clear he opposed the separate governments of North and South Korea, and instead desired reunification, believing war between the two was not the answer.

Walter Bedell Smith

Smith started his military career as an officer during WWI, after the war he was an instructor at the US Army Infantry School. Following the US entry into the Second World War Smith became a Secretary of the General Staff and later Secretary to the Combined Chiefs of Staff where he partook in discussions regarding military strategy at the highest level often briefing the President personally. In September 1942 Smith became chief of staff under General Eisenhower during the campaign in Tunisia and later Italy, tasked with putting Eisenhower's orders into practice in an efficient and correct manner. During the Italian campaign Smith was involved in the negotiations that achieved the armistice between Italian and Allied forces. In 1944 Smith was transferred to again serve as a Chief of Staff to General Eisenhower at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF in Western Europe until the end of the war in Europe where he negotiated the complete surrender of all German forces in the Netherlands. After the war Smith was appointed the US Ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1946 to 1948 before assuming the position as the Director of Central Intelligence in 1950, the head of the CIA and other American intelligence agencies. During his tenure as the Director of the CIA he restructured the organization to become the main body where covert operations were planned and executed.

General Ridgway

After his graduation from West Point, Ridgway was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army. To his dismay he was not commissioned to field duty in WWI and during the Interwar years he served as a division commander in China, Nicaragua, and as an advisor to the Governor-General of the Philippines. Later he served as Assistant Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff of the VI Corps, Second US Army, and the Fourth US Army. In 1939 after the outbreak of the Second World War Ridgway was assigned to the War Plans Division. In 1942 he was promoted to the rank of Major General and was tasked with transforming the 82nd Airborne Division from an Infantry Division into full-fledged paratroopers. When his division was combat ready he helped plan and led his troops into combat during the naval and airborne invasion of Sicily. After fighting in the Italian campaign, Ridgway was instrumental in planning the airborne operations in Operation Overlord, the famous D-Day naval and airborne invasion of France where he fought with his troops for 33 days. In September 1944 he was given command of the XVIII Airborne Corps and participated in Operation Market Garden, the largest allied airborne operation of the war and later fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After the defeat of Nazi

Germany, Ridgway was promoted to Lieutenant General and transferred to the Pacific Theatre under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. After the war, Ridgway was assigned command of the Mediterranean Theatre as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander and between 1946 and 1948 assigned as the US Army representative to the military staff committee of the UN. In 1948 he was given the command over US forces in the Caribbean before in 1949 being assigned to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration. At the outbreak of the Korean War Ridgway was given command of the US 8th Army that played a significant role in the defense of the Pusan pocket and the US led counterattack across the 38th Parallel, the capture of Pyongyang and further offensive towards the Yalu River, fighting along the Korean West Coast. After the Chinese PLA's entry into the war the Eight Army was pushed back by the numerically stronger Communist forces and Ridgway was forced to fight a defensive retreat, successfully protracting the advance of the Communist forces with a heavy focus on artillery. In April 1951 General MacArthur was relieved of his command of the UN forces subsequently replaced by the dynamic and forward-thinking Matthew Ridgway. Likewise he assumed the command of the occupational forces of Japan as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. In May 1952 the newly elected president Dwight D. Eisenhower left his previous command as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, a position that was assigned to Ridgway.

General Douglas MacArthur

After graduating as the top of his class from West Point in 1903, MacArthur fought valiantly in WWI on the Western Front where he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, awarded the Distinguished Service medal twice, the Silver Star seven times, and for a second time nominated for the Medal of Honor. After the war MacArthur served as the Superintendent of West Point until he was charged in 1924 with the task of supervising the Philippines, then a US territory, where he was instrumental in quelling the Philippine Scout Mutiny. In 1930 MacArthur was promoted to the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army until his retirement in 1937 whereas he became a Military Advisor to the Commonwealth Government of the Philippines. His relatively calm early retirement in the Philippines met an abrupt end in December of 1941 with the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. The Japanese naval invasion of the Philippines followed on the 21 December 1941 where MacArthur's troops were forced to retreat to Bataan until he was evacuated to Australia in February the following year. In April 1941 MacArthur was appointed the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area. During the war MacArthur lead the defense od Australia, repelling repeated Japanese attack on Port Moseby and in 1943 led the campaign through New Guinea and subsequently led the re-capture of the Philippines in the summer of 1944 for which he was promoted to the rank of General. After the Japanese surrender, General MacArthur commanded the allied occupation forces in Japan as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan. Under his military government of Japan he was tasked with reforming the highly militaristic society, drafting a peaceful constitution and convicting war criminals, while rebuilding much of Japan's destroyed infrastructure and industry. MacArthur remained in Japan and following the UNSC resolution 82, the recommendation of the UN member states to send troops to South Korean he was unanimously recommended to become Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command (UNCOM) by the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. Subsequently he successfully defended South Korea and launched a counter-attack that repelled North Korean forces across the 38th parallel. Following the Chinese intervention in October 1950 and the second fall of Seoul, MacArthur contemplated the use of nuclear weapons to destroy Chinese supply lines by creating a nuclear wasteland at the Chinese-North Korean border. He believed that the decision to employ nuclear weapons was under his jurisdiction and

did not require Truman's direct approval; subsequently he was removed from command despite his successful war record and relative success in Korea.

Charles Keightley Commander-in-Chief of the British Far East Command

Keightley begun his military career in 1921 after graduating from the Royal Military College in Sandhurst. After minor officer commissions for the 5th and 6th Dragoons, Keightley attended Staff College in Camberley and was subsequently moved to staff postings as a Brigade Major for a mechanized cavalry brigade in Egypt in 1937. With the outbreak of WWII Keightley was appointed as the chief administrative officer of the British 1st Armored Division, which participated in the expeditionary force to France. After the failure of the British Expeditionary Force in France, Keightley, with the rest of the British forces and fleeing French units, were evacuated to the United Kingdom. In May 1942 he was given the command of the 6th Armored Division with which he led through the Tunisia Campaign where Erwin Rommel's infamous Africa Korps were defeated. Subsequently the 6th Armored Division participated in the Italian campaign. In Italy Keightley earned several merits to his record and was promoted to the rank of Colonel in April of 1944. Having commanded both Infantry and Armored Units in Italy he was in August 1944 given command go the British Eight Army's V Corps, making him the youngest officer in the British Army commanding a corps of any kind. Due to his outstanding service in the Tunisian and Italian campaigns, Keightley was to be given command of the proposed 'Commonwealth Corps' that would participate in the assumed upcoming naval invasion of Japan. After the war Keightley left the V corps stationed in Austria to become the Director of Military Training at the War Office in London. In 1947 Keightley became the Military Secretary to the British Secretary State of War and in 1949 he assumed command of the British occupational forces of West Germany, the so-called Army of the Rhine. In May 1951 Keightley was promoted to the rank of General and became the Commander-in-Chief of the British Far East Land Forces.

UK Secretary of State for Defense Emanuel Shinwell

'Manny' Shinwell began his political career as a Member of the Parliament for Labour in 1922; in 1929 he was appointed the Financial Secretary to the War Office. His initial tenure in the War Office was short and in 1930 he returned to his position as the Secretary for Mines, a position he had previously held in 1924. Along with a left-wing enclave of Labour MPs he campaigned for an increased role of the United Kingdom in the civil war in Spain, being critical of the Western power's isolationist role. In 1940 he declined to serve under Winston Churchill's coalition government Ministry of Food. After Labour's victory in 1945 he served under Clement Atlee as the Minister of Fuel and Power. During the winter of 1947 he was criticized for his failure to avert a coal shortage in part due to the recent nationalization of the coalmines and instead was transferred to the position as Secretary of State for War until 1950 when he became the Minister of Defense.

Sir Philip McBride

McBride was an Australian politician for the United Australian party and in 1939 served as the Assistant Minister for Commerce until 1940 when he for a short tenure served as the Minister for the Army and Minister for Repatriations in October 1940 he served as the Minister for Munitions until the defeat of Robert Menzie's government in August 1941. Following the election of 1949 he served as the Minister of Interior until 1950 when he became the Minister for Defense until his retirement in 1958. In 1951 he was also the Minister for Air and the Minister for the Navy Australia had at the time a substantial occupational force in Japan following its' defeat in 1945. Furthermore the position of Australia made it an important partner for US forces in the South Pacific and in East Asia.

V. Questions to Consider

1. South Korea was a country the United States helped to establish in 1948, yet initially the United States was uncertain over whether or not to provide military aid to South Korea before and at the start of the Korean War, why do you think the United States was hesitant to defend the country it had just helped put in place?

2. The Korean War can oftentimes be seen as a small proxy war following World War II between the United States and the Soviet Union. It appears to be one of the first clashes of ideology between the United States and Soviet Union post World War II and helped in establishing which country would have dominance in the new world order. Do you think the Korean War could be considered a proxy war, and why do you think ideology can play a large role in military decisions?

3. The Korean War was one of the first instances where the United Nations had a chance to step into a situation and play a major role, something that was not lost on President Wilson as he was debating whether or not to enter the Korean War. If the United Nations had not decided to enter the Korean War, what do you think would have occurred, and more importantly would the United Nations have the legitimacy it does today?

4. China initially was unsure about assisting the Soviet Union and North Korea in the Korean War because they feared United States intervention. Yet China's major role in the war happened after they knew the United States would intervene and they ended up battling against them directly in the end. Why do you think China was hesitant to encounter the United States during the War?

5. When you ask a majority of people their thoughts on North Korea they will respond that they are a rogue communist nation. Yet South Korea is never mentioned as having the authoritative government and measures they did for much of their early years. Why do you think this is, and does the fact that we live in the United States influence our views of North and South Korea?

VI. Suggested Sites

For general information regarding international affairs and country profiles:

CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/

BBC World News Country Profiles: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

For more about the UN and the First Committee (DISEC):

UN Charter: http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/

Security Council Charter: http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter5.shtml

UN General Assembly Resolution Database: http://www.un.org/documents/resga.htm

UN Security Council Resolution Database: http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/

United Nations Treaty Collection: https://treaties.un.org/

For Model UN tips and guidelines:

Best Delegate: http://bestdelegate.com/

VII.   Works Cited

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