

# North Korea-South Korea

## History of the Division of Korea

The division of Korea was an unexpected casualty of the escalating Cold War between two rival superpowers: the Soviet Union and the United States while Korea was not involved, at all.

For centuries before the division, Korea was a single, unified Korea, ruled by generation of dynastic kingdoms.

After winning the First Sino-Japanese War in 1910, Japan annexed the Korean Peninsula. From 1910 until 1945, for 35 years, Korea was part of the Japanese Empire.

In 1945, Japan lost the World War II. Korea's fate then decided in the hands of the allied powers. But due to some miscalculations of when Japan surrendered, the Soviet Union who had lost a war with Japan called Russo-Japanese War, went to Korea and crushed the Japanese army. The US troops who was absent in Korea at that time then suggested temporary division to prevent the Soviet from taking over the entire Korea.

Two Americans, Dean Rusk and Charles Bonesteel, come up with the idea of splitting Korea into two and divided by what's called "The 38th Parallel". The divide was meant to be a provisional administration arrangement and Korea was to be brought back together under a new government. This was done without Korea having a word in it. The US took the South that include the more modern city of Seoul and the Soviet get the North which had heavy industries. Soviet Leader, Josep Stalin, and President of USA, Roosevelt, agreed to the split. Again, without Korea involved.

In 1945, the United Nation scheduled elections in both parts of Korea to form one democratically elected government but the lack of trust between the US and Soviet Union made the election unsuccessful.

- In South, the US supported Syngman Rhee, an anti communist, as the leader and the Republic of Korea (ROK) was established, taking control over the US military.

Japan annexed Korea

The Soviet Union come to Korea to crush Japanese army and planning on taking over Korea

The US suggested a temporary division by splitting Korea into two to prevent Soviet taking over Korea

UN to conduct elections to form one government in Korea but failed.

Syngman Rhee became the leader in South and Kim Il-Sung in North

- In North, the Soviet supported Kim Il-Sung, who once fought in Red Army, as the leader of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

By 1949, all US and Soviet forces had withdrawn from Korea. But the Soviet's and Communist China had armed North Koreans with weapons and funding while the US refuse to give them any weapons and leaving them ill-equipped for a war.

In 1950, Kim Il-Sung under the direction of Joseph Stalin, crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea in order to rule the whole peninsula. The UN Security Council voted to intervene in Korea when the Soviet wasn't there to vote. The US military lead the UN expeditionary forces to protect South Korea. This was the start of 3 years long Korean War. Nearly 5 million people died during Korean War, more than half of these were civilians. This war make the spilt more permanent.

In 1953, North and Sout Korea sign an armistice agreement creating a de facto international border. Armistice agreement is not a peace treaty so technically, they're still at war. After that, both side built barriers, 4km wide Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) was set up along the 38th parallel to prevent more blood being spilled and stop each other crossing the border

The two nations now as difference as two contries could be. The North was strictly communist with its Korean workers party and the South espoused capitalism and individual freedom.

With continuing strong ties to the West (and an ongoing U.S. military presence), South Korea developed a robust economy, and in recent decades has made steps toward becoming a fully democratic nation.

Meanwhile, North Korea remained an isolated "hermit kingdom"—particularly after the collapse of the Soviet bloc in the early 1990s—and economically underdeveloped, as well as a virtual police state ruled by a single family for three generations.

The North's dedicated efforts to develop a nuclear program have also greatly heightened tensions with South Korea and its allies, particularly the United States.

Sources: A bunch of articles on internet and videos from Youtube

US and Soviet forces withdrawn from Korea, but Soviet and China armed North Korea with weapons

Kim Il-Sung backed by Soviet invaded South Korea and the Korean War begin.

North and South Korea sign an armistice agreement and set Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) along the 38th Parallel to prevent this whole thing happening again

South Korea and North Korea Today

<https://www.history.com/news/north-south-korea-divided-reasons-facts>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War>

<https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/040515/why-north-korea-south-korea-are-separated.asp>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOE9KeI8BtE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBPwM1Takwg>