

**Forum:** *HSC (Historic Security Council)*

**Issue:** The question of dealing with the Korean Conflict - 23rd June 1950

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## Introduction

We as the historic security council will deal with the Korean conflict from the point of view of the 23rd June 1950, two days before the actual outbreak of the war. We will recap the situation before the war and try to find a solution best as possible to defuse the tense situation. It is crucial to keep in mind that all developments exceeding that date will not be part of the conference.

The Korean conflict was an event of great importance because it developed into an international military conflict and involved the United Nations. It marks the first real proxy war in a series of major conflicts between the two dominating superpowers, USA and USSR, during the Cold War. However, in the Korean war the capitalistic United States of America fought in place of the UN against China, and the communist Soviet Union was indirectly involved due to the ideological conflict.

Although the main goal was a unified Korea, both powers tried to spread their international influence as well as their ideology during the time of the Cold War by joining the Korean war.

Despite often being referred to as “the forgotten war” the Korean War was one of the worst conflicts in the 20th Century. Since there was no military victory for any side, only a signed armistice, the conflict itself did not settle and until today Korea remains as a separate country.

## Definition of Key Terms

## 38th Parallel

The 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel is the line which separates the Korean Peninsula in two. The north and the south. It was intended to separate the peninsula into two sectors of occupation. The territory north of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel was occupied by the Soviet Union and the area south of it was occupied by the United States.

## Cold War

The term describes the conflict between the capitalist western world lead by the USA and the communist Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its satellites. The rivalry emerged after the Second World War ended and the Anti-Hitler coalition fell apart. The political tension grew between the blocks as both tried to increase their sphere of influence.

## Resolution 82

The resolution 82 was submitted by the security council on June 25th 1950 and dealt with the “complaint of aggression upon the Republic of Korea”. It demanded the immediate withdrawal of North Korean armed forces in South Korea and therefore made North Korea the aggressor. Resolution 82 passed with nine votes in favor, zero against and one abstention. It is important to know that this resolution has no effect on our committee work since this happened after our session.

## Background Information

In 1910 the expanding Japanese Empire established a colony on the Korean peninsula. During the course of the Second World War the power of the Japanese Empire began to descend. At the Cairo Conference in 1943 the leaders of the Anti-Hitler coalition discussed the further policy regarding Japan and its colonies. Korea was agreed to regain independence in due course after the Allied victory. After the Japanese surrender the United States occupied the southern territory of Korea and the USSR occupied the north. The two powers agreed to divide the country alongside the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and thereby establish two new nations. It was decided on a five year trusteeship, during which a provisional Korean government would prepare for full independence. The USSR as

well as the US agreed to form a commission with the purpose of assisting with the establishment of a unified, democratic Korea. However the trusteeship was opposed by the majority of Koreans as they had hoped to gain full independence as a unified country.

### Development in south Korea

The provisional government in south of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel was lead by the Korean nationalist Syngman Rhee. In 1946 South Korea was facing a hunger crisis. During this crisis Syngman Rhee was granted totalitarian powers. The USA started to reduce its influence within the country and in March 1948 the UN proposed elections. Rhee used the police to rig the elections and won the in the south. He proclaimed the “Republic of Korea” despite large protests within his country especially by communists. Syngman Rhee openly followed the goal to reunify Korea by force. As a result of this position the American-trained South Korean army was limited and lacked in heavy artillery in order to avoid a military conflict. The US continued its withdrawal from the peninsula and by 1949 close to no US military was left in Korea.

### Development in north Korea

In February 1946, an Interim People's Committee led by Kim Il Sung became the first central government. Kim Il Sung planned on establishing a communist state in the northern occupation zone and then further expand his influence. Kim Il Sung won the official elections in the north. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established on September 9, 1948. Shortly after the elections Kim cut the power supply for south Korea. Kim attempted to limit the influence of the Soviet Union within the Democratic People's Republic. The majority of the Soviet forces was withdrawn by 1949 and only a few soviet advisers remained in Korea. While a few Soviet advisers remained in Korea the majority of Soviet forces was withdrawn by 1949. The Korean People's army of North Korea expanded rapidly. Neither the North nor the South Korean government recognized the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel as a legitimate border, resulting in an increasing number of violent incidents at the border.

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

## United States of America

The United States of America (USA/US) was the one of the most powerful nations after the end of World War II. It controlled numerous territories around the world before they established their own government and majorly influenced them. Furthermore the US was seen as the leader of the western world.

## First Republic of Korea

The First Republic of Korea was established after World War II. It controlled the territory south of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. Before the republic was established the territory was occupied by US troops. The government of the republic aligned with the US and wanted to unify the Korean Peninsula “by force”.

## People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China was proclaimed by the communist leader Mao Zedong on 1 October 1949. It was the result of a brutal civil war. The former leader fled to Taiwan and established a separate state the “Republic of China” . Both claimed to be the rightful government of China.

## Democratic People's Republic of Korea

North of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) formed after the occupation of the Soviet Union. Thus it aligned with the communist countries such as the PRC. The DPRK was the initiator of the Korean conflict and also sought to unify the Korean Peninsula.

## Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was the first major communistic states in the world and proliferated the adoption of their communist doctrine in other nations. They initially decided to withhold their forces from the conflict. The USSR controlled the northern part of the Korean Peninsula which would eventually become the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
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August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1945	End of World War II in Asia
December 27 <sup>th</sup> , 1945	Moscow Conference
September 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1945	US establish provisional government in the south
February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1946	Establishment of Soviet government in the north
August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1948	First Republic of Korea established
September 9 <sup>th</sup> , 1948	DPRK is formed
January 12 <sup>th</sup> , 1949	Dean Acheson declares Korea as not vital to defence in Asia
September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1949	Soviet Union tested their first nuclear bomb
October 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1949	People's Republic of China proclaimed
June 25 <sup>th</sup> , 1950	Troops of the DPRK cross 38 <sup>th</sup> Parallel

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Cairo Declaration, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1943 (result of Cairo Conference 1943)
- Moscow Declaration, 27<sup>th</sup> December 1945 (result of Moscow Conference 1945)

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

At the Cairo conference the US, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and the Republic of China already decided that Korea should become free and independent. During the Moscow Conference the participating nations decided that they would work towards a single unified Korea. The Soviet Union and the US would set up a commission to prepare the region for its independence. However the tensions between the US and Soviet Union increased due to the emerging nuclear arms race. Furthermore the situation in Europe increased the probability of war. Likewise the persecution of politicians which were aligned with Soviet Union in the southern sector put further strain on the relations of the US and Soviet Union. All of these worsened relations and thus cooperation on the Korean peninsula became increasingly unrealistic.

## Possible Solutions

As evident from the previous attempts to unify Korea, it seems nearly impossible to reunite the country. However remaining two separate states may lead to further escalation of the emerging conflict.

The solution that was submitted by the security council on this matter was Resolution 82 in 1950.

One possibility how we may deal with the situation of the divided country could be to establish a UN - supervised provisional government to monitor and intervene Korea's military actions.

Another method to restrict military intentions is to implement a demilitarization in order to avoid further military actions.

The enforcement of the Human Rights and the protection of Korean citizens should be remain the priority of the UN.

Beside these possible solutions please also keep possible negative side effects in mind that might

occur along those.

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