

Running Head; KOREAN WAR

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The North Korean War

Lindsay High School

Jazmin Espinoza

After WWII, Korea was divided in half and the North zone was left as a communist zone. This created many issues because the North didn't like that; they wanted both sides to be communist. Eventually they tried to invade the South to make it become communist. Then because U.S didn't want communism to spread they decided to help South Korea. Because of this a war was started between North Korea and the U.S. It caused many deaths and conflicts are still arising today.

Before the war between the U.S and Korea, Japan and Russian had both tried to take over; it was known as the Russo-Japanese war. That war was won by Japan who ended up taking over Korea. Later at the Yalta conference they created a four-power trusteeship for Korea; this meant that the U.S., U.K., Soviet Union, and China were in charge of the government and the elections in Korea. There was also an agreement that both the U.S and the Soviet Union would take control of Korea. This divided the country with the 38th parallel; a latitudinal line that bisected the country," (Esley). The South was now controlled by the U.S while the North was controlled by Russia. It was set up that way because they were both supposed to just try to help rebuild and stabilize Korea. Instead the "Soviet Union set up a People's Democratic Republic in North Korea which meant that the North was now communist. At the same time the United States helped establish the Republic of South Korea." (William,2011) Since China and Russia were allies China was also involved and helped South Korea.

Since North Korea really wanted to spread communism and wanted resources they tried to force the South into communism; this initiated the war. They saw South Korea as an opportunity to get both of the things they wanted and therefore decided to invade it. Crossing through the 38th parallel, the north attacked the south. They planned to take Seoul, the capital of South Korea and were able to. When the U.S saw this, they immediately decided to get involved

and help the South. "The United Nations Security Council responded to the attack by adopting (a 9-0 vote) a resolution that condemned the invasion as a "breach of the peace." The Council did not have a Soviet delegate, since 6 months prior..." (Esley). They came to the agreement that they would get involved in helping the south fight against their oppressors.

As a way to stop the spread of communism the U.S and other nations decide to help by sending in troops through the 38th Parallel. Under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, the united nations were able to help the South take back their capital. Because Japan used to control all of Korea before the Soviets did, they too among 16 other nations decided to help the South and sent troops. Mac Arthur's attack wasn't successful because Joseph Stalin had also sent troops to help North Korea; the UN forces had to retreat. Because of this Seoul was again taken over by the North.

Due to Mac Arthur's previous accusations towards people in the government he believed were communist, there was a lot of talk about him. Eventually when he accused a known army general he became very infamous to the people. Before he accused the general he was paid much attention by Truman and people had become concerned. After that people didn't believe him and he just left it alone. Later when Truman was trying to make a decision of what to do about Korea, Mac Arthur proposed using the bomb; knowing Russia also had one. Truman didn't agree with that and because McCarthy opposed him he was fired.

Once again the UN forces crossed the 38th parallel and took back Seoul. "That victory and Chinese restraint led to a preliminary conference in June, who soon bogged down over the issues of where to fix the boundary line between the two armies and how to deal with prisoners of war" (Korean War) because he wanted them to voluntarily pay for reparations.

Then on November 1952 Dwight Eisenhower was elected; Harry Truman was no longer in charge. Eisenhower during his presidency used the atomic bomb as threat to other nations. This was known as the Brinkmanship which meant going to the most extent to try to threaten others into doing what he wants. Although he tried to this to Joseph Stalin he wasn't able to get him to leave South Korea alone because soon after, on March 1953 Joseph Stalin died. Stalin's position was then taken over by Nikita Khrushchev. After that China was the most involved in helping North Korea. Then after years of war, with the threat of the bomb, and with so much pressure China finally agreed to stop. Communists agreed to pay for all reparations. Both the U.S and China ended up signing the armistice treaty which meant that the war was ended. "The agreement reached for a demilitarized zone two and a half miles wide to separate the opposing forces, ... it permitted North Korea to hold 850 square miles south of the 38th parallel, but gave 2,350 square miles (above the parallel) to South Korea... neither side would increase its military strength during the armistice." (How Stuff Works, 1998). As a result the war had no effect everything remained the same except for many people were killed.

Today this war has left many controversy and problems are still arising because of it. It is said that North Korea has built an atomic bomb and plans to use it against the U.S to try to get back at them. Many people have become concerned about this issue. Rumors have started and some are saying that the leader of North Korea has been threatening the U.S. Although some people have become alerted there are also others that remain very skeptical. President Obama has been trying to address the people about this issue by saying, "Based on our current intelligence assessments, we do not think that they have that capacity." (Mullen, 2013). Until now, no one is very sure about what is really going to happen and not everyone is very well

informed but if that was to happen a new war would probably be started involving not only North, South Korea and the U.S, but there allies too.

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