

Objectives

- Explain how Mao Zedong and the communists gained power in China.
- Describe the causes and progress of the war in Korea.
- Identify the long-term effects of the Korean War.



Terms and People

- **Jiang Jieshi** – Nationalist leader in China
- **Mao Zedong** – communist leader in China
- **38th parallel** – dividing line between North Korea and South Korea
- **Douglas MacArthur** – World War II hero who commanded American troops in South Korea
- **limited war** – war fought to achieve only specific goals

Terms and People (continued)

- **SEATO** – Southeast Asia Treaty Organization; defensive alliance aimed at preventing the spread of communism in Southeast Asia



How did President Truman use the power of the presidency to limit the spread of communism in East Asia?

In the early 1950s, Cold War tensions erupted in East Asia, where **communist and non-communist forces** struggled for control of Korea.

Before World War II, China had been torn apart by a brutal civil war.

Pro-government
Nationalists

- Led by **Jiang Jieshi**
- Supported by the United States

Communist
revolutionaries

- Led by **Mao Zedong**
- Supported by the Soviet Union

During WWII, the two sides formed an uneasy alliance to fight Japan.

Once the war ended, however, civil war broke out once again, with renewed fury.

Despite U.S. aid, Jiang's government faltered.

- Nationalist generals were reluctant to fight.
- Corruption was rampant.

Mao built support by promising food to the starving population. Communist forces soon dominated.

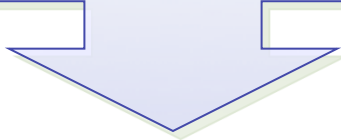
Jiang fled to Taiwan.

Mao took control of the mainland, renaming it the People's Republic of China.



Mao's victory deeply shocked Americans.

Communists seemed to be winning everywhere, extending their reach throughout the world.



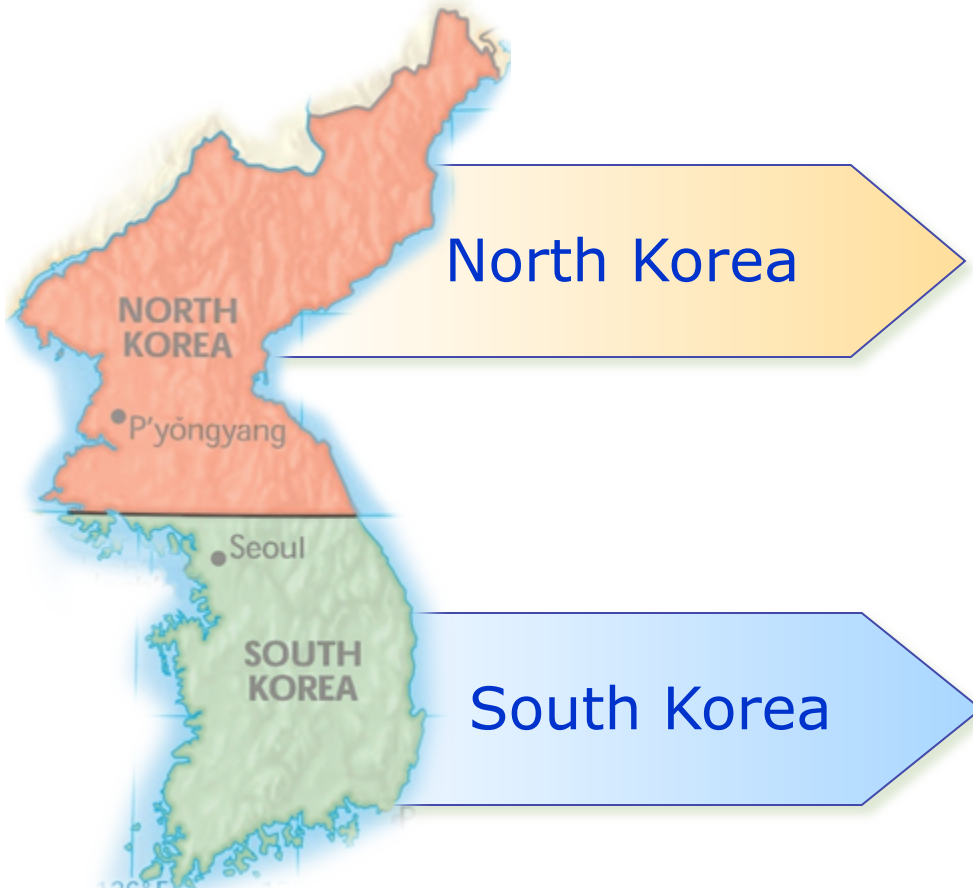
Communist regimes now controlled:

- one fourth of the world's landmass
- one third of the world's population

The next battleground was on the Korean peninsula.

After World War II, Korea was divided into two countries along the **38th parallel**.

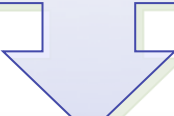




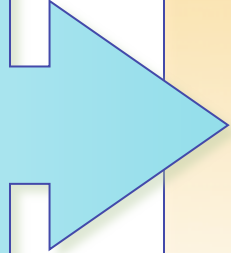
The Soviet Union supported North Korea and established a **communist** government there.

The United States provided aid to **noncommunist** South Korea.

The crisis began in June, 1950.



North Korean troops, armed with Soviet equipment, crossed the 38th parallel and attacked South Korea.

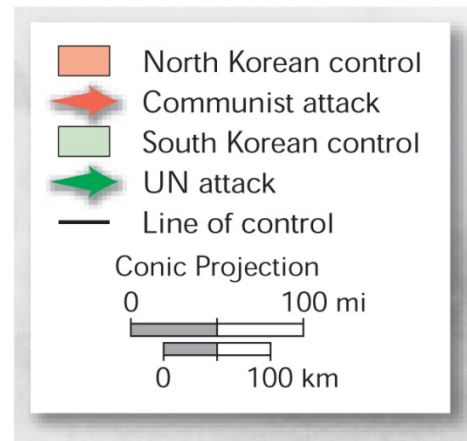


Communist forces advanced far into the South, taking over much of the peninsula.



Forces from the **U.S.** and other **UN** countries arrived to help their South Korean allies.

They halted their retreat near **Pusan**.



American troops in South Korea were led by WWII hero **Douglas MacArthur**.

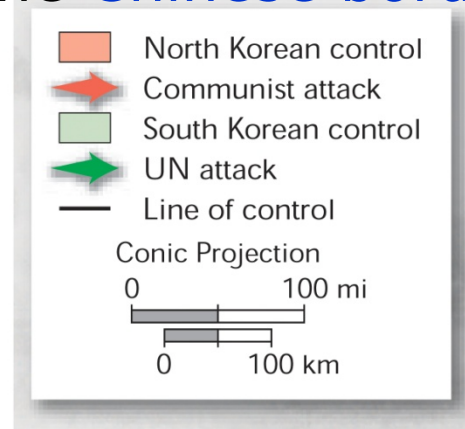


MacArthur devised a bold **counterattack** designed to drive the invaders from South Korea.

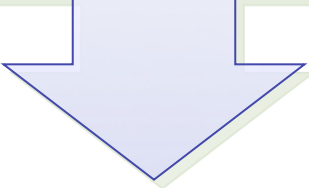


MacArthur's plan worked.

In the fall of 1950, a surprise landing at **Inchon** helped UN forces push the North Koreans to the **Chinese border**.



The situation worsened when China entered the war, sending 300,000 troops across the border into North Korea.

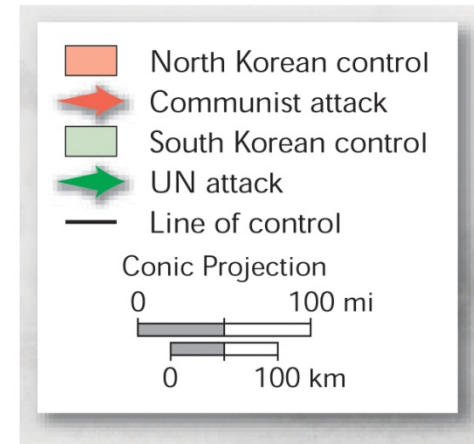


- The Chinese attacked U.S. and South Korean positions.
- Badly outnumbered, UN troops were forced to **retreat**.

China Enters the War



During the winter of 1950 and 1951, communist forces pushed UN troops to the 37th parallel.



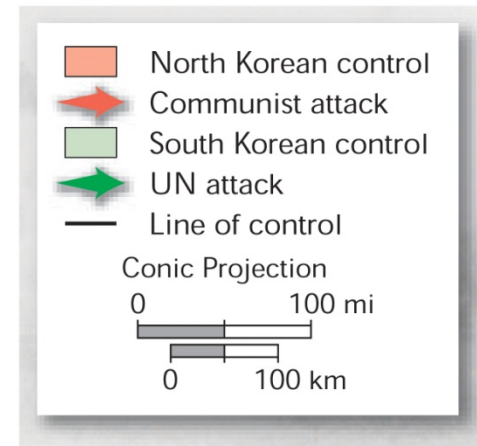
The U.S. now faced the possibility of all-out war against the world's most populous nation.

MacArthur favored invading China to win a total victory.

Truman refused. He favored a **limited war** to help stabilize South Korea.



By the spring of 1951, UN forces secured their position near the 38th parallel, and a tense **stalemate** began.



In 1953, the two sides agreed to a cease-fire. This agreement remains in effect today.

There was **no clear winner** in the Korean War, but the conflict had lasting effects in the U.S.

- Military spending increases.
- Military commitments increase worldwide.
- **SEATO** contains communism in Asia.
- Future Presidents send the military into combat without Congressional approval.

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

