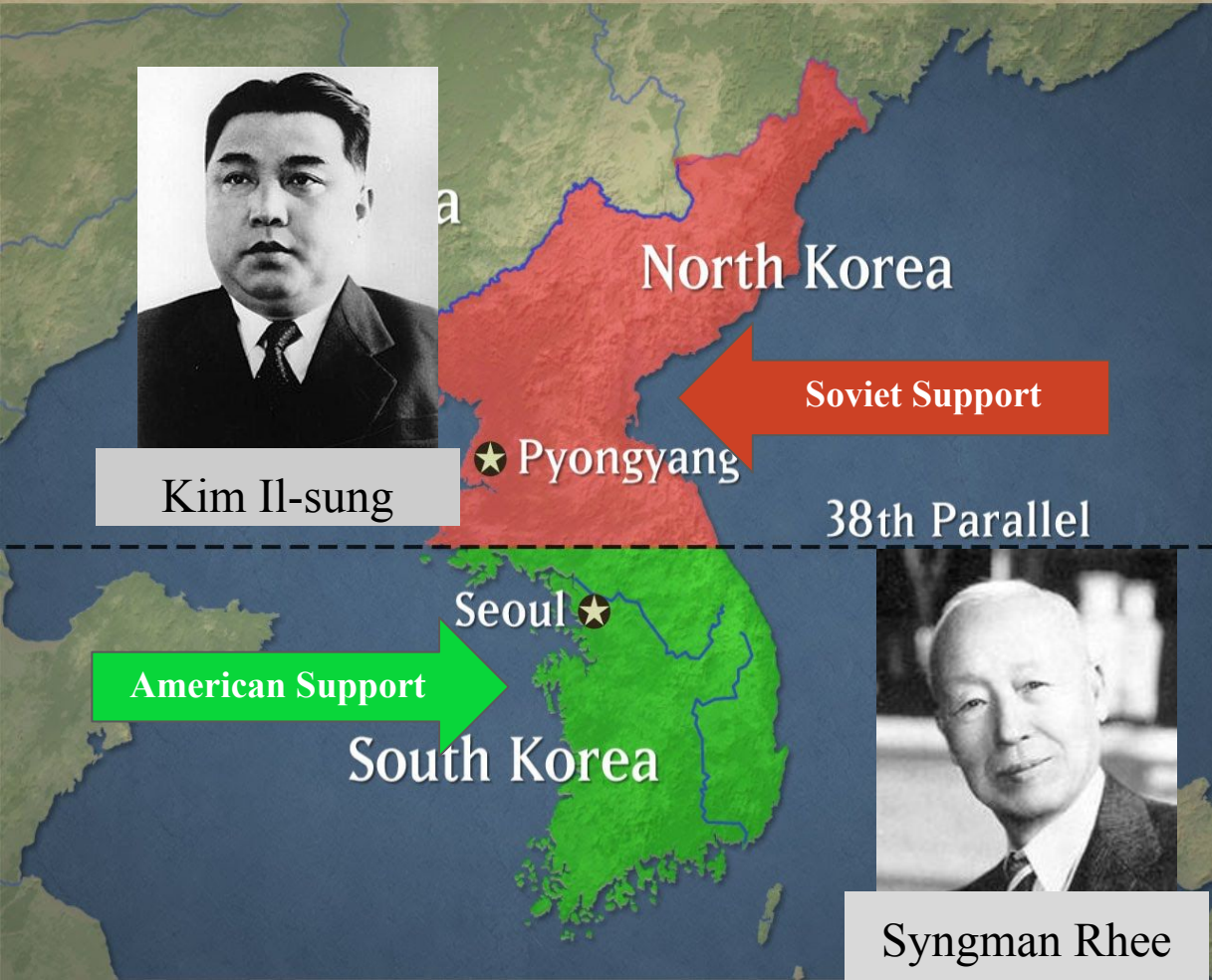




The Korean War

At the start of the Cold War, communist North Korea went to war with its capitalist neighbour. The bloody conflict lasted from 1950 to 1953

Korea and 38th Parallel



Kim Il-sung

★ Pyongyang

North Korea

Soviet Support

38th Parallel

American Support

South Korea

Seoul ★



Syngman Rhee

- As WWII ended in the Pacific
 - United States & Soviet Union agreed:
 - Japanese soldiers in north Korea would surrender to Soviet Forces
 - Japanese soldiers in south Korea would surrender to U.S. forces
 - 38th Parallel marked the split

Korea and 38th Parallel



- 38th parallel known also as “the line of demarcation”
- The line continued after WWII
 - Soviets established the government in the North
 - U.S. established the government in the South
- Both the Soviets and the United States wanted to unite North and South Korea under their own control

Korea and 38th Parallel



- North Korea had military superiority
 - Provided by Soviet Union
- South Korea weaker military
 - Supplied by the U.S.
- Soviet leader, Stalin, favored and backed a planned North Korean invasion of South Korea
- June 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea in a massive attack
- United Nations condemned North Korea's action
- Ordered military help to South Korea

Effects of Soviet Invasion of South Korea

- Just like in Europe, the United States wanted to ensure no other Asian nations fell to communism.
- Soviets could have blocked the United Nation Security Council's order to send troops to South Korea by its "absolute veto" power
 - However, the Soviet Union delegation had boycotted the United Nations because of the United Nations' refusal to admit Mao's communist People's Republic of China as a UN member
 - UN forces, primarily American troops, were deployed to stop the North Korean invasion

The Korean War (aka Korean "Conflict")

- President Truman called the war a "**police action**" because he never asked Congress to pass an official declaration of war
- Early in the war, American backed UN and South Korean forces were overwhelmed by a better-supplied Soviet backed North Korean army.



General Douglas MacArthur

U.S. Marines made a surprise amphibious landing at the strategic port of Inchon, on the west coast of Korea, about 100 miles south of the 38th parallel and 25 miles from Seoul.

Broke North Korean supply lines and pushed inland to recapture Seoul.

- (4 Aug – 18 Sep)
- 140,000 UN troops pushed to the brink of defeat but rallied at the Pusan Perimeter
- UN troops hold and North Korea is forced back after a counter attack at Inchon

-Punch

The landing at Inchon changed the course of the war; however, the conflict later settled into a long, bloody stalemate that did not end until a July 1953 armistice.





- MacArthur's UN forces pushed the North Korean forces all the way to the Yalu River deep into their own territory
 - Yalu River was the boundary between North Korea and the People's Republic of China
 - China repeatedly warned that if the UN and South Korean forces continued their advance, China would enter the war
 - Truman supported a "limited war" policy for fear of starting WWII with China
 - MacArthur wanted to continue; believing China would not fight

JAN. 1951 - JULY 1953



- China did enter the war in October 1950
 - Struck with 270,000 (400,000) troops and attacked UN positions
 - Chinese forces quickly retreated
 - UN forces advanced
 - Chinese opened a new front and crushed the UN advance
 - Created the longest retreat of American forces in American history
 - **Chosin River:** Chinese (120,000) surrounded 30,000 American troops
 - C. 15,000 casualties
- MacArthur criticized Truman's "limited war" policy
 - Requested nuclear weapons against the Chinese
 - Truman fired MacArthur in April 1951
 - Truman did not run for a second term as president

After halting the CCF advance, the U.N. forces conducted a series of well executed attacks, recovering Seoul. Hostilities eventually ceased along on Armistice line located near the 38th Parallel.

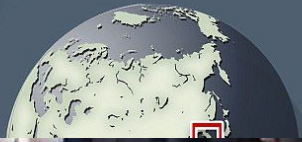


- Both armies eventually regrouped at the 38th parallel
 - Stalemate resulted
- Stalin died in 1953 and North Korea could no longer rely on the Soviet Union for the same support
- President Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president of the United States in 1952
 - He visited Korea
 - Sped up the armistice of 1953
 - Set the boundary between North and South Korea at the 38th parallel
 - A demilitarized zone (DMZ) was set up



■ Kaechon

■ Chongpyong



■ Daegu

■ Gwangju

■ Busan

■ Mokpo

- North Korean troops on one side and South Korean and American troops on the other
- No formal peace treaty ending the Korean “War” had ever been signed until:
 - This year when the leaders of North and South Korea, Kim Jong-Un and Moon Jae-in met to officially end the War.
- Between 34,000 to 37,000 Americans died in the Korean War (36,568)
 - Over 8000 have been designated as missing in action and have not been recovered.
 - 600,000 Chinese/2 mill Koreans