

## Korean War

### Cause:

- After WWII Korea was split between the North (communist) and South (dictatorial/capitalist) along the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel
- US knew if they left the South alone, the more militarily powerful North would take over
- 1947, negotiations to unite the Korea's failed, so the UN stepped in; provided for elections of a national assembly, however when they tried to enter the North for elections they were refused entry – therefore, elections were held in the South, USSR responded by installing communist government in the North

### The War:

- North launched invasion of South on June 25, 1950
  - o Truman Doctrine was now applied to Asia
- Seoul, the South's capital, was taken in the first few days – North controlled the entire peninsula except for the southeast corner around the port city Pusan.
- UN asked member countries to assist the South
- US played upon fears of communism and the Domino Theory to gain mass public support for troop to be sent
- UN force was made up of; 50% US, 40% South Korean, 10% from 14 other nations – equipment and supplies were provided by the U.S.
- General MacArthur was put in charge of the operation, by October 1950 the UN forces were able to push the North back across the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel.
- Was given the ability to push into North Korea so long as they did not engage Chinese or Soviet forces = goal was now to crush communism in North Korea.
- China thought that the US would attack them once they were finished with North Korea, so they sent troops into North, Seoul was retaken by the North in November 1950.
- Truman responded by discussing the use of the A-Bomb with MacArthur, instead he increased military spending (\$13.5 billion to \$50 billion per year) and increased the US standing army to 3.5 million – fired MacArthur
- February 1951 pushed North back to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel.
- Truman changed policy in Korea to containment = **limited war (nation fights for limited objectives, do not use all firepower to achieve them, no nuclear weapons)**
- 1953, UN establishes demilitarized zone on the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel
- Casualties = US 33,741 dead, 92,134 wounded, 4,820 MIA, 7,245 POW (2,847 died in camps)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Client War of the Cold War (war fought without the superpowers fighting directly, but still trying to achieve their superpower interests)
- US would increase military presence in Asia
  - o Sept. 1951 = ANZUS Pact with Australia and New Zealand (the US not Britain was now their protector)
  - o 1954 = SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) US, Britain, France, Australia, NZ, Pakistan, Philippines, and Thailand – mutual defence agreement (NATO for Asia)

- Saw Japan as an ally against communist expansion in Asia = capital investment and transfer of technology = economic recovery for Japan, could rearm for defensive purposes only.