

5HD450 Chapters in History of the Cold War

4. Korean War.



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání

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Precursions of the Forgotten War

- **Defeat of Japan in World War II**

- Protectorate in 1905, annexed in 1910
- Provisional government in China – communists led the war against Japan
- 1937 cultural assimilation of Koreans
- Korean resources used during World War II



- **Division of Korea along the 38th parallel**

- Colonel Rusk: *"... even though it was further north than could be realistically reached by U.S. forces, in the event of Soviet disagreement... we felt it important to include the capital of Korea in the area of responsibility of American troops."*
- Administered by a joint committee – Korean protests
- Independence after 5 years



- **Cold War tensions**

- General elections – May x August 1948

- **Two legitimate governments + no permanent border**

- North Korea supported by the USSR (established August 1948)
- South Korea supported by the U.S. (established July 1948)



- Civil war escalated into open war

Outbreak of the Unknown War



- **June 1950 North Korea attacked South Korea**
 - Double influence of China
 - USSR sceptical in March 1949, later in early 1950 supportive
 - North militarily superior over the South, Soviet generals sent as advisors
- **U.S. not that concerned with East Asia compared to Europe X counteraction of Soviets X proximity to Japan X possible spreading of war – Chinese and Soviet involvement**
 - Truman: *“Communism was acting in Korea, just as Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese had ten, fifteen, and twenty years earlier. I felt certain that if South Korea was allowed to fall, Communist leaders would be emboldened to override nations closer to our own shores. If the Communists were permitted to force their way into the Republic of Korea without opposition from the free world, no small nation would have the courage to resist threat and aggression by stronger Communist neighbors.”*
- **UN dispatched UN Forces very fast – Soviet protests**
 - Supported by 21 countries
 - Almost 90 % military personnel provided by the U.S.
- South seriously unprepared – no tanks, no heavy artillery, Seoul fell within 3 days, within 2 months **South Korea almost defeated**



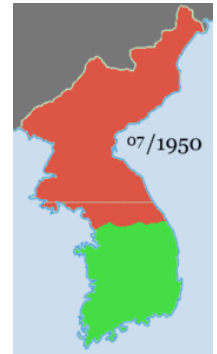
Escalation of the warfare

- Japan essential for UN military and material support
- August – September 1950 Battle of Pusan Perimeter
- **September 1950 restoration of South Korean government in Seoul – massacres**
- **October 1950 UN and U.S. troops crossing the 38th parallel, Pyongyang captured, China entered the war**
- **November 1950 Home-by-Christmas Offensive**
– victory of Chinese army, Seoul conquered
- **April 1951 Chinese Spring Offensive**
– stalemate north of the 38th parallel “Line Kansas”



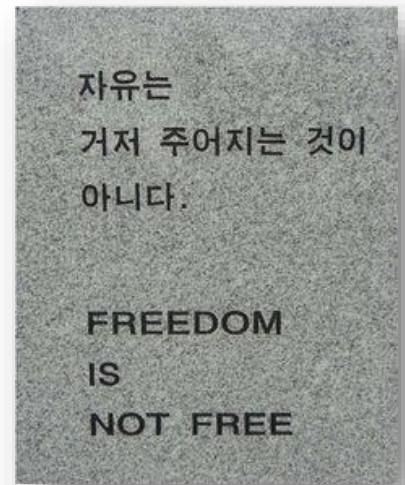
Reaching the armistice

- **July 1951 armistice negotiations began**
- After 1951 war of attrition – military stalemate, battles continued
- **July 1953 end of war – India's proposal of armistice was signed**
- **Creation of Korean Demilitarized Zone**
- **No peace treaty – technically still at war**
- Relative lack of public attention
- 2,5 mil. dead or wounded,
0,5 mil. from South Korea,
37 ths. from U.S., 400 ths. total UN,
1,5 mil. from North Korea, China
+ milion civilian casualties, homeless



Aftermath

- **1953 Mutual Defense Treaty** – U.S. + South Korea
– Vietnam War (economic prosperity – Asian Dragon)
- **North Korea – economic, military ... help from communist countries**
- **1975 North Korea planned for another attack**
- 1976 Axe Murder incident
- Since 1974 4 tunnels to Seoul uncovered
- 2010 South Korean marine and military personnel casualties
- **2013 North Korea entered the state of war,**
potential usage of weapon against South Korea, Japan, and the U.S.
- 2016 North Korea ready for formal peace talks X no nuclear disarmament
- 2018 North Korean, South Korean, and United States leaders met – possibility of peaceful coexistence and nuclear disarmament



Readings & videos

- Documentaries

BBC The Cold War – Korea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYeWURHhr04>

Cold War History Videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVqziNV7dGY> 😊
- <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history/videos>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/>

- Specialized Resources / Collections / Cold War Files

- <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project>
- <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collections>
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/themes/world_politics/cold_war/default.stm
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20080411004848/http://www.coldwarfiles.org/index.cfm?thisunit=0&fuseaction=events.list>
- <http://www.avclub.com/special/cold-war/timeline>



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