



# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

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## Historical Security Council

**Topic:** The Korean War

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### I. Committee Background

The Security Council (SC) focuses on maintaining international peace and security, accomplishing this task by determining the existence of a possible act of aggression or threat to peace. When such risks are detected, the council must call upon the parties to settle their disputes in a peaceful manner, recommending methods of adjustment or settlement. In extreme cases, the council has the authority to impose sanctions or authorize the use of military action for the purpose of maintaining order. In addition, the SC is also involved in the recommendation of Secretary Generals to the General Assembly (GA) and in the election of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) judges ("Charter of the United Nations", 2013).

The Security Council is one of the main 6 bodies of the United Nations ("Structure and Organization", 2013). It is made up of 5 permanent member states and ten non-permanent members. The five permanent members, also known as the P-5, are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America ("Members of the Security Council", 2013). These states hold the power to veto any resolution they disagree with. The rest of the SC members are elected by the General Assembly and serve for two-year terms. In the case that a non-member state holds a valuable and relevant position in the issue being discussed by the Council, the nation may participate in the discussion but cannot vote on a resolution. Non-member participation is decided and regulated by the member-states of the SC. According to the UN Charter, decisions made by the SC are binding and member-states of the UN must carry out the resolutions agreed upon ("The United Nations Security Council", 2013). Therefore, resolutions passed by the committee are final. Finally, in order for a resolution to pass in the Security Council, at least 9 of the 15 members need to approve the proposal. The only exception to this rule is when a P-5 country vetoes the proposal, meaning it does not pass ("Charter of the United Nations", 2013).

### II. Introduction

#### Description and Definition of the Topic

In the middle of the 20th century, the destruction caused by the Second World War was tremendous and left several countries in a very vulnerable state. However, the Allied nations had a newfound sense of strength and superiority. This combination led to a series of struggles that would define the balance of power for the upcoming years. The most prominent of all was the Cold War: a period of massive tension between the United States and the Soviet Union (USSR) as both nations sought to prove their superiority over the other. As a result of the turmoil, several other countries were also caught in this conflict's wake, suffering due to the ongoing

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power struggle. In the middle of this historic conflict, the U.S. and the USSR turned their attention to Korea, had been a Japanese colony from 1910 until 1945. As a way to gain influence in the Korean Peninsula, the U.S. decided to temporarily divide Korea, Russia's neighbor (Stack, 2018). Of course, this decision left the Asian nation with no central power, which led to an eruption of conflicts across the region.

As Korea went through these conflicts with no one in power, a feeling of vulnerability increased tensions among the whole country. However, the Soviet and American governments were fully aware of the situation and decided to take action. The Americans struck first, as they decided to support an anti-communist organization, which was based in Korea's southern region. In 1948, the Korean group declared itself the Republic of Korea, and they were led by Syngman Rhee. The appointment of such a leader was no mere coincidence, as Rhee had lived in exile in the U.S. for several years. The Soviet government was also quick to take action, as they decided to back a communist organization based in Korea's northern region (Millett, 2019). As a response to the declarations from the anti-communists, the Soviet-backed administration declared themselves the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The party was led by Kim Il-sung, a soldier who fought alongside communist forces in the Chinese civil war.

## The Problem

The persistent power struggle constantly fueled by global superpowers created a massive rift between the northern and southern regions. As both regimes sought to take control, it became clear that neither would accept the other's legitimacy. Instead, the parties each considered themselves to be Korea's rightful ruler (Stack, 2018). As a result, border skirmishes between the two became pretty frequent, until the conflicts erupted. On June 25, 1950, about 75,000 North Korean soldiers invaded southern lands, which marked the commencement of the Korean War (The Korean War, 2009). With both opposing regimes fighting alongside foreign nations, their own struggle for power and control is reminiscent of a different one entirely. The Korean War brought along with it almost 5 million casualties, many of which included several thousands of civilians (History, 2019).

## III. History of the Topic

### Chronological History of the Topic

The Korean Peninsula was seized as part of the Japanese Empire early on in the 20th century. The Japanese would control the peninsula until after WW2 when the U.S. and its allies defeated the Japanese Empire (Blakemore, 2018). In August of 1945, the Americans and Soviets divided Korea and established the 38th parallel, a boundary that separates the U.S. and U.S.S.R. occupation zones in Korea (38th Parallel, 2019). By 1950, both superpowers had established a government with drastically different ideologies and objectives on each side of the border. Eventually, this drastic difference in ideas set the stage for the Korean War, seeing that both rulers wanted to reunite the peninsula, but only under their own rule. In fact, before the start of

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the war, small fights along the border between the two nations took place, which resulted in 10,000 casualties (Korean War,2009).

Ultimately, in April 1950, Stalin permitted Kim Il-sung to attack the Republic of Korea, with Mao Zedong agreeing to send reinforcements if needed. Consequently, on June 25, 1950, North Korea crossed the 38th parallel. However, fueled by their active policy containment, the United States saw the offensive as a larger struggle between the forces of communism and democracy, rather than a border dispute between the two nations. So, within two days of the invasion, President Harry Truman and his advisors gathered the UN Security Council and declared their support for South Korea. On June 30, 1950, the United States agreed to send U.S. troops to South Korea, and on July 7 of the same year, all of the Security Council's forces were put under U.S. command (Recchiuti,2015).

Despite the intervention of Western forces, the war initially went very badly for the South Korea as the North Korean forces were heavily equipped with Soviet firearm and had received extensive training from Soviet Union generals. In fact, many of North Korea's operations were being supervised by Soviet commanders. This led to well-disciplined soldiers with high morale on the northern side of the border. By contrast, South Korean forces had barely received any training. Moreover, the U.S. troops sent to defend South Korea also found themselves in a very complicated situation. With the extreme heat taking its toll, the American soldiers struggled with their military logistics and the delivery of supplies. In fact, they were often forced to refill their water container with rice paddies, which had been fertilized with human waste. This led to outbreaks of disease and illness, further decreasing the Strength of the southern effort (Korean War,2009).

Desperate to relieve pressure from their forces, the United States decided that an amphibious invasion behind North Korean forces should be launched. The plan was of high risk. If the landing failed, U.S. soldiers could be massacred by the superior North Korean army. If successful, North Korean forces would be cut off by their supply line and forced to fight on two fronts, yielding the Americans a great advantage. In fact, Kim Il-sung was aware of the vulnerability of his forces and had even been informed that U.S. landing at Inchon was possible. However, confident that no such invasion would take place, the North Korean leader left their ports defenseless (Stockwin,2000). This attack would change the course of the war. On September 15 over 48,600 soldiers disembarked on Inchon. Landing 100 miles from North Korean forces, American tank battalions rapidly encircled the DPRK's soldiers. Fearing they would be trapped in South Korea, the soldiers retreated back to Seoul, a city they had seized earlier in the war. Through a persistent effort, the American forces were able to destroy much of Seoul and push the DPRK's forces even further back.

With the North Korean army depleted, a way to Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, was clear, signaling an end to the war. By October 7, 1950, South Korea and its allies began their push north of the 38th parallel. However, this time the United Nations coalition had a new mission; they wanted to capture North Korea and reconstruct the peninsula under one Democratic nation. Two weeks later, Pyongyang was captured by the United Nations joint effort,

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forcing the North Korean army and their ruler to seek shelter in the mountains ("The Korean War: Timeline", 2018).

Despite this massive victory for South Korea, the war was far from over. As the Western forces continued their push upwards, China decided to increase their involvement in the war. On October 25, the Chinese First Offensive took place. Consisting of small attacks, the main objective of this First Offensive was to test enemy soldiers and create the illusion that they weren't fully committed to the war. In doing so, the Chinese were hoping for American troops to continue their push northward and move away from their defensive positions (Riedel, 2017).

Eventually, on November 24, the United Nations Coalition fell for the trap, which gave way to the Chinese's Second Offensive. Consisting of nearly 420,000 troops, the Chinese army completely battered American and South Korean soldiers, kicking them out of North Korea. This victory expanded Mao Zedong's war aims, as he now wanted to conquer the entirety of the Korean Peninsula and expel the American soldiers. Thus, for the following 5 months, the Chinese army executed a series of invasions that proved unsuccessful and created heavy losses on both sides. However, despite the casualties, by May 1951, there were nearly 1 million soldiers stationed on both sides of the 38th parallel, which marked the beginning of a stalemate, as any invasion would be near impossible (Korean War, 2009).

## Historical Case Studies

### First Battle of Seoul

The buildup of tension between the Northern and Southern Korean regions had reached its climax, as it was clear that any indication of a threat would commence the fighting. In this case, it was the North Koreans that made the first move. On June 25, 1950, the Korean People's Army (KPA) invaded the South Korean region, as they crossed over the 38th parallel (Korean War, 2009). As made apparent by the state of tension between the opposing parties, such movements were clearly indicative of the beginning of a war. However, the South Koreans were not as prepared as their counterparts, since the KPA surprised them with a blitzkrieg style invasion using tanks which were backed up by artillery. The Republic of Korea was completely outclassed, simply due to the fact that they didn't have anti-tank weapons or any tanks at all, leaving them without any method to stop the onslaught. To make matters worse, South Korean forces blew up a bridge across the Han River, which meant that their troops were now trapped and hundreds of civilians were killed as they attempted to flee. In a matter of three days after the initial invasion, the KPA had already taken control of the capital (Korean War, 2009).

### Battle of Inchon

The battle of Inchon took place during September 15 through September 26 of 1950. It is also known as the Ich'ŏn landing, the Inchon Battle was a landing by the US near the South Korean capital, Seoul. Operated by U.S. General Douglas McArthur, the landing that was

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executed under extremely difficult conditions, forced the invading North Korea army to retreat in the Korean peninsula. It followed the powerful attack across the 38th Parallel on June 25, 1950, when the KPA pushed southward in the peninsula driving the Republic of Korea's Army (ROKA) and the poorly prepared US 24th Division units down. It wasn't until the United Nations Command was present that North Koreans were slowed down and then stopped at the Pusan Perimeter, a line that follows the Naktong River, and protected the vital port of Pusan. It is through this port, that reinforcements and supplies came in to the North Koreans (Britannica, 2019). On September 15, 1950, an invasion fleet made up of UN cruisers and destroyers moved into position in the Pusan Perimeter. As the North Korean's approached the Perimeter on August 5th to attempt an assault, they were repelled by the more logistically advantaged UN forces; by the end of the month, North Korean troops had been pushed beyond their limits. The UN had succeeded, but not after suffering severe casualties. There were about 556 killed and 2,713 wounded. However, the KPA lost more than 35,000, either killed or captured, both at sea and at one aircraft that was shot down. The Battle of Inchon was a major turning point as it ended a string of victories by the North Koreans, handing over the advantage to the South Koreans (World Atlas, 2017).

## Battle of Chosin Reservoir

Fought between November 26 to December 11, the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir played an early role in China's Second Offensive to remove UN forces from North Korean territory. The battle initiated when nearly 120,000 Chinese soldiers ambushed a mere 30,000 UN Coalition soldiers, mainly consisting of US troops commanded by Major General Edward Almond (Millet, 2016). The Chinese were ordered to completely destroy UN forces, however, for 17 days, UN troops successfully held their ground under the brutal wintertime assault. Eventually, the UN troops were able to break through enemy lines and with the help of reinforcements they were able to retreat successfully. Despite winning the battle, the assaults weren't necessarily a win for the Chinese, seeing that in the aftermath of the fight nearly 20,000 soldiers had been killed and 7 Chinese divisions had been destroyed or crippled. By comparison, US losses numbered around 2,000 killed and 1,000 wounded (Millet, 2016).

## **Past UN Actions**

After the North Korean invasion, the United Nations was urged to support the South Korean effort. Twenty-one member-nations were involved in the effort that supported South Korea, even though it had yet to become a member-nation. It was reported that sixteen of these nations supplied armed forces, while the remaining five sent military aid. The USA alone, deployed 5.7 million personnel in direct combat roles in Korea; making the US the largest UN contributor in the Korean War. Great Britain, Canada, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, among others, provided the South Koreans with support ranging from military hospitals to field ambulances (Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs). The United Nations Command, or UNC, was able to provide the core military and strategic direction for the

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anti-communist war effort in Korea. USA provided the high command and took charge of the majority of the logistics which included air and naval power, artillery, and military infrastructure.

## IV. Key Players and Points of View

### Soviet Union

In an attempt to maintain its influence across the Eastasian region, the U.S. decided to divide Korea, which neighborhood the Soviets. Of course, these actions were clearly direct threats to weaken the USSR's grasp on nearby regions. The Soviet government only took action after the Americans decided to back the forces in Korea's southern region, to which they quickly responded by supporting North Korean forces for the upcoming conflict (Stack, 2018). Even before the commencement of the violence, the Soviets had already supplied material and medical services, as well as pilots and aircraft from their own military groups, to provide support for North Korean armies in the conflict against the UN forces ("The Armed Forces in the Korean War", 2019). Therefore, the KPA's victories throughout the war were highly thanks to Soviet tanks, artillery, and tactical aircraft. Hence, North Korean forces would've gotten nowhere without the constant influx of Soviet assistance. This was seen mostly in the military assistance provided by the Soviets, which also included intellectual and logistical support. However, the clear purpose of the Soviet Union was to establish greater influence throughout the Asian continent. They saw North Korea as a way to spread their communist ideology, and had to fight to maintain influence over the peninsula.

### USA

After the United States had divided the Korean Nation in two, they had kept an eye out for any suspicious Soviet activity. When North Korea invaded South Korea, the Americans became convinced that the Soviet Union was behind the invasion and took immediate action (US Enters the Korean Conflict, 2016). They considered non-interference as an impossibility, especially with their current policy of advancing military power, containment, and interventionism. The United States was convinced that they had to stand up for the free world and couldn't allow Stalin's oppressive regime to expand throughout different regions. The United States government chose to call upon the United Nations to help in the effort. Thus, within two days of the North Korean invasion, the United States successfully persuaded the United Nations Security Council to support the Republic of Korea. When former President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, forced the UN's Security Council to act and get involved in aiding South Korea before the UN had authorized it, the United States violated Article 2(7), of the UN Charter which requires a Security Council action to come before any armed intervention in international affairs from any member-nation, unless the arms are used in self-defense (Global Research, 2013). Not long after this, an American-led UN Coalition was deployed in South Korea (Korean War, 2009). In a couple of months, the American forces turned the war around and almost eliminated the North Korean army. This success was eventually halted by the Chinese, who repelled American Forces and pushed them behind the 38th parallel, bringing the war to a stalemate (Korean War, 2009).

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## North Korea

After the Second World War came to an end, the nation of Korea lost its sense of identity, mostly due to intervention from foreign powers such as the U.S. and Soviet Union. With the country split in half, new ideologies began to rise across the nation, as the power struggle quickly bubbled to the surface. The amount of tension eventually led to the rise of a one-party communist state in the country's northern region, which was the first indication of a separation which would officially break the country in two: North and South Korea. Thus, the northern communist regime was characterized by its new state ideology, which quickly became the government's sole guiding principle; it was called The Juche ideology (Sawe, 2016). The focal point of this ideology was civilian participation, as well as complete support and belief in the Korean military, as he referred to these ideas as "Juche". As a result, the ideology revolved around the idea that every individual controls one's own destiny, thus motivating North Koreans to pursue prosperity and change in their nation's near future. This newfound sense of nationalistic pride and control of the authoritarian regime acted as a flame that inspired North Koreans throughout the Korean War, as they fought to spread the influence of communism across the entire nation, eventually beyond the country's borders. This ideology, paired with massive amount of support from eastern nations, was the catalyst for their continued war effort. This fuel that guided North Korean efforts in the war, is the same flame that fuels North Korean ideology today, as well as it's authoritarian, strongly military-based government.

## South Korea

On June 24, 1950, communist North Koreans invaded South Korea with the hope of making a single, communist country. Although the South was taken by surprise by North Korea's invasion they had support from the UN and from the United States. The south Korean war effort was highly influenced by foreign powers. Contrasting the Communist North Korean ideology, the South Koreans believed in civil liberties and freedom. It was these ideals that both South Koreans and Western nations fought for during the war.

## United Kingdom

Suffering from the wounds of World War II, the United Kingdom was in sharp decline and the government was facing various military and economic hardships. However, being a permanent member of the SC and partially indebted to the US, the British Empire was forced into the Korean War (BBC,2001). Within a week's notice, the British Army was deployed to the peninsula. Despite being undermanned, underequipped, and lacking proper artillery weapons, they supported the UN's command. Along with the United States, British troops have been involved in some of the most crucial battles in the war. With a force of nearly 100,000 soldiers, the United Kingdom is the second biggest key supporter of the South Korean government. By the time of the stalemate, hundreds of British soldiers were killed, injured or taken as prisoners (BBC,2001).

## France

The contribution to the Korean War of medium powers or declining great powers like France has been scarcely investigated in-depth despite France's marked contribution to the conflict, both diplomatically and militarily. Although france's military support was modest, they

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did support the effort in a diplomatic way, and tried to provide supplies too. This effort was most likely an attempt to demonstrate loyalty to the newly-established NATO. In addition, the French battalions sent to Korea fought with gallantry and gained many medals, including silver stars.

## V. Possible Solutions

With the on-going tension at an all-time high and millions of troops stationed in the Korean Peninsula, a possible solution consists of a ceasefire between both parties, allowing negotiations and the possibility of a political resolution to take place. Now, with a lack of a peace treaty and the continuation of the stalemate, the 38th parallel continues to mark the symbolic division between North and South Korea. The two countries have diverged both economically and ideologically. However, as the United Nations continues its efforts of peace and globalization, there is talk of possible solutions to this conflict. Although, it is of critical importance to consider that foreign nations, including the United States, are yet to withdraw their military from the peninsula. While it might be important for global powers, including the United Nations to supervise the region, and assure that there will be no furthering of the conflict, many argue that the Korean Peninsula is no longer dependant of other countries, they might go as far to say that removing such forces would be part of the solution to this issue.

Whatever happens to the 38th parallel may mark the end of the conflict between North and South Korea. However, there is a variety of different opinions on what should happen next. While some choose to argue that both nations should design a peace treaty, which would mark the end of the conflict, others argue that that is simply impossible. Many optimists have gone so far as to call for the unification of both Koreas. Although, considering that both countries have taken drastically different ideological paths, this can be easily dismissed.

Other countries might believe that the lingering threat of an invasion still persists within the peninsula. Fear that North Korea, who is making efforts to increase their military power, or another superpower in search of increasing influence were to break the stalemate, fuels the reasoning behind continued military support among the border. Therefore, some consider the only solution to maintain this support, and foreign presence, and maybe even increase it, to completely rule out the possibility of another invasion.

## VI. Current Status

Although the tension were only spreading out of the Korean nation's borders midway through 1953, which led to a conflict without an end in sight, time has brought a new perspective to the war and it's possible outcomes. While the enormous death tolls, economic struggles, and repercussions affecting all the parties involved in the conflict became too much to handle, those involved decided to get together to discuss the possibility of an armistice to stop the violence (Lange, 2018). Thus, North Korea, South Korea, and the U.S. began negotiations, with the meetings being held in the city of Panmunjom in the border between the Korean nations. The overall goals of these negotiations were to stop all hostilities between those involved, to release and repatriate prisoners of war, and address the prevention of all powers from invading other

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nations (Lange, 2018). Finally, after a total of 158 meetings, U.S. Army Lieutenant General William K. Harrison Jr., who represented the UN, and North Korean General Nam Il, who represented China as well, signed the armistice on July 27, 1953, to put an end to the three years of fighting. Nonetheless, the armistice only truly served as a ceasefire but did not really alleviate the ongoing tension between the parties involved.

The devastating war between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) resulted not only in 2.5 millions deaths, but it rather enforced an economic crisis for both countries. After ending in July 1953 with Korea still divided into two hostile states, no further agreements were accounted after 1954. On May 17, 1951, the U.S National Security Council adopted a new policy that committed the United States to support a unified, democratic Korea, but not necessarily one unified by military action and the overthrow of Kim Il-sung. Discreet meetings conducted by the U.S and Soviet Diplomats resulted in the liability for a negotiated settlement to the Korean War. On July 2, the Chinese and North Koreans issued a joint statement that they would discuss arrangements for a meeting, concerning the armistice issues. Since the war developments obliged the leaders of both coalitions to consider that peace could not be imposed by either side through military victory, negotiations and treaties occurred. Due to the upscale of death tolls and infrastructure damage, the UN along with other unions, were forced to interfere in the peace treaties and negotiations.

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