

The Korean War

America's "Forgotten War"



America's reaction to Communist takeover in China

- Shock-containment had failed!
- Criticism for Truman administration by conservative Republicans and Democrats

Korea & the 38th parallel

- ☞ In 1910, Japan annexed Korea and ruled them until 1945...
- ☞ At the end of WWII, the Japanese surrendered control of Korea...
- ☞ Soviets got the NORTH, and the US got the SOUTH...
 - Sound familiar?





How does the war in Korea start?

- By June 1949-only 500 American troops in S. Korea
- Soviets did not believe we were willing to defend S. Korea
- Soviets decide they will back the North and begin to prepare for an invasion of the South



June 25, 1950

- In a surprise attack the North sweeps over the 38th Parallel and attacks the South.
- This officially begins the Korean War.



Why does the U.S. get involved?

South asks for help from the UN-
resolution passes condemning the attacks
and readying forces to aid the South

- Led by whom?

- Soviets' misstep...

Truman's Reaction

- Ready the troops in Japan to aid the South.
- Send a Naval fleet to the waters between China and Taiwan



The Fighting Force...

- 16 nations
- 520,000 troops
 - 90% American forces
- 590,000 South Koreans
- Commanded by?
 - General Douglass McArthur



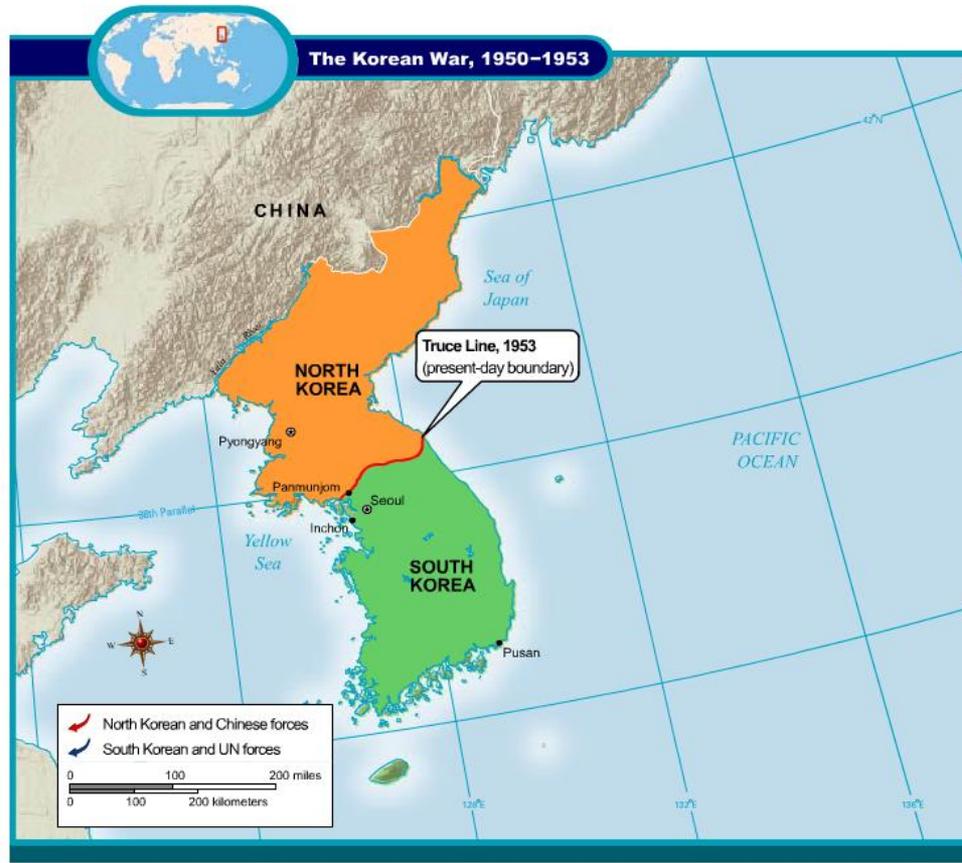
THE LIFE OF GENERAL DOUGLASS MACARTHUR

The North Pushes South...

- After a month of bitter, brutal combat the North had pushed the South and UN troops to a perimeter around Pusan
- But that's not the end of the war...
- Oh no...
- MacArthur's got more up his sleeve!

Invasion at Inchon

- MacArthur begins the counter attack against the North Koreans from both Pusan and with a landing of fresh forces and more equipment at Inchon on the coast.
- This two-pronged attack successfully pushes the North Koreans to the Yalu River.



Done

China takes a stand

- ☛ Chinese Foreign Minister, Zhou En-Lai said...
 - We will not stand idly by and let the Americans come up to the Chinese border!
- ☛ Chinese send 300,000 troops to the North to push down the peninsula
- ☛ The war became a fight between the communist Chinese and democratic Americans

One soldier remembers...

A PERSONAL VOICE BEVERLY SCOTT

" Our trenches . . . were only about 20 meters in front of theirs. We were eyeball to eyeball. . . . We couldn't move at all in the daytime without getting shot at. Machine-gun fire would come in, grenades, small-arms fire, all from within spitting distance. It was like World War I. We lived in a maze of bunkers and deep trenches. . . . There were bodies strewn all over the place. Hundreds of bodies frozen in the snow. "

—quoted in *No Bugles, No Drums: An Oral History of the Korean War*



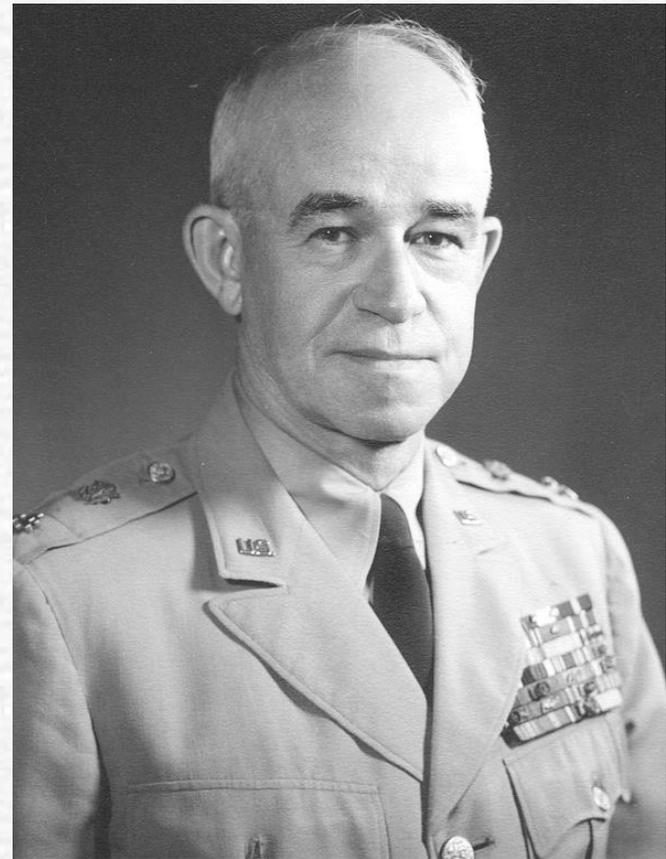
Beverly Scott

MacArthur's Misstep...

- ☞ Since the war had carried on for about two years in the Korean hills...MacArthur wanted to fight his true enemy...
 - COMMUNISTS!
- ☞ He advocated an attack on China, since communism was really the enemy.
- ☞ Nuclear bombs on their cities...

Attack China?

- Soviet's mutual assistance pact would lead to WWIII
- Gen. Omar Bradley... “wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy.”





You do that
and YOU'RE
FIRED!!!

ATTACK CHINA!!!
You are crazy not to do this.
I'm gonna go over your head
and get the public to support
me. Heck they already love
me, and not you!!

MacArthur's Last word?



End of the war

- ☞ In July 1953 the two sides signed an armistice ending the war
- ☞ At best it was a stalemate...
 - Communism was 'contained' without atomic weapons
 - Korea still remained two countries.

The costs...



- 54,000 American lives lost
- \$67 billion in expenditures
- Society looks away from Democrats and to the Republicans with the election of 1952.