The Cold War



The Korean War 1950-1953 Chapter 16 - Section 3

China

- Became a Communist nation under Mao Tse Tung after he defeated the government forces in a civil war in 1949
- U.S. feared communism may spread throughout Asia, but realized there wasn't anything we could do about China so instead focused on saving Western Europe from Soviet domination

Korea after WWII

- After Japanese were defeated Korea was occupied by the Soviets in the North and the US in the South
- UN wanted to create one unified democratic
 Korea, but the Communist North didn't want this



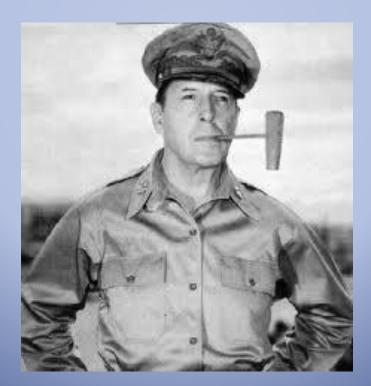
June 1950

 Communist-backed North Korean forces trained by the Soviets and Chinese invade
 South Korea and push them all the way back to the southern tip of Korea (Pusan)



General Douglas MacArthur

 Led a United Nations (UN) force that drove the North Koreans back past the 38th parallel



38th parallel

 The latitude line that divided the Soviet controlled North from the U.S. controlled South



Hesitant to invade N. Korea

- Truman didn't want to provoke the Chinese & Soviets directly
- No UN troops would enter any part of China or the Soviet Union





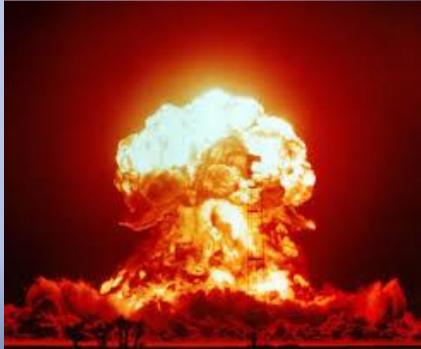
MacArthur invades N. Korea

- North Korean capital of Pyongyang fell
- Just when it looked like the war was over communist soldiers from China poured across the Yalu River and helped drive UN troops back into South Korea
- Communist China did not want a democratic
 Korea next door



U.S. response?

- MacArthur wanted to retaliate against the Chinese
- Truman and the UN said No b/c if we directly attacked China this might trigger nuclear war with the Soviets



MacArthur stripped of command

- MacArthur spoke out against the President (a big No No!) and was dismissed for subordination
- Lost his job, but seen as a hero by many Americans for standing up to Communism

It is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it.

General Douglas MacArthur

QuotePixel.com

American public

- Many Americans, including Sen. Joseph McCarthy, sided with the General against the President
- Fueled by anti-communist fears back home



AMERICA UNDER COMMUNISM!

Stalemate

 Over the next 2 years both sides dug in at the 38th parallel pounding one another, but getting nowhere



Negotiations...Finally

- Both sides finally agreed to create a demilitarized zone (DMZ) - a buffer zone where no one would have soldiers
- Also agreed to release POW's
- Only signed an armistice, not an official peace treaty - war never officially ended



North Korean POW's

 Communists didn't want to allow N. Korean POW's to choose whether or not to return home b/c many would rather stay in noncommunist S. Korea (25,000 did)



Final Death Toll

- About 2 million North Korean troops plus another million civilians
- About the same in South Korea
- 55,000 U.S. soldiers killed



Results of Korean War

- Korea never reunited, but we did contain communism in North Korea
- Many frustrated at loss of American lives "all for nothing"
- War never officially ended a cease fire still exists to this day



Present Day North Korea

- Troops still aiming guns at one another across
 38th parallel in a tense state of armed truce
- 28,000 US troops still in South Korea
- New, young leader, Kim Jong Un, wants to acquire nuclear weapons to prove himself and flex his muscles

