

Korean War: Conflict and Compromise

Haiming Li

Senior division

Historical paper

Paper length: 1510

Korean war

Haiming Li

2/9/2018

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Following World War II, a global conflict arose between different opinions over government policy within developing countries whether to become communist or democratic. The period of global conflict between the US and USSR was termed The Cold War. In Asia, communist China & USSR supported North Korea in a plan to attack South Korea and lead the united country under communist rule. The United States wanted to limit the expansion of communism under the containment policy supported by president Harry S. Truman. The war began June 25, 1950, with an undeclared attack from China and North Korea on South Korea. As a result of the war, neither side unified Korea. Engaged countries, except South Korea, signed an agreement to end the war leading to remaining tensions between communist and democratic Korea. The conflict of the Korean War led to the compromise of cease-fire, resulting in the separation of North and South Korea along 38th parallel and increased tension between communist and democratic countries within the Cold War.

The cold war was the fight between USSR and US. These two great powers in the world at that time created many incredible things, such as manned space flight, transcontinental ballistic missile and nuclear round. The aspect they raced with each other is not only focused on technology, but also on finding allies. South Korea and North Korea is the result of US and USSR found allies and spread out opinions. Within the article *North and South Korean Conflict* it states:

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Japan occupied Korea through the end of World War II on August 14, 1945. The United States and the former Soviet Union accepted Japan's surrender; the Soviet Union handled the disarmament of the north half of Korea, and the United States handled disarmament in the south. Since then, the Korean peninsula divided along 38 parallel. With the democratic United States and the communist Soviet Union unable to agree upon the terms of Korea's independence, the north and south divided. The United States and the Soviet Union helped create separate governments in each half of the divided peninsula, and North Korea(Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and South Korea(Republic of Korea) became distinct countries. North Korea was politically aligned with the Soviet Union, while South Korea politically aligned with the United States.¹

This is how Korea broke into two parts and formed their independent government.

The conflict started to emerge after North and South Korean became distinct countries.

The United State considered communism as the most threatening factor in their development.

They decided to limit the expansion of communism. Policy for that called: Containment Policy.

President Truman states that:

In 1946, in his famous "Long Telegram," the diplomat George Kennan (1904-2005) explained this policy: The Soviet Union, he wrote, was "a political force committed fanatically to the belief that with the U.S. there can be no permanent modus vivendi [agreement between parties that disagree]; as a result, America's only choice was the long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies."²

The relationship between two great powers in the world at that time became worth. Jennifer

Stock recorded:

The Soviets installed a Communist regime in the north, called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, headed by the longtime

¹"North and South Korean Conflict." In Global Issues in Context Online Collection. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2016. Accessed December 8, 2017.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CP3208520276/GIC?u=bullischl&xid=23147fdd>.

² The cold war. <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history>.

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revolutionary leader Kim Il Sung (1912–1994). In the south, the United States established a conservative government, called the Republic of Korea, under Syngman Rhee (1875–1965). Rhee was determined to eliminate Communism throughout Korea, whereas Kim sought to extend his power over the entire peninsula. Tensions grew rapidly on the peninsula, and hopes for peaceful reunification were dashed.³

The tension continues growing.

June 25, 1950, the war started with an unannounced attack from North Korea. “Soldiers from North Korea pass the 38 parallel by trucks.”⁴ “Supported by the Soviet Union and China, North Korea invaded South Korea in an attempt to reunite the country as a communist nation.”⁵ The conflict completely exposed to everyone in the world. Communism allergen invades South Korean suddenly. As a result, North Korea gained a lot of territory from South Korea. The United States of course cannot let Korean become a communist nation, so they fought back very

³ “The United States Enters the Korean War: June 27, 1950.” In *North America*, edited by Jennifer Stock. Vol. 6 of *Global Events: Milestone Events throughout History*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2018. <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/HJIITM449462747/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=7c8108a8>.

⁴ Trucks go over 38 parallel. Photograph.

https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=57rwrhFr&id=E4B53026C854636DB22EDA4749C08E5F80C66E0C&thid=OIP.57rwrhFreKWwOxx8ZzvU8gEsDm&mediaurl=http%3a%2f%2fen.academic.ru%2fpictures%2fenwiki%2f67%2fCrossing_the_38th_parallel.jpg&exph=921&expw=1199&q=Korean+war&simid=608003960460479459&selectedIndex=1&ajaxhist=0.

⁵ “The United States Enters the Korean War: June 27, 1950.” In *North America*, edited by Jennifer Stock. Vol. 6 of *Global Events: Milestone Events throughout History*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2018. <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/HJIITM449462747/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=7c8108a8>.

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soon. "June 30, 1950, the US Congress passed the use of air force to attack China and North

Korea troop."⁶ Article *Introduction to the Korean War* states that:

The United Nations Security Council condemned the invasion and called for an immediate withdrawal of North Korean forces. Two days later, the United Nations (UN), which the Soviet Union was boycotting at the time, asked UN members to provide military support to South Korea. The United States led the coalition of UN forces that intervened to defend South Korea.⁷

Finally, 2.5 million people died in the war. "Since the population from both Korea was not affluence to supported the war, young kids were forced to be a soldier and go to war."⁸ "Many of young soldier's friends, fellows, and family members died directly from the war. According to the picture took by war correspondent, a father was hugging his son's body. Both of them were soldier."⁹ Once the military catch some villagers, the military treat them terribly. Recorded by a survived soldier from South Korea: "Then let them march till they die. That is a military order."¹⁰

⁶ air force agreement on US congress.

https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/koreanwar/documents/index.php?documentdate=1950-06-30&documentid=ki-4-23&pagenumber=1.

⁷ "Introduction to the Korean War (1950–1953)." In *Gale Encyclopedia of World History: War*. Vol. 2. Detroit: Gale, 2008. Accessed November 29, 2017.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3048700058/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=4b9424e5>.

⁸ "In Enemy Hands: A Prisoner in North Korea." In *Almanac and Primary Sources*, edited by Sonia G. Benson and Gerda-Ann Raffaele, 291-96. Vol. 1 of *Korean War Reference Library*. Detroit: UXL, 2002. Accessed December 6, 2017. <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3411100033/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=a10a2037>.

⁹ Korean war soldiers. Photograph.

https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=w0kMFQVC&id=7B749A999D41099A996F8F8ECCB4646279AF7ACF&thid=OIP.w0kMFQVCe1N-EYQmB8ixgQHaF7&mediarurl=http%3a%2f%2fwallpoper.com%2fimages%2f00%2f26%2f28%2f34%2fkorean-war_00262834.jpg&expw=2400&expw=3000&q=Korean+war&simid=607986909536586469&selectedIndex=14&ajaxhist=0.

¹⁰ "In Enemy Hands: A Prisoner in North Korea." In *Almanac and Primary Sources*, edited by Sonia G. Benson and Gerda-Ann Raffaele, 291-96. Vol. 1 of *Korean War Reference Library*. Detroit: UXL, 2002. Accessed December 6, 2017.

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They hate their enemy. Even survived Chinese soldier also have a strong aggressive emotion to their enemy. Conflict leveled up, the conflict was not only about opinion on government policy and finding allies, but also about death, hate, and blood. In nowadays, communism and democratic also considered each other as an enemy.

Korean war started at 38 parallel, end at 38 parallel. No one took any advantage of the war. Communist countries did not reunify Korea; democratic countries did not either. "South Korea is a free, democratic and prosperous nation today because the communist invasion was turned back."¹¹ Communist countries take the lead first, then United nation pushes communism back and gains some territory from North Korea. After that communist countries push United nation back on 38 parallel. The war finally stayed around 38 parallel.

Even the war is officially end, the fight between each other is still going on. Article *North and South Korean Conflict* recorded that:

On 21 January 1968, a unit of thirty-one commandos from North Korea attempted to assassinate President Park in the South Korean capital city of Seoul; all but one of the commandos were killed. Another attempt was made on President Park's life on 15 August

¹¹ "Korean War." In *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War*, edited by Stanley I. Kutler. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1996. Accessed November 29, 2017.
<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/BT2336200268/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=b4b6bc51>

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1974, but the assassin killed first lady Yook Young-su (1925–1974) instead.¹²

North Korea is attempt to reunify Korea by killing president of South Korea. Article *The United*

States Enters the Korean War: June 27, 1950 states that:

Although the shooting stopped, no formal peace treaty has ever been signed, and North and South Korea remain technically at war. In both the North and South, all eligible young people must spend some time in the military or receiving military training. Most experts agree that a renewal of full-scale war in Korea cannot be ruled out.¹³

This quote suggested that war is just not visible for citizens. The war is still happening.

In 1953, Countries were signing the engage agreement. All countries were signing the agreement to stop shooting at each other. But South Korea did not have representative sign the agreement. In the picture every engaged countries' representative were shown except South korea.¹⁴ Which means South Korea can make the war back up at any time. The truth is, war is still acting in nowadays. The only difference is that people did not shoot at each other, but they

¹²“North and South Korean Conflict.” In *Global Issues in Context Online Collection*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2016. Accessed December 8, 2017.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CP3208520276/GIC?u=bullischl&xid=23147fdd>.

¹³“The United States Enters the Korean War: June 27, 1950.” In *North America*, edited by Jennifer Stock. Vol. 6 of *Global Events: Milestone Events throughout History*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2018. <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/HJIITM449462747/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=7c8108>.

¹⁴ Korean war engagement agreement. Photograph.

https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=hidi%2bM6J&id=3E219F4AFABD09F3680A023A7DD7E58E5D4ACC4&thid=OIP.hidi-M6J69JKhMPxielXmQE7DF&mediaurl=http%3a%2f%2fstmedia.startribune.com%2fimages%2fows_143518718248247.jpg&exph=1254&expw=2000&q=Korean+war+engagements+agreement+&simid=607992398383417464&selectedIndex=0&ajaxhist=0.

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seat and talk. Bercuson David in his article *Small Conflicts Can Break out Any Time. We Have to*

Be Prepared said that:

The United States has expressed concerns about the conflict on the Korean peninsula and the threat the North Korean regime poses. On 29 January 2002, President George W. Bush (1946–) stated that North Korea possessed weapons of mass destruction and, along with Iraq and Iran, formed a so-called axis of evil.¹⁵

Democratic countries start the political war, they limits trading and supplies offering on North

Korea. News paper Newsweek reported that:

South Korea on 2017 announced new unilateral sanctions against North Korea, including barring any financial transactions between 20 institutions and a dozen individuals that are believed to be supplying money for the weapons of mass destruction or illegal trading of sanctioned items.¹⁶

These evidence are all showing that there is no peace between communism and democracy.

The peace will not exist between communism and democratic. Korean war is not only the fight between North Korea and South Korea but also the fight between communism power and democracy power. The fight leads to about 2.8 million people's death. Nowadays, North Korea and South Korea are trying to make some peace talk. In 2018 winter Olympic, North Korea and South Korea combine as Korea attend the hockey game. This might be the result of peace talks,

¹⁵ Bercuson, David.

“Small Conflicts Can Break out Any Time. We Have to Be Prepared.” *Globe and Mail* (Toronto, Canada), June 25, 2010, A21. Accessed January 3, 2018.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A229812388/GIC?u=bullischl&xid=5485f3fb>.

¹⁶ North Korea nuclear threat. <http://www.newsweek.com/how-us-preparing-nuclear-war-north-korea-more-drills-expected-week-743671>.

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but we still don't know what's going on in the relationship between two Korea. One thing we can make sure is that conflict is still occurring between South and North Korea.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

air force agreement on US congress.

https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/koreanwar/documents/index.php?documentdate=1950-06-30&documentid=ki-4-23&pagenumber=1.

This is a primary sources from US congress which argued about air force destroyed North Korean target. This picture shows that US is trying to beat North Korean in a hard way. This also shows the conflict between communism and democratic. This will be used as evidence of conflict in my paper.

“In Enemy Hands: A Prisoner in North Korea.” In *Almanac and Primary Sources*, edited by Sonia G. Benson and Gerda-Ann Raffaele, 291-96. Vol. 1 of *Korean War Reference Library*. Detroit: UXL, 2002. Accessed December 6, 2017.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3411100033/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=a10a2037>.

This passage is a primary source which provide the changes of conflict form about Korean war. This article was from a South Korean soldier, he talked about the experience after he was imprisoned. This article give a reasonable change of the form of conflict

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between democratic and communism: from political to physical(death, hate). This article is a great evidence to support that the democratic why cannot be friend with communism ever. Which will be used as supporting details of conflict and changes for my topic.

Korean war engagement agreement. Photograph.

https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=hidi%2bM6J&id=3E219F4AFABD09F3680A023A7DDD7E58E5D4ACC4&thid=OIP.hidi-M6J69JKhMPxielXmQE7DF&mediurl=http%3a%2f%2fstmedia.startribune.com%2fimages%2fows_143518718248247.jpg&exph=1254&expw=2000&q=Korean+war+engagements+agreement+&simid=607992398383417464&selectedIndex=0&ajaxhist=0

This a primary sources. In this image we can see the representative from most involved countries were signing documents, which is the engage agreement. This is a good evidence for temporary compromise for Korean war, but also because South Korean didn't sign it's also a evidence of war still going on. This source will be used as supporting evidence of compromise.

Korean war soldiers. Photograph.

https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=w0kMFQVC&id=7B749A999D41099A996F8F8ECCB4646279AF7ACF&thid=OIP.w0kMFQVCe1N-EYQmB8ixgQHaf7&mediurl=http%3a%2f%2fwallpaper.com%2fimages%2f00%2f26%2f28%2f34%2fkorean-war_00262834.jpg&exph=2400&expw=3000&q=Korean+war&simid=607986909536586469&selectedIndex=14&ajaxhist=0

This is a picture about soldiers on the battlefield. They are hugging each other. This shows how war is going on. Tells us the war is harsh. This will be a supporting detail about hate between countries.

Young soldiers in Korean war. Photograph.

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=Z%2BFBZ5vX&id=4671E69B2238B4945AD06FECA64D9CE783B7F60D&thid=OIP.Z-FBZ5vXrPJ2dY3AJaGtngEsDJ&mediurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.biographicalinquiries.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2015%2F09%2FKOREAN-WAR-2.jpg&exph=1200&expw=1785&q=Korean+war&selectedIndex=3&ajaxhist=0>

This image was taken directly for battlefield of Korean war, In this photo, there's a very young soldier shows up, he looking like a child which should be in school at his age. This shows the long term effect on North Korea. Too much soldiers cause no people doing normal jobs, just like the current situation in North Korean, very poor but strong on

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military(compared to its economic). This source will be used as long term effect supporting details.

Secondary Sources

Bercuson, David. "Small Conflicts Can Break out Any Time. We Have to Be Prepared." *Globe and Mail (Toronto, Canada)*, June 25, 2010, A21. Accessed January 3, 2018.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A229812388/GIC?u=bullischl&xid=5485f3fb>.

This article is an secondary sources. It's analyzing the start of Korean war. This article will be used as supporting details about conflict.

The cold war. <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cold-war-history>.

This is an secondary sources. This paragraph were talking about the begin and the end of cold war. It's specifically tells about why did the cold war happened. This will be used in big context part.

"end of world war 2." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II.

This is and secondary sources. It gives a big overview of ww2. And this will be used as big context. Korean war is just after ww2.

"Introduction to the Korean War (1950–1953)." In *Gale Encyclopedia of World History: War*. Vol. 2. Detroit: Gale, 2008. Accessed November 29, 2017.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3048700058/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=4b9424e5>.

This article is a brief intro about what's happening(war and political) during the Korean war. It allowed me to have a general idea about what's the end and cause of Korean war. In this article I learned the compromise of Korean war made on July 27, 1953. UN, China and North Korea sign the armistice agreement, but South Korea didn't sign on it. This article will be used as supporting evidence for temporary compromise, as well as the evidence of war still going on.

"Korean War." In *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War*, edited by Stanley I. Kutler. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1996. Accessed November 29, 2017.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/BT2336200268/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=b4b6bc51>.

This source is a clear explanation on the cause(political) of Korean war. This article tells me that the help of China to North Korea let US considered as communism expansion. US want to limit communism and have a plan called containment. Also, US want to keep

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South Korean as a separate, anti communist country, so US lead UN join the war. This article will be used for my supporting evidence of what cause the conflict.

“North and South Korean Conflict.” In *Global Issues in Context Online Collection*.

Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2016. Accessed December 8, 2017.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CP3208520276/GIC?u=bullischl&xid=23147fdd>.

This source is written for explaining conflicts between north and south. I learned that the WW2 end as united state have south USSR have the north of the Korea. This lead to the final conflict, China and USSR support north Korea to united whole Korea as communist by supporting north Korea army. This source will used as the political conflict and causes supporting evidence.

North Korea nuclear threat. <http://www.newsweek.com/how-us-preparing-nuclear-war-north-korea-more-drills-expected-week-743671>.

This is a secondary source. This is a nowadays conflict between North / South Korea. this will be used as conflict, supporting that war didn't end.

“The United States Enters the Korean War: June 27, 1950.” In *North America*, edited by Jennifer Stock. Vol. 6 of *Global Events: Milestone Events throughout History*.

Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2018.

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/HJIITM449462747/WHIC?u=bullischl&xid=7c8108a8>.

This is a secondary sources. This is telling about the event throughout the Korean war. This will be used as supporting detail for context and conflict.