

# **GECMUN 8**

## **Background Guide**

Historical Crisis Committee

The Korean War

SDG: 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Authored by Erik Hsu, Sophie Wong, and Amanda Shen

Last updated on October 30, 2021

# Committee Introduction

Our committee starts on June 26th, 1950, one day after North Korea crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea. All events before this point should be considered, however, all events after will be ignored and rewritten by the committee. This means that in the context of our committee, Resolution 83, which granted UN member states the ability to provide military assistance to South Korea, has not been adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The committee will represent the decision-making body of the international community during the time of the Korean War with the goal of resolving the conflict. Each delegate is representing a historical leader of relevant or powerful countries at the time of the Korean War. Delegates have to use information about the stance of the leader, their country, their countries allies, and other relevant information to make inferences about the decisions they would have made. Characters are from a multitude of different countries that all stand to gain from this issue, so delegates should craft their crisis arc carefully and think about personal goals for their character or for their country.

The committee will be using Crisis procedure, meaning that there will be crisis updates that delegates will have to respond to with either public or private directives every 30 minutes or so. Crisis procedure takes two main forms: front room and back room. Front room, otherwise known as in-room, is run like a typical GA committee with moderated and unmoderated caucuses set by motions. However, instead of writing resolutions, delegates will be writing directives to respond to new Crisis updates. The back room, otherwise known as out-room, aspect of Crisis is composed of a delegate's personal directives or crisis notes. Delegates should use crisis notes to facilitate the advancement of their crisis arc, or storyline. This crisis arc should include a variety of "moves" that culminate at and contribute to your end goal. Backroom notes and decisions can have frontroom effects, and vice versa. Successful delegates are able to adapt to ever-changing circumstances, and leverage both front room and back room directives and events to promote their end goal.

# Agenda Introduction

The goal of our committee is to put an end to the Korean War and the larger ideological dispute between communism and capitalism. Delegates will start by deciding the response to the initial invasion by the North Korean People's Army, and face regular crisis updates about The Korean War itself or actions that contribute to the tensions of the Cold War. Events that contribute to the war by both international and domestic actors will be explored, and delegates will draft directives in the front room to respond to these actions/events. Delegates may also further their crisis arcs in the back room by exploiting these events (crisis updates).

While our committee will revolve around the Korean War, there will be relevant ties to the Cold War as well. This is because the larger implication of the Korean War is that it is a fight of competing worldviews. The United States and Western countries, or the "first world", are fighting for a world with capitalism and democracy, while the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc, or the "second world", are fighting for a world with totalitarianism and communism. Due to the tendency that both these ideologies have to spread outside a country's borders, the nature of the Cold War, and the Korean War as part of it, lies in remaking the world under capitalism and democracy or communism and totalitarianism.

The context of the Korean War is this ideological battle and it is the reason why international actors got involved and are relevant to this conflict. As North Korea was communist, President Truman of the United States and the Western world saw it's invasion of South Korea as another means of the expansion of communism. The competing motives of the spread of communism (second world) and the containment of communism (first world) takes this issue to the international stage and gives countries vested interests in defending North or South Korea. Therefore, while delegates are first looking to end the Korean War, they are also searching for solutions to end this ideological struggle that is the core tenet of the Cold War as well.

# Letter from the Chairs

Dear delegates and esteemed guests,

We welcome you to the Historical Crisis Committee on the Korean War. While this a conflict between North and South Korea, it has larger implications regarding the Cold War between the United States and Soviet Union during the post-World War II era. Here is a brief introduction from each of us:

Hey y'all! I'm Erik, the head chair for the Historical Crisis Committee: The Korean War. I'm a sophomore at Taipei American School, and started MUN in 7th grade. While I've mostly competed in THIMUN and UN4MUN procedures, I've won Best Delegates in both Historical Crisis and UNA-USA. Through this committee, I hope that delegates gain an increased understanding of the historical developments during this era after the World Wars, and learn to come up with solutions under rapidly changing circumstances. I look forward to what you have in store for this complex and multi-sided conflict. Good luck researching!

Hi everyone! I am Sophie, a current sophomore at Taipei American School serving as the deputy chair for the Historical Crisis Committee. My Model United Nations journey began in fifth grade with the role of a page. I have gained experience over the years in roles such as a press team member, delegate, judge, and chair. I've attended 10+ conferences with different procedures ranging from THIMUN, UNA-USA, Crisis, to ICJ. As GECMUN will be held virtually, it may seem challenging to maintain the quality of discussions. Nonetheless, as a chair, I look forward to helping and encouraging passionate delegates to actively participate in establishing consensus. I hope this conference will be full of vibrant and interesting debates and that your research will enhance your knowledge of the Korean War as well as WWII.

Hello everyone! My name is Amanda, a junior at Taipei American School and I will be your associate chair for the Historical Crisis Committee. I started MUN in my freshman year (9th grade) and have attended online, international, and national conferences both as a delegate and as a student officer. The Korean War was one of the most important events during the Cold War period and has significant effects that are still seen today. I look forward to seeing all the different perspectives delegates will bring to the table and how you all can collaborate with each other to come up with possible solutions. Best of luck!

Please don't hesitate to send us an email if you have any questions. Looking forward to rewriting history with you all!

Best,

Erik Hsu ([24erikh@students.tas.tw](mailto:24erikh@students.tas.tw))

Sophie Wong ([24sophiew@students.tas.tw](mailto:24sophiew@students.tas.tw))

Amanda Shen ([23amandas@students.tas.tw](mailto:23amandas@students.tas.tw))

# Key Terms

## **The Korean War (1950-1953)**

The Korean War was initiated on June 25th, 1950 when North Korean troops crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. The war was a proxy war to the Cold War. The United Nations along with the United States came to the aid of South Korea while the People's Republic of China supported North Korea. The war resulted in about 2.5 million deaths. Moreover, as the Korean Peninsula was densely populated, sudden changes in the frontlines resulted in civilians being trapped in combat zones. This led to a significant amount of casualties. The war lasted until July 27th, 1953 while conflicts in the Korean Peninsula stayed present till modern-day. Due to this reason, the war is often seen as an ongoing war and the two Korean parties in a frozen conflict.

## **The Cold War (1947-1991)**

The Cold War was a continuous period of geopolitical tension between the two nations, the United States and the Soviet Union. The conflict included the Western Bloc and Eastern Bloc. The conflict was initiated when the United States began to be concerned with Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin's dictatorial rule of the country after World War II. The Soviet Union's expansion in Eastern Europe created worries for the US of Russian control of the world. The US began to take actions in preventing the spread of communism through showing support to democratic nations that were under threat from authoritarian forces through the Truman Doctrine of 1947. Events of the Cold War included the Arms Race, Space Race, as well as the Cuban Missile Crisis between the US and USSR.

## **Western Bloc**

The Western Bloc was a coalition of allies of the United States who shared the common ideology of capitalism. Through the United States' Marshall Plan, an initiative that provided aid to Western Europe to help rebuild their economies after the devastation of WWII, Western Europe and Japan were able to rebuild their economies through the US's aid. This caused the majority of Western Europe to become allies with the United States. The Bloc also included democratic nations such as Canada, France, WestGermany, Italy, Iceland, and more.

## **Eastern Bloc**

The Eastern Bloc was a coalition of nations of the Soviet Union, who shared the common ideology of Communism. Eastern Europe became a part of the Soviet sphere of influence and rejected the US proposed Marshall Plan to provide aid. This led to Europe being divided into US-led and Soviet-led blocs. The Eastern Bloc also included Poland, East Germany, Bulgari, Hungary, and more.

## **Proxy War**

A proxy war is a conflict between states that is instigated by major powers who do not become involved itself. The Korean War was a proxy war of the Cold War, a major conflict between the United States and Soviet Union. North Korea was supported by communist China and the Soviet Union while South Korea was supported by the US and the UN.

Other examples of proxy wars include the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Syrian Civil War.

### **Communism**

Communism is an ideology of social, economical, and political aspects. The ideology is a form of socialism that advocates for a classless society where wealth is evenly shared rather than owned by individuals. Communism separates the economy into two social classes, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. The proletariat are referred to as the working class, in other words, people that make up the majority of the population. On the other hand, the bourgeoisie are referred to as a small group of people in society who gain profit by employing the lower class. Examples of communist nations include the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Soviet Union, and China.

### **Capitalism**

Capitalism is an ideology of an economic and political system. A capitalist economic system is based on private ownership instead of the state. In simpler terms, capitalist individuals are given the freedom and right to own their businesses in addition to keeping most of their profits. Production of goods and services in a capitalist economy are mostly determined by supply and demand in a market economy compared to a communist economy where the government owns the factors of production. Competitive and free markets, private property as well as wage labor are also features of a capitalist economy. Examples of capitalist nations include the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

### **38th Parallel**

The 38th Parallel, is a military border line between North Korea and South Korea. The name of the border originates from latitude 38°N that roughly divides the two territories. The 38th Parallel was chosen by the United States military at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945, towards the conclusion of World War II. Ultimately, the Korean War was initiated when the North Korean People's Army crossed the border into South Korea.

### **First World Nation**

First World Nation, is a terminology used to refer to allies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and ultimately opposed the Soviet Union. Some examples include the United States, Australia, Japan, and Canada.

### **Second World Nation**

Second World Nation, is a terminology used to refer to communist/socialist nations that aligned with the views of the Soviet Union. Some examples include Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland.

### **North Korean People's Army**

The North Korean People's Army serves as North Korea's army under the command of Kim Il-Sung, the leader of North Korea.

### **Republic of Korea Armed Forces**

The Republic of Korea Armed Forces are known as the ROK's military and one of the main forces used in the Korean War.

**The Domino Theory**

The Domino Theory is a geopolitical theory that was first proposed by United States President Harry S. Truman. The theory expressed that if one country in a specific region became under the influence of communism, it would then be likely that neighboring countries would follow in a domino effect. The theory was used commonly in the United States and was emphasized by US President Dwight D. Eisenhower during a news conference. The Domino Theory explains the United States foreign policy during the Cold War as well as its views towards Communism.

**Armistice**

An armistice is an agreement between parties at war to terminate violence and conflict. A truce may often be needed in order to negotiate an armistice. The armistice of World War II, prior to the Cold War, was established in France at German occupation zone. The agreement concluded the war and fighting between parties.

# Historical Background

## **August 14th, 1945: End of World War II**

The US and Soviet Union emerged as the two global powers post-WWII. While other European countries were devastated and in economic distress after WWII, the US was not hurt by the destruction and the Soviet Union had a population so large that they still had enough workers to build up their industrial capabilities.

## **August 1945: Korea Divided into North and South**

Korea was initially part of the Japanese empire during the start of the 1900s, however the territory had to be given up after Japan's defeat in World War II. The US and the Soviet Union agreed to divide Korea along the 38th parallel, where the Soviets occupied the North and the US occupied the South.

## **August 1945: Beginning of Cold War**

The Cold War is a period of tension between the US and Soviet Union, even though the two states never fought directly because of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD). MAD was the concept that deterred the use of nuclear weapons by knowing that the other side would strike back. A full-scale use of nuclear weapons would cause the complete annihilation of both sides, therefore, this threat of nuclear war made the US and the Soviet Union to fight each other in proxy wars instead directly with one another.

## **1947: Truman Doctrine**

The Truman Doctrine established that the US would provide military assistance to all democratic nations under threat of the spread of Communism. This was part of the US' policy of containment, which was a military strategy to prevent communism from spreading.

## **1948: Marshall Plan (European Recovery Program)**

The Marshall Plan Provided aid to Western Europe to recover from WWII. The US funded over \$15 billion dollars to Europe's rebuilding efforts as a means to prevent communist influence. Their rationale was that economic instability might lead to communism as previously seen by the rise of Hitler in Nazi Germany, so the recovery program helps European nations remain democratic.

## **August 1948: Republic of Korea (South Korea) is established**

South Korea is established with Syngman Rhee as the anti-communist dictator, who is supported by the United States government. He ruled capitalist South Korea during the Korean War.

## **August 1948: People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is established**

North Korea is established with Kim Il Sung as the communist dictator, who is supported by the Soviet Union. He ruled a communist North Korea during the Korean War.

## **1948-1950: Border Skirmishes Between North and South Korea**

The dictators of North and South Korea both wanted to unify Korea under their own state. Therefore, border skirmishes on the 38th parallel between the North and South

were common. Around 10,000 soldiers died during these battles before the Korean War began.

**1949: NATO founded**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was a mutual defense pact or military alliance aimed at containing Soviet aggression against Western Europe. Its founding members were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the UK, and the US.

**1949: COMECON founded**

COMECON was founded by Stalin as an organization that facilitated the economic development of Eastern European states that belonged to the Soviet Union. Stalin introduced Five Year Plans to collectivize agriculture and develop industry in these states, and the economies of those countries were eventually made to serve the Soviet economy instead of their own populations.

**June 25, 1950: Start of Korean War**

75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army cross the 38th parallel into South Korea and this starts the Korean War. The committee starts here.

# Current State of Affairs

## **The Cold War**

The Cold War, kickstarted by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, has been manifesting in the creation of regional blocs and an arms race. NATO and COMECON, headed by the United States and Soviet Union respectively, have been founded for security and economic development reasons. The United States has turned its attention to fighting communism, with the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan as policies of containment against the growing ideology. In terms of the arms race, both the United States and Soviet Union seek more destructive weapons, such as the Hydrogen Bomb.

## **The Red Scare in the United States**

The Red Scare were fears about a Communist threat within the United States. While the First Red Scare was between 1917-1920 during the Russian Revolution, it escalated during the Cold War, as Americans feared that Communists might work in the United States as Soviet spies. Since the Soviet Union had a history of espionage in the US, President Truman issued Executive Order 9835 in March of 1947 to analyze all federal employees for their loyalty to the US government. Similarly, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) within the House of Representatives exposed communists who were working in the government or the film industry.

## **Establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC)**

The Civil War between the Nationalists (KMT) and the Communists (CCP) for control over China ended in 1949. The Communists were victorious, driving the Nationalists to flee to Taiwan. In October 1949, Mao Zedong, the Communist leader of the CCP, established the People's Republic of China (PRC). The CCP was based on Marxist ideology, and represented the peasant class instead of urban dwellers. Most notably, land reform to redistribute land from landlords to peasants was a form of socialism that exemplified the CCP's policies.

## **Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance**

On February 14th, 1950, the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance was signed by Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong. This was a treaty of alliance between the two communist states. In the treaty, the Soviets loaned the PRC \$300 million to recover from economic distress caused by war, and returned the Chinese Eastern Railway and the cities of Port Arthur and Dairen in Manchuria, that were seized by Russia towards the end of World War II, back to the PRC.

## **Korea**

In the North, Kim Il-sung and a communist dictatorship was established by the Soviet Union. North Korea holds a strong army with 135,000 men as well as tanks and artillery, supported by the Soviet Union. The South held democratic elections, with President Syngman Rhee being chosen as the country's leader. South Korea's army was inferior compared to the North's, with only 98,000 troops. In January of 1950, the United States' list of defense commitments did not include South Korea, signalling to the North that an invasion of South Korea might not be met with a retaliatory force from the United States.

### **The United Nations Security Council**

In 1950, the Western World faced little resistance in the UN Security Council. The People's Republic of China (Communist China), established in late 1949 by Mao Zedong, was not accepted into the Security Council, with Taiwan occupying the position in the Security Council. The Soviet Union was boycotting the council because Communist China was not accepted, leaving the UN Security Council open to resolutions from the Western World without opposition that held veto power.

### **Decolonization in Asia and Africa**

During this time period, the term "third-world" would come to describe the countries who have recently gained independence after a long history of colonialism. At the end of World War II, the only independent nations in Africa were Liberia, Ethiopia, and Egypt. However, in the 1950s, there was a large wave of decolonization in Africa and Asia that was supported by the United States in an attempt to promote free trade and access to markets that were dominated by European colonial powers.

# Stances of Parties

## **Harry S. Truman (United States President)**

As the President of the United States, Harry S. Truman stood strongly against communism as well as nations that supported communist ideologies. This is shown by the Truman Doctrine (1947) that provided political, military, and economic assistance to all democratic nations under threat from authoritarian forces. He expressed his thoughts and said “if we let [South] Korea down, the Soviet[s] will keep right on going and swallow up one after another.” at his first meeting with his advisors after learning that North Korea had invaded the South on June 25, 1950. Later on, he announces that he is ordering US air and naval forces to South Korea to aid the democratic nation. His goal is to ultimately support the policy of containment and stop communism from getting to south Korea.

## **Douglas MacArthur (United States General)**

Douglas MacArthur is elected to command the United Nations forces as the Supreme Commander of the US-led UN forces in the Korean War. In history, he led troops and advanced into North Korea and went all the way to the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and China. Prior to the Korean War, MacArthur was named the Commander of US Army forces in the Far East during WWII and later officially accepted Japan’s surrender.

## **Dean Acheson (United States Secretary of State)**

Dean Acheson is an American statesman and lawyer who served as the 51st Secretary of State and set the foreign policy of Truman’s administration (1949-1953). He assisted Truman in developing the Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan and promoted the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

## **Joseph Stalin (Premier of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)**

Joseph Stalin served as the USSR Premier from April 3, 1922. He decided to support Kim Il Sung’s request for military operations and provided him the “green light” to attack the South, which led to the start of the Korean War. Stalin utilizes the Korean War to further continue isolation of China from the US. Moreover, he wishes to establish strong communist allies in Asia in order to further spread communist influence in the world. Stalin continuously shows support for North Korea as he provides military supplies and tanks as well as military training for North Korean and Chinese troops.

## **Trygve Lie (United Nations Secretary-General)**

Trygve Lie began serving as the United Nations Secretary-General from 1946 as the first UN SG. He believes “it [is his] duty to suggest a fresh start to be made towards eventual peaceful solution of outstanding problems” as he stated in a letter to the Security Council on June 6, 1950”. Rather than having a more neutral stance, Lie supported UN action against North Korea.

## **Syngman Rhee (South Korea President)**

Syngman Rhee took office in 1948 as the first president of the Republic of Korea. He leads South Korea in the Korean war. Under Rhee's leadership, South Korea follows the political ideology, One-People Principle, which states to build an effort to establish a loyal citizenry through nationalism and ethnic supremacy. Rhee wishes to use defensive forces to push the communists out of South Korea.

**Walton Walter (United States Army Commander)**

Walton Walter commands the Eighth Army in the Korean War. He previously served in WWI and WWII. He focuses on using defensive forces to steadily push back North Korea's forces from invading. Walter believes in using tactics to figure out what the North Korean army is attempting to do and what actions they are taking such as cracking North Korean radio codes.

**Kim Il-Sung (Premier of North Korea)**

Kim Il-Sung serves as the North Korea premier from December 28, 1972. He wishes to reunite the North and South as a single country under communism. He authorized the invasion of South Korea and triggered intervention in defense of the South as well as US-led UN troops. Kim has the vision to transform North Korea into an militaristic and regimented society that devotes to the ideology of *juche*, or self-reliance.

**Choi Yong Kun (Supreme Commander of North Korea's Army)**

Choi Yong Kun serves as the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army under Kim Il-Sung from 1948. He is the senior field commander for all North Korean armies during the Korean War. Choi shares similar ideologies as Kim and leads the Korean War against the UN and South Korea.

**Winston Churchill (Prime Minister of the United Kingdom)**

Winston Churchill is in office from May 10, 1940 to July 26, 1945. In the Cold War, he condemned the Soviet Union's policies with his famous Iron Curtain Speech. He says "from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent". Churchill refers to the iron curtain and separation of Europe. Churchill later ordered 60,000 British combat troops to assist the South in the Korean War.

**Shigeru Yoshida (Prime Minister of Japan)**

Shigeru served as Japan's prime minister from 1946 to 1947 and again from 1948. Under the occupation of the Allied Forces, Japan is used as a base for the supply of soldiers and military equipment. As the leader of Japan, Yoshida shows practical support for the American military operations on the Korean Peninsula, but also remains at peace and a neutral stance with the USSR. During the Cold War, Japan was a close and loyal ally of the US as it dodged China and the Soviet Union's ambitions.

**Mao Zedong (Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party)**

Mao Zedong is the Chairman of the CCP. He was in office starting from March 20, 1943. Mao sent thousands of Chinese troops to aid the North Koreans while launching massive attacks against the US and South Korea. He wanted to improve China's reputation and prestige in the communist world by taking the Communist side in the war. Additionally, Mao wanted to strengthen relations with communist North Korea. In the Cold War, Mao

took sides with the Soviet Union and supported the Communist ideology as he has to goal of preserving Chinese communism.

### **Peng Teh-huai (Military Leader of the Chinese Communist Party)**

Peng Teh-huai is a senior military commander under Mao Zedong, the second ranking man in the military hierarchy of communists China. He leads Chinese forces in the Korean War and served as the direct commander of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army. He is loyal to Mao and served under him for a long period of time. He supported Mao's suggestions to involve China in the Korean War.

### **Louis St. Laurent (Canada's Prime Minister)**

Louis St. Laurent is the twelfth Prime Minister of Canada and began serving from 1948. He sent about 26,000 Canadians to assist the UN-led troops. Canadian aircraft contributed transport, supply and military forces to the US and the UN. Under his leadership, Canada supported the UN and US, Canada's NATO ally, with the intention of preventing the spread of Communism.

### **Elpidio Quirino (President of the Philippines)**

Elpidio Quirino is the President of the Philippines who came into office in 1948. He later authorizes the deployment of over 7450 Filipino soldiers to South Korea. The Philippines is one of the 22 nations that are willing to support South Korea to combat North Korean forces. South Korea is an active arms donor and supplier for the Philippines military, thus, the two nations have a tight relationship.

### **Robert Menzies (Prime Minister of Australia )**

Robert Menzies is the prime minister of Australia who served from 1939 to 1941 and again from 1949. Under Menzies' leadership, the liberal government responded by providing military assistance in support of South Korea backed by the UN and US. Menzies has the desire to strengthen its military relationship with the US with a commitment of troops. Australia is a member of the Western Alliance and fought in the Cold War (Korean and Vietnam War).

### **Ralph Monclar (French Senior Officer)**

Ralph Monclar is a French Officer and 2nd Inspector of the foreign legion that fought in WWI and WWII. He is strong in the military field and is known for his leadership abilities. Later on, he leads the French Battalion, a battalion that is made up of active and reserve French military personnel that supported UN forces to fight in the Korean War.

### **Juan Peron (President of Argentina)**

Juan Peron is the President of Argentina that served from 1973 to 1974 then again from 1946. During the Cold War, Argentina supported the Soviet Union as the USSR absorbs about 20-40% of the country's exports and plays a major part in its economy.

### **Vincent Auriol (President of France)**

Vincent Auriol is the President of France, in office from 1947. Auriol supports the US and NATO and remained an alliance with the nation. About 3,200 soldiers were sent to South Korea to participate in the war. Later, the French Battalion participates in the First and

Second Battle of Wonju that stopped North Korea from advancing and allowed the Eighth Army to battle to victory.

**Theodor Heuss (President of Germany)**

Theodor Heuss is the President of Germany that began serving in 1949. Germany maintains relations with both the US and the USSR, but later provided support and set up a hospital in Busan to engage in medical assistance activities later on in the war.

**Kim Suk-Won (Officer in the Imperial Japanese Army)**

Kim Suk-Won serves as a general in the Republic of Korea Army during the Korean War. He is the third highest ranking ethnic Korean in the Japanese Army. He was put in charge of South Korean border units by President Syngman Rhee, but was overruled by General Walker of the US Eighth Army, as he distrusted Kim.

**Otilio Ulate Blanco (President of Costa Rica)**

Otilio Ulate Blanco is the President of Costa Rica that took office in 1949. His government focuses on good handling of economic development. Both the US and USSR actively involved Costa Rica in their Cold War, however, Blanco maintained a neutral stance during the Korean War.

**Alcide De Gasperi (Prime Minister of Italy)**

Alcide De Gasperi is the Prime Minister of Italy and began serving in office in 1945. As a NATO member nation, Italy provides medical units and was the only non-member state of the UN that provided assistance and troops to Korea. Later on, the Red Cross requested assistance, in response, Italy under Gasperi's leadership provided its Italian Red Cross Hospital to South Korea.

# Possible Solutions

## **Responses to Invasion**

Countries have to decide how they will respond to North Korea's push across the 38th parallel. Is a counter conventional force required to push North Korea back to the border in order for peace agreements to start? Or should there be an immediate ceasefire to suspend conflict?

## **Proxy Wars or Direct Confrontation**

The Korean War, and many other conflicts in the Cold War are considered proxy wars. These drag allies and other countries into a larger conflict revolving around the two global hegemonies at the time, the Soviet Union and the US. The committee will have to decide whether it would be best to continue this approach of indirect conflict or force a direct confrontation (militaristically or not) between the Soviet Union and the US.

## **The Nuclear Option**

The Cold War is rooted in the fear of the use of nuclear weapons. Most attribute the lack of a nuclear strike to Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), however, if the Soviet Union or the US believed it was losing a conventional conflict, is it too unlikely that they'll resort to nuclear weapons in order to maintain their standing? Is the threat of a nuclear strike enough to deter more conventional attacks? Or is the threat of a nuclear strike not credible because nobody believes the country will actually use it? The committee can explore the use of nuclear weapons and the threat of using them in order to advance their goals, but non-nuclear wielding delegates must also factor in their existence when deciding on solutions and moves in the backroom.

## **International Responses**

While the most obvious actors are the US, Soviet Union, and North and South Korea, many other countries can have a stake in this crisis as well. Japan occupied Korea before the end of WWII, and we saw a huge wave of imperialism by Western nations in Asia during the late 18th century that lasted well into the 20th century. Our committee start date coincides with, precedes, and postdates many decolonization efforts, so the standards are far from set. How should countries react to the Korean War in a way that either promotes decolonization or entrenches existing spheres of influence?

## **Resolving the Ideological Dispute**

As the Korean War plays into the larger ideological dispute between Communism and Capitalism, through what means should the committee resolve this tension? Countries can consider how to prevent this ideological dispute from spilling over into other territories, especially ones that are more newly created or don't have as stable governing systems. Are there agreements that need to be made to prevent foreign interference when newly independent states are deciding on government styles and economic policies? Or is foreign interference required to prevent domestic instability?

## **Making it Economic**

An often neglected direction that delegates can consider in this conflict is the use of economics. As military advances can be conflict and deadly, an alternative method for countries to get their way on the international stage is the employment of sanctions. Trade embargos, tariffs, and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) can be effective in preventing conflict or undesirable actions by other countries. Countries can consider issuing unilateral sanctions that are enacted by a single nation or multilateral sanctions that are enacted by many supporting nations.

## Questions to Consider

- In real life, more than 5 million people, over half of them civilians, died during the Korean War. How can this conflict be quickly deescalated to prevent the large amount of deaths?
- The Korean War is only one of many proxy wars that occurred during the Cold War. What steps can the international community take in order to prevent more conflicts in the future?
- Keep in mind the stances of the figures you are representing. What are their best interests, and what actions will they take to achieve them?
- Who was the primary instigator of war? Should there be consequences or punishment?

# Bibliography

- History.com Editors. "Domino Theory." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/cold-war/domino-theory](http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/domino-theory).
- "Korean War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 18 June 2021, [www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War](http://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War).
- Michael Ray, 8-14-1945, "Korean War Timeline," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, <https://www.britannica.com/list/korean-war-timeline>
- Millett, Allan R.. "Korean War". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 10 Sep. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War>. Accessed 30 May 2021.
- Brent Radcliffe, 7-7-2021, "How Economic Sanctions Work," *Investopedia*, <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/economics/10/economic-sanctions.asp>
- Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Cold War". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 21 Jun. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>. Accessed 25 July 2021.
- Strayer, Robert W., Eric W. Nelson. (2016). *Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources (for the AP Course)*. BFW & Bedford/St. Martin's.
- History.Com Editors, 2-12-2020, "USSR and PRC sign mutual defense treaty," *HISTORY*, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/ussr-and-prc-sign-mutual-defense-treaty>
- History.Com Editors, 2-28-2020, "Red Scare," *HISTORY*, [https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/red-scare#section\\_3](https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/red-scare#section_3)