



JISMUN'25

H-UNSC: KOREAN WAR

Study Guide

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1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to JISMUN 2025, Aljazari's first-ever MUN conference!

As your (very sleep deprived but incredibly excited) Secretary General, I'm proud to welcome you to something we built from scratch, with a lot of passion and probably too much caffeine.

Whether you're an experienced delegate or nervously holding your placard, this is your moment. Speak boldly, debate fiercely, and most importantly: have fun.

Let's make history.

With love and under-eye bags,

Salsabeel Hassan
Secretary-General

JISMUN 2025

2. Letter from the Under Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

A warm welcome to you all. My name is Abdulmalik Mahmoud, and I will be your Under-Secretary-General for the upcoming JISMUN'25. During these three days, we will be discussing the events of the Korean War. This conflict was not just a regional struggle; it was one that brought together the global powers of the time, setting the stage for the Cold War dynamics that defined much of the 20th century.

The Korean War was a direct confrontation between ideologies, with the communist and capitalist worlds clashing on the Korean Peninsula. As the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and others took sides, the actions of the UNSC and the decisions made during this period had far-reaching consequences for international relations.

As you step into your roles as delegates, I encourage you to examine the complex positions held by various countries, the political and military strategies that were employed, and the long-lasting impact of the decisions made in this era. It is crucial to remember that the discussions here today will not only reflect on the past but will also shape how we approach future conflicts.

During the debate, I urge you to put yourself in the shoes of the countries you represent. Understand their motivations, fears, and aspirations during this critical time. By immersing yourself in the experiences of the nations involved, you will gain a deeper understanding of their actions and decisions. Approach this debate not just as a representative, but as someone who has lived through the same pressures and concerns. This perspective will be vital in crafting authentic and informed solutions.

If you have any questions or need assistance at any point, please don't hesitate to email me at abdulmalikmahmoudahmed@gmail.com. I'm here to support you throughout this journey.

I look forward to seeing your insights and contributions as we navigate this pivotal historical moment together.

Best regards,

Abdulmalik Mahmoud
Under-Secretary-General

3. Introduction

3.1 Introduction to the UNSC

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) and is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Established in 1945 following the devastation of World War II, the Council was designed to foster collective security and prevent future conflicts by providing a platform for diplomacy and decisive action. Operating under the framework of the UN Charter, it is one of the most powerful and influential organs within the international system.

The UNSC is unique in its ability to make legally binding decisions that all UN member states must implement, setting it apart from other UN organs. It is authorized to take a range of measures to address threats to peace, including imposing economic sanctions, approving military interventions, and deploying peacekeeping forces to conflict zones. Its resolutions and mandates are central to international efforts in conflict resolution, crisis management, and international law enforcement.

The member states in the council are divided into two categories;

Five permanent members (P5): China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These nations wield the influential power of veto, allowing any of them to block substantive resolutions regardless of majority support.

Non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms, with seats distributed to ensure geographic representation across different regions of the world.

The UNSC's agenda is extensive and addresses some of the most pressing global challenges, including armed conflicts, nuclear non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, and the protection of civilians in war zones. It also plays a significant role in overseeing the implementation of peace agreements and supporting the establishment of post-conflict stability and governance.



3.2 Introduction to UNSC Procedure

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) operates under procedures outlined in the UN Charter, particularly in Chapters V through VII, to fulfill its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. The UNSC comprises 15 members (11 in our case as our timeline is set in 1950) : five permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—with veto power, and 10 (6 in our case) non-permanent members elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms, based on regional representation. The presidency of the UNSC rotates monthly among its members in alphabetical order, with the presiding country responsible for setting the agenda and facilitating meetings.

Agenda setting in the UNSC can be initiated by any of its members, the UN Secretary-General, or any UN member state under specific conditions. Meetings occur in various formats. Formal meetings are public sessions where resolutions are discussed and voted on, while informal consultations are held behind closed doors to negotiate drafts and resolve disputes. Arria-formula meetings, another type, are informal gatherings that enable Council members to engage with non-UN actors such as non-governmental organizations or independent experts.

Decision-making in the UNSC involves drafting resolutions, negotiating terms, and conducting formal votes. Drafts are typically prepared by one or more member states, often referred to as "penholders," and are circulated among members for review and amendment. Procedural matters require at least nine affirmative votes from the 15 members, with no possibility of a veto. In contrast, substantive matters, such as resolutions on sanctions, peacekeeping mandates, or military interventions, require a minimum of nine affirmative votes with no veto from any of the five permanent members. The veto power allows any of the permanent members to block a resolution, which has been both a tool for maintaining balance and a source of criticism when it hinders action during crises.

The UNSC adopts several types of actions to address international peace and security issues. Binding resolutions may authorize peacekeeping missions, impose sanctions, or, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, approve military interventions in response to threats to peace or acts of aggression. In addition to resolutions, the Council can issue presidential statements and press statements, which, while non-binding, reflect the Council's consensus or majority opinion and serve as diplomatic tools to influence parties in a conflict. Once a resolution is passed, the UNSC monitors compliance through reports from the UN Secretary-General, peacekeeping operations, or fact-finding missions, and may adjust measures depending on the evolving situation.

3.3 Key Vocabulary and Concepts

Armistice: A formal agreement to stop fighting; the Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, in 1953.

Collective Security: The cooperation of several countries in an alliance to strengthen the security of each; foundational to UN intervention.

Containment: A U.S. Cold War policy aimed at preventing the spread of communism worldwide.

Proxy War: A conflict where two opposing countries support combatants that serve their interests instead of waging war directly.

UNSC Resolution 82: The first resolution passed on the Korean War, condemning the North Korean invasion and calling for withdrawal.

Demilitarized Zone (DMZ): The heavily fortified border between North and South Korea established after the armistice.

People's Volunteer Army: The name used by China for its troops who entered the Korean War in support of North Korea.

38th Parallel: The pre-war dividing line between North and South Korea, and a central focus during armistice talks.

UN Command (UNC): The military force established by the United Nations to support South Korea, led by the United States.

Sovereignty: The authority of a state to govern itself; a major point of contention in UN involvement in Korea.

Veto Power: The ability of any P5 member in the UNSC to block substantive resolutions.

Ceasefire: A temporary stoppage of war where parties agree to suspend aggressive actions; a key demand during armistice talks.

4. Overview of the Agenda Item: Korean War

The Korean War (1950–1953) was one of the first major conflicts of the Cold War and a defining moment for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This agenda focuses on the escalation of conflict on the Korean Peninsula, beginning with the invasion of South Korea by North Korean forces on June 25, 1950, and examines the international response coordinated through the UNSC.

At the time, the absence of the Soviet Union from Security Council meetings allowed the body to pass key resolutions, including the authorization of military intervention under the UN flag. The war rapidly expanded, involving numerous nations, including the United States, China, and members of the UN. The conflict raised critical legal and political questions about the role of the UN in maintaining international peace and security, the legitimacy of its actions in the absence of consensus among permanent members, and the boundaries of collective security.

This agenda invites delegates to debate these questions within the historical setting of August 1950, after the Soviet Union returns to the UNSC. Delegates will need to assess the legality and effectiveness of UN actions, the potential for a ceasefire or continued military engagement, and the broader implications for Cold War politics and the future of UN peacekeeping operations.



5. Historical Context

5.1: Division of Korea After World War II

At the end of World War II in 1945, Korea, previously under Japanese colonial rule for 35 years, found itself at the center of geopolitical rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Following Japan's surrender, the Allies agreed to temporarily divide the Korean Peninsula along the 38th parallel, with Soviet forces occupying the North and American forces occupying the South. This division was initially intended as a short-term administrative arrangement until Korea could be unified under a single, independent government.

However, as Cold War tensions deepened, cooperation between the superpowers collapsed. By 1948, two separate governments had formed:

- In the North, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was established under Kim Il-sung, backed by the USSR.

- In the South, the Republic of Korea (ROK) was formed under Syngman Rhee, with U.S. support.

Both governments claimed to be the sole legitimate authority over the entire Korean Peninsula, rejecting the notion of peaceful coexistence. The failure of reunification efforts, including the breakdown of UN-led negotiations and trusteeship talks, laid the groundwork for armed conflict.

This division marked the beginning of Korea's entanglement in the global ideological struggle between communism and capitalism, and directly set the stage for the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950.

5.2: Establishment of the Republic of Korea and the DPRK

The failure to create a unified Korean government led to the formal establishment of two separate states in 1948, each ideologically aligned with one of the emerging global superpowers. On May 10, 1948, elections were held in the South under United Nations supervision, despite Northern opposition and boycott. These elections led to the formation of the Republic of Korea (ROK), officially proclaimed on August 15, 1948, with Syngman Rhee as its first president. The ROK was backed politically and militarily by the United States, and it adopted a capitalist, pro-Western stance.

In response, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was declared in the North on September 9, 1948, led by Kim Il-sung and supported by the Soviet Union. The DPRK embraced Marxist-Leninist ideology and maintained a centrally planned economic system with strong Soviet and later Chinese influence.

Both states claimed sovereignty over the entire Korean Peninsula, considering the other illegitimate. Skirmishes and border clashes along the 38th parallel became increasingly frequent between 1948 and 1950, as both governments consolidated power and prepared for potential conflict. Diplomatic solutions failed, and tensions escalated, leading to the outbreak of full-scale war in June 1950.

5.3: Outbreak of the Korean War (June 25, 1950)

In the early morning of June 25, 1950, the Korean Peninsula was thrust into war when North Korean forces, equipped with Soviet tanks and artillery, launched a full-scale invasion across the 38th parallel into South Korea. This surprise offensive quickly overwhelmed South Korean defenses, capturing key cities and forcing the South Korean army into retreat.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) framed the attack as a defensive response to alleged provocations from the South. However, international observers, including the United

Nations, recognized it as an unprovoked act of aggression. The Republic of Korea (ROK), unprepared for such a large-scale assault, appealed urgently to the UN Security Council for assistance.

In the absence of the Soviet Union, which was boycotting the UNSC over the issue of Chinese representation, the Council passed Resolution 82 on the same day, condemning the invasion and demanding an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of North Korean forces. This marked the beginning of the UN's military involvement, with Resolution 83 (June 27) recommending member states provide military assistance to South Korea, and Resolution 84 (July 7) establishing a unified command under U.S. leadership.

By the end of June, Seoul had fallen, and UN forces began mobilizing under what would become a multinational response to North Korea's aggression. The Korean War had officially begun, rapidly escalating into a major Cold War conflict.

5.4: Soviet Boycott of the UNSC and Its Consequences

During January 1950, the soviet union initiated a formal boycott of the United Nations Security Council, protesting the UN's refusal to recognize the People's Republic of China (PRC) over the Republic of China (Taiwan). At the time, the Chinese civil war had just concluded with the communist party (PRC) victorious on the mainland. Nevertheless, the UN seat for China remained held by the pro-US Republic of China. The USSR condemned this as a Western-influenced injustice and chose to abstain from all UNSC meetings starting on January 1, 1950. Although the affirmation of all P5 members is required to pass a UNSC resolution, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) later clarified that the absence of a permanent member is considered an abstention, not a veto. The absence of the Soviet Union during this critical period allowed the United Nations to act swiftly and decisively in favor of South Korea. The lack of a Soviet veto, an otherwise guaranteed obstacle, meant that the UN could legally authorize military action under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, as well as pass multiple resolutions in favor of South Korea.

Resolutions Passed :

Resolution 82 (June 25, 1950): Condemned North Korea's invasion of South Korea and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Resolution 83 (June 27, 1950): Determined that North Korea's actions constituted a breach of peace and recommended that UN member states provide military assistance to South Korea.

Resolution 84 (July 7, 1950) authorized the establishment of a unified command under the United States to repel the North Korean invasion

5.5: Soviet Return to the UNSC (August 1, 1950)

After a seven-month boycott of the United Nations Security Council, the Soviet Union resumed its participation on August 1, 1950, as they recognized the strategic disadvantage of their absence. Their re-engagement intensified Cold War tensions and hindered any existing progress in passing resolutions. To justify their actions, the Soviet Union claimed that all resolutions passed during their boycott, especially ones regarding matters of peace and security, and including Resolution 82 on June 25, 1950, which condemned North Korea's invasion of South Korea, were invalid due to the absence of a P5 member. Yet, the International Court of Justice clarified that the absence of a permanent member is considered an abstention, thereby upholding the legality of the resolutions passed during the boycott. Upon returning, the Soviet delegate, Yakov Malik, resumed the USSR's role in the UNSC, including utilizing its veto power. This action effectively stalled additional UNSC initiatives against North Korea, highlighting the strategic disadvantage the USSR faced during its absence when key resolutions were passed without opposition. The Soviet Union's re-entry into the UNSC was driven by a need to regain influence over international decisions, especially as the Korean War escalated. The absence had allowed the United States and its allies to pass significant resolutions unchallenged, leading to a UN-sanctioned military response in Korea.

5.6: UN Involvement and Creation of the UN Command

When North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel on June 25, 1950, the United Nations responded directly. The UN Security Council convened the same day and passed Resolution 82, condemning the invasion of South Korea and calling for immediate withdrawal. This swift action was only possible due to the absence of the Soviet Union.



Merely two days later, on June 27, the Council passed Resolution 83, recommending that UN member states assist South Korea in defending against the attack. This resolution resulted in the first collective military effort under the UN flag.

On July 7, 1950, the Security Council passed Resolution 84, which formally established the United Nations Command (UNC). This resolution:

- Authorized the creation of a unified command under the US,
- Requested that the United States appoint the commander,
- Asked the commander to report to the UN on military actions taken.

General Douglas MacArthur was appointed as the first commander of the UNC. He operated under U.S. leadership but within a framework that ensured multilateralism. The UNC included forces from 21 countries, with South Korea, the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, Turkey, and others providing troops, medical units, and logistical support.

The UNC was headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, and maintained operational control over both US and allied forces in Korea. It remains the only unified UN military command ever created and still exists today in a limited form, overseeing the Korean Armistice Agreement.

5.7: Chinese Intervention and Escalation of the Conflict

In October 1950, as UN forces advanced toward the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and China, the People's Republic of China (PRC) perceived a direct threat to its national security. The Chinese leadership, under Mao Zedong, feared that a U.S.-backed presence on its northeastern frontier could lead to encirclement and potential invasion. Additionally, the PRC aimed to solidify its position as a leader in the communist world and to support its North Korean ally.

To avoid the risk of a direct war declaration against the United States and to maintain a guise of non-aggression, China established the People's Volunteer Army (PVA). This force was composed of regular People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops but was designated as "volunteers" to suggest a nationalist movement rather than an official military intervention driven by the state.

On October 19, 1950, under strict secrecy, approximately 260,000 PVA soldiers crossed the Yalu River into North Korea. The entry of the PVA into the Korean War marked a significant escalation in the conflict. Chinese forces engaged UN troops in several major offensives, including the First Phase Offensive starting on October 25, 1950. These actions led to a series of engagements that pushed UN forces southward and resulted in the recapture of key territories by communist forces. The intervention effectively transformed the Korean War from a conflict between North and South Korea into a broader confrontation involving major world powers.

5.8: Military Stalemate and Armistice Talks (1951–1952)

Between 1951 and 1952, the Korean War transitioned from rapid offensives to a protracted stalemate, with both sides entrenched near the 38th parallel. This period was marked by intense trench warfare, heavy casualties, and complex armistice negotiations that ultimately laid the groundwork for the ceasefire in 1953.

Recognizing the impasse, the Soviet Union proposed armistice talks on June 23, 1951. Subsequently, negotiations commenced on July 10, 1951, in Kaesong, a city near the 38th parallel. The primary negotiators were U.S. Vice Admiral Charles Turner Joy for the UNC and North Korean General Nam Il for the communist side. The agenda focused on five key issues: the establishment of a military demarcation line, the creation of a demilitarized zone, arrangements for a ceasefire, the repatriation of prisoners of war, and recommendations to the involved governments.

Despite the initiation of talks, progress was slow and fraught with challenges. A significant point of contention was the repatriation of prisoners of war. The UNC advocated for voluntary repatriation, allowing prisoners to choose whether to return to their home countries, while the

communist side insisted on compulsory repatriation. This disagreement led to a prolonged deadlock in the negotiations.

Additionally, incidents such as the alleged bombing of the Kaesong conference site by UNC aircraft in August 1951 further strained the talks. Although evidence suggested the incident may have been fabricated, the communist delegation used it as a pretext to suspend negotiations, which did not resume until October 25, 1951.

6. Legal & Political Controversy

6.1: Legitimacy of UN Action in the Absence of the USSR

One of the most debated legal questions of the Korean War is the legitimacy of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions adopted in the absence of one of its permanent members, the Soviet Union. At the time of the North Korean invasion on June 25, 1950, the USSR was boycotting the UNSC in protest of the Council's refusal to transfer China's permanent seat from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China (Beijing).

This boycott led to the absence of a Soviet veto when Resolutions 82, 83, and 84 were passed — all of which formed the legal basis for the UN's military intervention in Korea. Under Article 27 of the UN Charter, decisions on substantive matters require an affirmative vote of nine members, including the concurring votes of all five permanent members. However, the Charter does not explicitly address the effect of a permanent member's absence versus a negative vote (veto).

The UN interpreted the Soviet absence as a waiver of the right to vote, thereby allowing resolutions to pass legally. This interpretation was upheld at the time and used to justify the formation of a UN Command to repel North Korean forces. However, Soviet and later PRC legal scholars argued that this set a dangerous precedent, effectively bypassing the veto power and undermining the collective security structure of the UN.

While the intervention was legally executed through the UN framework, its legitimacy continues to be debated in international law. Some view it as a pragmatic use of UN authority in the face of aggression; others see it as a politically motivated manipulation of the Security Council's procedures during a time of geopolitical imbalance.

6.2: Representation of China: ROC vs. PRC

At the time of the Korean War, the issue of China's representation in the United Nations was a major point of legal and political contention, one that significantly shaped the dynamics of the Security Council's decisions.

Following the Chinese Civil War, the People's Republic of China (PRC) was established by the Chinese Communist Party under Mao Zedong in October 1949, after defeating the Kuomintang (KMT) forces led by Chiang Kai-shek, who retreated to the island of Taiwan and continued to govern as the Republic of China (ROC).

Despite the PRC's control over mainland China, the ROC retained China's permanent seat in the UN Security Council, largely due to Cold War politics and opposition from the United States and its allies. The Soviet Union strongly protested this, asserting that the PRC was the only legitimate representative of China. In protest, the USSR began boycotting the UNSC in January 1950, demanding that the PRC be seated.

This boycott coincided with the outbreak of the Korean War and critically impacted the Security Council's ability to maintain its balance of power. The absence of both the USSR and the PRC allowed the Security Council to pass key resolutions authorizing military intervention under UN auspices, without facing a veto from either of these major powers.

The PRC's exclusion from the Security Council had additional consequences:

- When UN forces advanced into North Korea near the Chinese border in late 1950, the PRC intervened militarily, citing national security threats. However, due to the PRC's lack of official representation in the UN, its perspective was not formally represented or considered in UNSC deliberations.
- This further delegitimized the UN's authority in the eyes of the communist bloc and contributed to the PRC's deep mistrust of the United Nations for years to come.

The issue of China's representation would not be resolved until 1971, when UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 officially recognized the People's Republic of China as "the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations," expelling the ROC.

6.3: Debate Over the UN's Role in Conflict Escalation

While the United Nations' military intervention in Korea is often portrayed as a collective act of defense against aggression, critics argue that the UN's actions contributed to the escalation of the conflict, transforming what was initially a civil war into a broader Cold War proxy war.

Following North Korea's invasion on June 25, 1950, the UN Security Council, in the absence of the Soviet Union, rapidly passed a series of resolutions (82, 83, and 84) that authorized military support to South Korea and established a UN Command under U.S. leadership. Although these resolutions were framed as defensive measures to restore peace, their implementation significantly altered the course and intensity of the conflict.

Key Points in the Debate:

- **U.S. Dominance in UN Forces:** Although the intervention was carried out under the UN flag, the command structure, logistics, and troops were overwhelmingly American. Critics argue that the UN was used as a tool of U.S. foreign policy, compromising its neutrality and credibility.
- **Crossing the 38th Parallel:** In September 1950, after the successful Incheon Landing, UN forces began to push North Korean troops back across the 38th parallel. Despite warnings from China, the UN forces advanced deep into North Korean territory, nearing the Yalu River, which borders China. This expansion of the military objective from defense to potential reunification of Korea under the South escalated the conflict.
- **Chinese Intervention:** The forward movement of UN troops prompted a massive military response from the People's Republic of China, which sent hundreds of thousands of "volunteer" troops into Korea in late October 1950. This intervention prolonged the war, dramatically increased casualties, and solidified the Cold War divide in East Asia.
- **Neutrality Concerns:** The involvement of the UN in direct military operations, particularly in territory beyond the 38th parallel, sparked concerns about the overreach of its peacekeeping mandate. Many nations, especially non-aligned and communist states, viewed the UN's actions as partial and escalatory rather than purely defensive.

While the UN's initial response was seen by many as necessary to deter aggression, the long-term consequences of its military involvement, including heightened superpower tensions, the division of Korea, and loss of life, remain subjects of intense historical and legal debate.

7. Country Positions

7.1: Pro-Intervention

These countries supported the UN's military intervention in Korea, viewing the North Korean invasion as a breach of international peace and a test of collective security.

The United States:

The U.S. led the UN response to the North Korean invasion. It saw the conflict as a direct challenge to the post-WWII international order and a critical test of the containment policy. President Truman quickly



committed American troops and pushed for UN backing. The U.S. viewed intervention as essential to resisting communist expansion and preserving global peace.

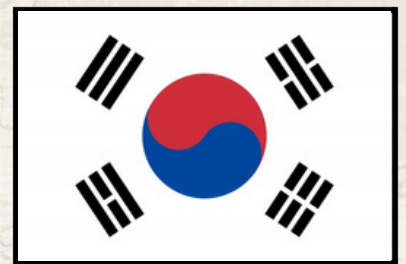
The United Kingdom:

As a key U.S. ally, the UK supported UN military intervention, providing naval and ground forces. The UK aimed to uphold the UN Charter and maintain influence in shaping post-war international institutions. British leadership emphasized the need to deter aggression without provoking a broader war.



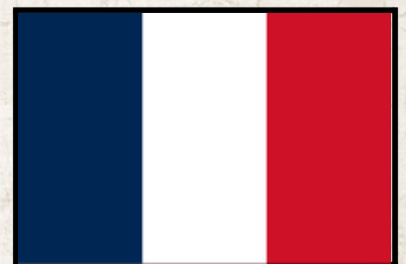
South Korea:

As North Korean forces directly invaded the nation, South Korea was at the center of the conflict. Although it was not a UN member then, it strongly supported UN military intervention. The government, led by President Syngman Rhee, appealed for immediate international assistance to repel the invasion and restore its territorial integrity. South Korea's primary objective was reunification under its leadership, and it relied heavily on U.S. and UN support to survive and respond to the northern aggression.



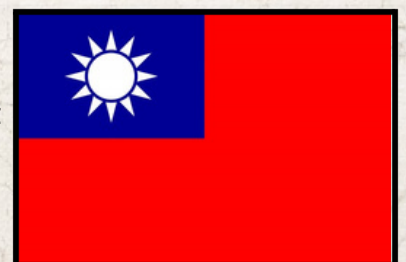
France:

France supported the intervention despite being preoccupied with colonial conflicts, especially in Indochina. It backed the UN's stand on collective security but contributed limited forces. France's support was also strategic, reinforcing its alignment with Western powers.



Republic of China (ROC):

The ROC, holding China's UNSC seat at the time, strongly supported action against North Korea. As an anti-communist state, it had a vested interest in containing communist influence in Asia. It aligned with the U.S. and sought to use the conflict to bolster its international legitimacy.



Turkey:

Turkey volunteered a brigade to support the UN operation, showcasing its commitment to international peace and strengthening its Western alliances. This support contributed to its successful NATO accession in 1952.



7.2: Anti-Intervention

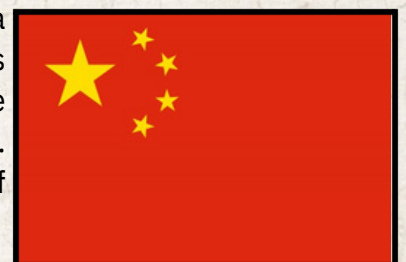
Soviet Union:

The USSR initially boycotted the UNSC over the issue of Chinese representation, which allowed the Council to pass Resolution 82 without a Soviet veto. Upon its return in August 1950, the USSR condemned the UN intervention as illegal and accused it of serving U.S. imperial interests. It denied that North Korea was the aggressor and supported North Korean and Chinese actions militarily and diplomatically.



People's Republic of China (PRC):

Although not recognized by the UN at the time (with the ROC holding the China seat), the PRC played a critical role after the UN forces advanced into North Korea. Viewing the move as a threat to its national security, China entered the war in October 1950 under the name of the "People's Volunteer Army." It strongly opposed UN intervention, especially the advance toward the Yalu River, and launched a massive counteroffensive. The PRC maintained that it acted defensively and accused the UN of escalating the conflict into a broader imperialist war.



Poland:

As a Soviet-aligned state, Poland echoed Moscow's position. It criticized the UN for acting without full consensus and accused it of violating principles of sovereignty. Poland defended North Korea's stance and opposed UN military intervention.



North Korea:

North Korea claimed its attack on the South was a response to provocations and framed its actions as part of a national liberation struggle. It rejected all UN resolutions as biased and refused to recognize the legitimacy of the South Korean government or its international supporters.



7.3 Neutral Positions:

India:

India maintained a non-aligned stance. It condemned the North Korean invasion but also urged restraint by all parties. India called for an immediate ceasefire, peace negotiations, and respect for Korean sovereignty. It became involved in diplomatic efforts, including prisoner exchange negotiations and armistice talks.



Egypt:

Egypt sought to avoid taking sides, emphasizing peaceful resolution and regional diplomacy. It was cautious of Western domination but also wary of Soviet expansionism. Egypt often called for de-escalation and non-interventionist solutions.



Yugoslavia:

After its 1948 split with the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia took an independent path. It criticized both North Korea's aggression and the potential for U.S. overreach. It favored a UN-led political solution that respected Korean self-determination.



Norway:

As a non-permanent UNSC member and NATO founder, Norway supported the UN's stance but avoided deep military commitment. It backed humanitarian aid and supported the legal legitimacy of collective UN action while promoting diplomatic efforts.



8. Questions to be Addressed

1. To what extent was the UN's military intervention in Korea legitimate without the participation of the Soviet Union?
2. Should the Security Council seek a ceasefire or continue supporting military operations in Korea?
3. What are the implications of Chinese intervention for the stability of the Korean Peninsula?
4. How can the UN balance the principle of state sovereignty with the need to respond to aggression?
5. Should the UN formally recognize either North Korea or South Korea as the legitimate government of Korea?
6. What mechanisms can the UNSC use to prevent future boycotts that hinder decision-making?
7. How should the UN respond if the conflict escalates into a wider war involving China or the Soviet Union?
8. Is the reunification of Korea under one government a realistic or desirable goal?

9. How can the UN protect civilians and ensure humanitarian aid reaches those affected by the war?

10. What role should neutral states play in facilitating peace negotiations?

9. Additional Resources & References

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