

## **US History**

### **The Cold War**

#### **Learning Target:**

*I can analyze how containment was applied and abandoned in Korea leading to a partial victory for the U.S. in the Korean War.*

### **6. The Korean War**

#### ***The outbreak of war –***

- Korea divided into two countries after WWII at the 38 parallel
  - North Korea – USSR
  - South Korea – USA
  
- June 25, 1950
  - North Korea invaded South Korea without cause (unprovoked)
  - Truman decides to react with Containment
  - Ordered General Douglas MacArthur and US forces into Korea
  
- June 27, 1950
  - UN Security Council resolution named N. Korea the aggressor
  - Korean War was technically a UN police action

#### ***The Drive to Pusan –***

- N. Korea driving to Pusan on southern tip of S. Korea
- A defensive perimeter set up around Pusan by MacArthur
- A gamble because we had to spread out US forces – the perimeter held

#### ***The Surprise Landing at Inchon –***

- MacArthur decided on a surprise attack at Inchon
- An amphibian landing behind enemy lines
- After landing at Inchohn marched to Seoul
- Used pincers movement to trap N. Korea troops
- US forces came from Pusan and down from Seoul and caught N. Korea
- 130,000 N. Korean troops surrendered – rest fled across 38<sup>th</sup> parallel

#### ***Significance at this point in the war –***

- Total US victory if Truman would have stopped here – The US would have had a successful application of containment

#### ***Truman's Mistake –***

- Fateful decision by Truman
- Truman decided to redefine the American war goal from the containment of North Korea to the reunification of Korea by force
- Communism wouldn't only be stopped; it would be rolled back.
- Truman and MacArthur abandoned containment

### ***China's entry into the Korean War –***

- Background
  - China had fallen to communism earlier
  - US had tried to support democracy in China but it failed
  
- Why did China enter?
  - Entered November 1950
  - US had delivered air strikes against bridges on the Yalu River on the Chinese – Korean border to stop supplies from reaching North Korea
  - Mao Tse Tung, Chinese Leader, warns US to stop bombings
  
- The Meeting
  - Between Truman and MacArthur because Truman concerned about Chinese
  - MacArthur told Truman that the Chinese would face the “greatest slaughter” if they entered the war
  - “Mr. President, the war will be over by Christmas.”
  
- The Attack
  - 300,000 Chinese troops attacked UN forces
  - Push UN forces back to the 38 with ease
  - March 1951 lines stabilize around 38
  - MacArthur greatly embarrassed

### ***Truman Fires MacArthur –***

- MacArthur and Truman have differing views on what to do
  - MacArthur – wants full scale war with China
  - Truman – decides to return to Containment (a limited war mentality)
  
- MacArthur guilty of insubordination
  - Went over the President's head
  - Wrote to newspapers, and leaders of Congress
  - Example – in March 1951 wrote letter to Joseph Martin in the House
  - “Need to crush communism in Asia” and “There is no substitute for victory.”
  
- April 11, 1951
  - Truman fires General MacArthur
  - MacArthur officially fired for insubordination
  - “I could do nothing else and still be president” - Truman

- Popularity of both
  - MacArthur receives a heroes welcome
  - ticker tape parades, a television address, address' Congress
  - Truman's popularity decreases

***The Ending of the Korean War –***

- Presidential Campaign – 1952
  - Truman bowed out with his popularity down
  - Dwight Eisenhower, General, ran for republicans
  - Ike said “I will go to Korea”
  - December 1952 – Ike went but still no solution
  - Ike threatens Chinese with nuclear weapons
  - Chinese decide to settle right around the 38
  - Peace agreement in July 1953

***Conclusions –***

- The first successful/unsuccessful application of Containment.
- A limited victory for the US.
- 53,000 US troops died
- Led to an escalating arms race with the USSR