



SOUTH OF THE
38TH PARALLEL: A
STAND AGAINST
THE COMMUNIST
REGIME
TOPIC BULLETIN

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AMUN XXI! It is a pleasure to invite all of you to participate in this conference. My name is Michael Papadopoulos, and I will be serving as Co-Chair of Traditional Crisis: The Korean War. Whether this is your first time or tenth time competing in Model United Nations, I hope you will be able to learn and grow from this experience. You will be stepping into the shoes of Korean and American officials in the prelude to the Korean War, and through hard work and dedication you will lead South Korea to victory in what seemed to be a hopeless struggle. This victory won't be given easily, though; only through top-notch speaking, planning, and strategizing, along with the ability to work together and apart, will you be able to succeed. A bit on myself; I am a junior at Bergen County Academies in the Academy for Computer Science and Technology. I've attended conferences across the country for MUN in places like Washington D.C. and Yale, and previously chaired for JAMUN IV and V. I understand how important public speaking skills and the ability to lead are throughout life, so I hope this conference will be a good opportunity to develop these skills. I cannot wait to chair for this committee, so remember to come in prepared with knowledge and plans to succeed in Traditional Crisis: The Korean War.

Good Luck,
Michael Papadopoulos, Head-Chair, The Korean War
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Welcome Delegates!

My name is Julian Morales and I will be serving as co-Chair for the committee Traditional Crisis: The Korean War in this year's AMUN XXI. As you take the thrilling roles of American and Korean officials dealing with the prelude to the Korean War, you all need to weigh your decisions carefully and ultimately guide South Korea to its best possible future. Every action will have certain consequences. Whether it be positive or negative depends on your ability to coordinate properly and, especially, as a team. Working together, communicating effectively, learning how to cooperate, and resolving issues diplomatically will provide the best chance for success. Here's a little bit about myself: I am currently a senior in the Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology, but this is actually my first year officially as a part of MUN! I served for a little bit as a staffer for AMUN XX (where I had an amazing time), but I have not attended many conferences like the other Chairs or Crisis Directors of the many committees. However, I have looked forward to attending this year's AMUN XXI for quite some time now. With some new experience, I hope to serve all of you as best as I possibly can. I happily look forward to chairing for this committee in these two days and hope you all learn and fully experience an interesting, exciting, and memorable perspective of the Korean War.

Feel free to reach out to me at any time!

Good luck!
Julian Morales, Chair, Traditional Crisis: The Korean War
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Hello Delegates,

My name is Elliot Lee and it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 21st installment of AMUN! I am a junior in the medical academy here (despite the fact that I have zero interest in medicine) and I spend most of my time procrastinating in creative ways. Nevertheless, Model UN remains one of my biggest joys since I joined in freshman year as through MUN I have built great friendships, crafted memories, and learned so much (it's almost enough to make up for the amount of sleep I've lost over it). Outside of school, I have a passion for birds. I obsessively bird watch in my free time and go on trips with my local young birders club.

At AMUN, I look forward to rewriting the history of the Korean Peninsula with all of you. I urge you to think beyond the ideas that are presented in your textbooks. Rather, choose to be daring and push the committee in ways that no one would ever expect. Nevertheless, do not forget about the important cornerstones of MUN: cooperation and diplomacy. Between the grabs for power, remember to work your fellow members of the committee to push for the overall agenda. If you have any questions about AMUN or otherwise, please feel free to email me.

See you in February!

Best of Luck,
Elliot Lee, Crisis Director, The Korean War
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Committee Overview:

The year is 1949. It has been 2 months since the August border clashes between North Korean and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) troops north of the 38th Parallel dividing line. Tensions between both sides are at their highest point and all-out conflict seems likely. The Communist Chinese have just established the People's Republic of China and they could very well catapult Korea into war. You are a member of a top-secret strategy meeting between the top United States and Republic of Korea (South Korean) officials with the goal of responding to new international developments as well as creating the best possible future for Korea. Whether or not that future is peaceful, violent, results in a unified Korea, or in a complete disaster is up to you. Diplomatic tensions have recently become more and more violent which means delegates will have to work together to weigh military decisions, consider alliances and collaboration with other countries, and ultimately put an end to the current stalemate.

The committee will consist of 25 delegates (roughly half from the Republic of Korea and half from the United States). Each delegate will have to weigh their own personal beliefs and aspirations with the proposed actions of the committee. Crisis notes and directives can be used to further your own agenda as well as the agenda of the Republic of Korea. Specifically, both countries involved will have to weigh how much power they want to maintain in the future, what information and resources they are willing to share with the other side, as well as which countries they should work with. Additionally, party differences of aggression vs. non-aggression, unification vs. separation, and communism vs. democracy will all come into play as major debate topics of the Committee. The future of Korea is up to you, welcome to the Crisis in Korea: 1949.



Parliamentary Procedure:

This committee will follow the standard parliamentary procedure. A majority of the time spent in committee will be in moderated caucuses, but there will also be unmoderated caucuses as the committee sees necessary, motioned by delegates. The chair reserves the discretion to make final calls before voting on motions.

Topic History:

Imperial Japanese Rule (1910 - 1945):

In 1910, Japan annexed Korea through the use of the Japan - Korea Annexation Treaty. Although Korea claimed that its Emperor Gojong never officially agreed to the treaty using Korea's royal seal, Japan was able to use its force to take control of Korea. This rule would last for another 35 years until finally, in 1945, Japan was forced to give up its control after losing to the allied forces at the end of World War II in 1945. Japan held control of the country as an economic colony, installing a Japanese Governor-General of Korea, eliminating the prior Korean royal Joseon hierarchy, and even destroying the royal Korean Gyeongbokgung palace. The Japanese proxy government made drastic economic steps in order to enhance colonial control as well as maximize profits. The Japanese created a harsher, more robust taxation system which destroyed the tenant farmer system, transferred resources from Korea to Japan, and forced Koreans into slavery in mines, construction roles, and sweat shop factories. While the Japanese enjoyed the new infrastructure this created including new transportation and communication networks, Koreans could only watch as their country transformed.

Tensions in Korea rose until they reached a boiling point in January 1919, when Korean Emperor Gojong died from a suspected poisoning. On



March 1, 1919, peaceful independence rallies took place in which Korean citizens protested against Japanese rule. Japan, in an eager attempt to stop the estimated 2 million protestors, used force, killing up to 7,000 Koreans. Additionally, Japan was eager to crush any remaining revolutionary/opposition spirit which led them to kill many Korean Christians as well as influence the outside world into not supporting Korean Independence movements. However, this suppression did not stop the Korean independence fighters who created the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in Shanghai China, following the March 1st demonstrations. Although the government was able to achieve some success, it failed in its primary objectives of gaining international support and liberating Korea. Still, many Koreans left the Korean Peninsula in order to create resistance groups in Manchuria, China, which became known as the Dongnipgun (Independence Army). These groups used guerrilla warfare in order to combat Japanese forces and eventually joined forces in the 1940s as the Korean Liberation Army and the Liberation Army. Chinese groups such as the People's Liberation Army and the National Revolutionary Army supported Korean independence.

A Political Divide (1943-1945):

At the Cairo Conference in 1943, Russia, Britain, and the U.S.A. agreed that "In due course Korea shall become free and independent". However, following the end of World War II in 1945 and the fall of the Japanese Empire, a pressing question arose: What would that freedom and independence ultimately look like? Groups that claimed power over the new Korea included previously mentioned exiles and independence movement leaders located in Manchuria, Japan, the United States and the Soviet Union. These claimants were split into two core ideologies: Marxist revolutionaries and Korean Nationalists. The Marxist revolutionaries consisted of the heavily Chinese-influenced guerrilla groups which had fought the Japanese during their occupation of Korea. This group would



later go on to control the northern section of Korea, led by Kim II-sung, a former guerilla leader with connections to the Soviet Union. The other dominating ideology was Nationalism, which was based around the much more western ideals of industrialism, science, and education. This group would go on to gain control of the Southern section of Korea.

Ultimately, lack of a proper discussion on the future of Korea led to a hasty, poorly thought out plan following World War II. The United States and the Soviet Union had toppled the Japanese Empire, and were now both interested in the strategic significance of Korea as a South Asian stronghold. The Soviet Union had declared war on Japan during World War II on August 9, 1945. This occurred about a month prior to the official September 2nd surrender from the Japanese side. The Soviet Union used this declaration of war to fulfill their promises to join the Allied Forces in the Pacific War which they described at the Tehran Conference in November 1943 and the Yalta Conference in February 1945. However, The Soviet Union was also able to use this to send their Communist Red Army into the Pacific region, specifically into the northern region of Korea.

Although the United States and the Soviet Union fought on the same side in World War II, their respective visions for the future could not be more different. Their dissimilarities would mark the beginning of the Cold War after World War II, a battle between the United States Capitalists, supporters of freedom and democracy across the world, and the Soviet Communists, supporters of control and authoritarianism. Both sides were eager to hold regions around the world which meant a compromise over land was inevitable. On the night of August 10, 1945, the same day that the Red Army began to occupy northern Korea, the United States tasked US Colonels Dean Rusk and Charles H. Bonesteel III with creating separate Soviet and US occupation zones following the seemingly inevitable surrender by the Japanese. The Colonels proposed the Korean Peninsula be cut roughly in the middle by the 38th parallel (the 38 degrees North latitude line). This line lay just above Seoul, the capital of Korea and a point of priority for the United States Government.



However, there was a slight problem: The Red Army already occupied the northern section of Korea while the U.S. Army was not in the region. This meant that the Soviets could easily gain more territory in this area. Colonel Dean Rusk was very concerned, noting that he was "faced with the scarcity of US forces immediately available, and time and space factors, which would make it difficult to reach very far north, before Soviet troops could enter the area." But Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviets, stayed true to the geographical agreement and waited for United States troops to reach the border even three weeks after his troops had reached it. Officially, Korea was divided.

Two Koreas:

In September 1945, the United States entered South Korea using the United States Army Military Government in Korea (USAMGIK). US Lieutenant General John R. Hodge was the leader of this army as the military governor of the region and did not accept the People's Republic of Korea (PRK), a Korean provisional government, as political leaders. This was because the USAMGIK believed that there were Communist sympathizers in the PRK. In December 1945, riots broke out in response to the US-Soviet Joint Commission at the Moscow Conference's decision to give Korea its independence in five years. Koreans did not agree with control for this long of a period and large-scale civilian unrest followed. The USAMGIK responded by banning strikes shortly after on December 9, 1945, and looked for a new strategy. It appeared that joint rule over the country would not be the best solution.

So, the United States turned to the United Nations to assume responsibility over the country in an attempt to create an unbiased, independent Korea. This led to elections in both halves of the country which remained divided. The southern region became the Republic of Korea (ROK) on August 15, 1948, one month after the southern region elected Syngman Rhee to be its President on July 20, 1948. The Soviet Union established a communist government in the North led by Kim II-



sung. While both the United States and the Soviet Union officially militarily left the region following the creation of the governments, they were both still very much involved in the affairs of the region. The South was now led by a Nationalist dictator and the North by a communist one, an unstable equilibrium of power.

The now-independent Republic of Korea was not free of conflict. Shortly after its establishment by the United Nations, partisan warfare spread all across the South as the newly created Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) was forced to deal with Communist insurgents. The fighting expanded and involved minor conflicts between ROKA and the North Korean People's Army (KPA). In the end, the Republic of Korea was able to gain control over the region in August of 1948 but not without the loss of 8,000 Republic of Korea security forces and 30,000 Koreans either merely caught in the conflict or classified as "Rightists" or "Reds" (Southern supporters of communism).

This partisan warfare in the Republic of Korea not only diminished ROKA forces, but also delayed further training and development in the South. As a result, the Republic of Korea forces paled in comparison to KPA (North Korean) forces. In 1949, the ROK had roughly 90,000 soldiers with $\frac{2}{3}$ in combat and $\frac{1}{3}$ in support out of a total population of around 20 million. Although the ROK had requested heavy machinery from the United States, the United States declined many requests, instead reserving these forces for use in Japan. As a result, the ROK had a measly 22-plane air force, zero tanks, and the support of only 200-300 US troops in Korea. American advisors judged that not even half of ROKA infantries were ready for an armed conflict.

In early 1949 Kim II-sung approached the Soviet Leader Stalin with a desire for a Unified Korea. Kim II-sung proposed an invasion of the ROK to create one communist Korea. However, Stalin refused, concerned that the North was not prepared for a real invasion and that the United States would enter the region and destroy Kim II-sung's army. But, unlike the United States, the Soviet Union was eager to arm their allies in Korea. Although the population of North Korea is only half of the ROK at around



10 million, their military power is far superior. The North's forces were comprised of 150-200 thousand troops made up of 10 infantry divisions, one tank division with 280 tanks, and a well-equipped air force division with 210 fighter planes. The North received strong support from the Soviets as well as the Chinese who had just wrapped up their own conflict.

Delegate Positions:

South Korean Government Officials (11):

Syngman Rhee

Elected president of the Republic of Korea: Nationalist dedicated to the idea of unifying Korea.

Chung Il-kwon

South Korean politician, diplomat, and soldier, Major General who seeks promotion to Commander if armed conflict were to occur

Paik Sun-yup

Dedicated ROK army general loyal to his country

Yi si-yeong

Vice President of ROK: heavily involved in the creation of the former Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai.

Yun Posun

ROK Commerce Minister, disagrees with Syngman Rhee's authoritarian policies.

Shin Sung-mo

Defense Minister during the Korean War with political aspirations to become prime minister.



Lee Beom-seok

South Korean prime minister: Opposed South- North negotiations in favor of Rhee's sole authoritarian government in South Korea.

Chang Myon

In 1949, he became the first ambassador of the ROK to the U.S., supported expansion of army and had aspirations to become prime minister

PM 3 Chang Taek-Sang

ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in charge of diplomacy for South Korea.

Yun Chi-young

ROK Interior minister: fiercely nationalist in Rhee's government

Sin Ik-hui

Speaker of the ROK National Assembly: previous experience as Justice Minister and Interior Minister of Korean Provisional Governments.

United States Officials (14):

Harry Truman

President of U.S. and UN appointed executive agent for war in Korea: Urged UN and US military involvement in Korea.

General Matthew Ridgway

General of the Eighth United States Army: Served under General Douglas MacArthur in Korea.



General Douglas MacArthur

Commander of the U.S.'s Far East Command (FECOM): Oversaw the occupation of Japan as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

George Marshall

U.S. Secretary of Defense who orchestrated the Marshall Plan to stop the spread of Communism.

Lieutenant General James Van Fleet

US Army General greatly respected by President Harry Truman.

Dean Asheson

US Secretary of State: Thought U.S. would not actually defend the ROK in the face of communist attack.

John R. Hodge

Former Military Governor of South Korea: American officials value his experience and input.

John J. Muccio

First US ambassador to SK responsible for carrying out communication between SK and UN-backed American Governments.

J. Lawton Collins

US Army Chief of Staff: initially opposed US intervention in Korea, but offered advice and resources for defeating North Koreans when war was inevitable.

Frank Pace

US Secretary of the Army: one of Truman's unofficial chief liaisons between the White House and the Pentagon.



Dean Rusk

Assistant Secretary of Far Eastern Affairs: Supported the US decision to enter the Korean War.

Edward A. Almond

Army General, assisted MacArthur in planning a Korean Assault as well as staffing the American occupation forces in Japan.

Walton H. Walker

American army officer, commander of the U.S Eighth Army.

Mark Wayne Clark

Chief of U.S. Army Field Forces, youngest four-star general in the United States Army.

Questions to Consider:

To what extent should Korea's military force be expanded upon? To what extent should Korea seek outside assistance from the UN?

How should the joint ROK - US coalition respond to the newly established People's Republic of China?

Is it better to fight for a unified Korea or continue the current geographical and political division?

How, if at all, should the political ideologies of North Korea and its allies be dealt with? Is propaganda a viable strategy?

What will your place be in the future of Korea? Will you rise up and gain power at the expense of others or will you put your country's needs before



your own?

How much emphasis should be put on keeping the South Korean population and cities safe and secure? Should the people's well-being be sacrificed for victory?

US officials: Is Korea worth saving? Should American lives be saved by pulling out of the region before violence?

Korean officials: What power should the US be granted in our affairs?

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