

Background

- The status of Korea in 1950
- The 'threat' to the USA of China becoming communist in 1949



Key terms

- 38th parallel
- NSC-68
- containment
- domino theory
- rollback
- NKPA

The outbreak of war

- Tension between North and South Korea
- Stalin's support for North Korea
- North Korea invaded the South



Key places

- Inchon
- Pyongyang
- Pusan
- Seoul

Involvement of the USA

- Belief in domino theory and NSC-68
- Concerns over Japan



Involvement of the United Nations

- Boycott by USSR avoided veto of intervention
- Memory of League of Nations' failure



Key events of the war

- Initial success of NKPA
- Intervention by US and UN forces
- Intervention by Chinese 'volunteers'
- American talk of 'rollback' and use of nuclear weapons
- Dismissal of MacArthur
- Stalemate and ceasefire



Key people

- Kim Il Sung
- Syngman Rhee
- Stalin
- Truman
- MacArthur
- Eisenhower

Key debates and analysis

- Why did the USA get involved, considering its isolationism before the Second World War?
- How big a role did the USSR play in the conflict?
- How and why did the USA's intentions change during the war?
- Why do some historians say that the war achieved very little?

Outcomes

- USA achieved aim of containment
- 38th parallel still in force
- Communism and capitalist democracies could fight without a superpower nuclear war
- 10% of Korean population killed
- 1.2 million soldiers killed

