



Canada and the Cold War

Canada and the Korean War 1950-1953

A. Background

- after Japanese defeat 1945, Russians occupied the northern half of Korea and Americans the south, (38th parallel the division line)



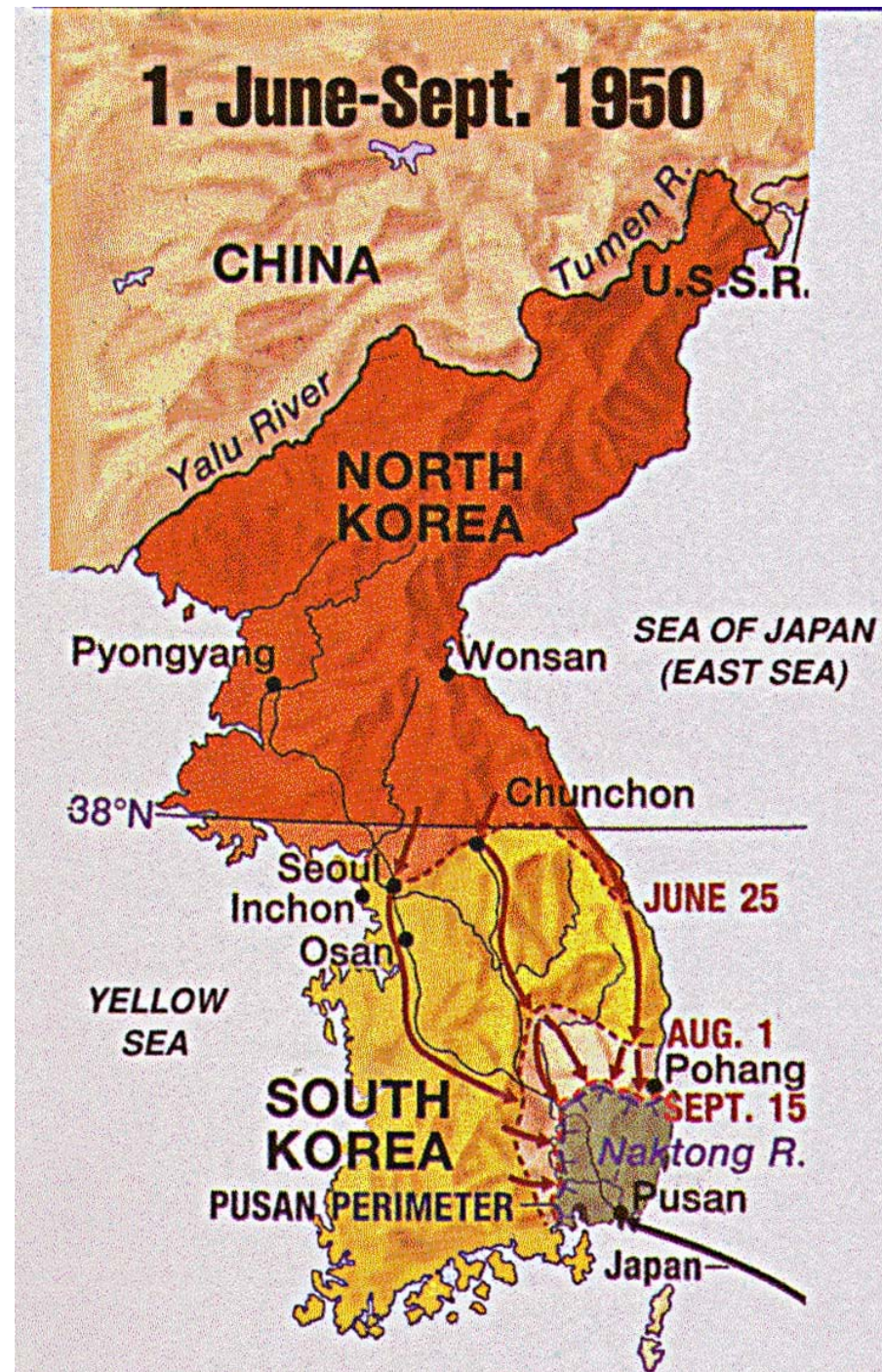
- June, 1950, North Korean Communist forces invade south across the 38th parallel, quickly capturing almost entire peninsula.
- US immediately reacts, at United Nations, with American pressure, a resolution is passed in the Security Council to send forces to aid South Korea
- 16 countries assisted (but mostly the US)

U.N. Forces in Korea

32 countries sent aid to South Korea during 1950-53. The first 16 to respond were:-

- 1 U.S.A.
- 2 Australia
- 3 Canada
- 4 S. Africa
- 5 New Zealand
- 6 France
- 7 Colombia
- 8 Ethiopia
- 9 Greece
- 10 Thailand
- 11 Belgium
- 12 United Kingdom
- 13 Turkey
- 14 Philippines
- 15 Luxembourg
- 16 Holland

- Soviets didn't use veto,
 - boycotting the UN - Why?
- UN forces first invade at Inchon.
 - By Sept., 1950, North Korean forces pushed back to 38th parallel





- US General MacArthur
- launches an invasion of the north
- Approaches Chinese border.
- Chinese warn on Oct. 10 that if Americans don't stop at the border, their armies will enter the conflict.

- General Douglas MacArthur and John Foster Dulles in Tokyo, June 21, 1950. Dulles, on a Far East fact-finding mission, had just left Korea, and was in Tokyo when the first reports of the invasion arrived. Photograph: U.S. Army. Source: Truman Library

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- Americans don't stop
 - Nov. 1950, Chinese sent in 300,000 troops
 - UN forces driven back across 38th parallel, Seoul recaptured
 - General McArthur wanted to attack China,
 - use nuclear bombs if necessary
 - Truman recalls McArthur to the US
 - UN forces drive Chinese back over 38th parallel, done by June 1951



President Eisenhower
Source: CIA

**Two more years
before war finally
over, by then
Truman replaced by
President
Eisenhower and
Stalin dead (1953)...
new border
stabilizes roughly
along 38th parallel –
where they started
in 1950**

B. Canada's Contribution to the War

- Officially a UN action – The Security Council resolution to use military force to stop the hostile aggression of North Korea
- Canada was somewhat obligated as a NATO ally
- Canada sent thousands of troops (one brigade)
 - eight naval destroyers
 - an air transport squadron
 - total of 27 000 military personnel



- Canada's Princess Patricia's Light Infantry won a decisive victory at the Battle of Kapyong, outnumbered 8 to 1, they fought fiercely in hand-to hand combat for three days, preventing the fall of Seoul to the North army.

- 516 Canadians were killed in The Korean War
- Lester Pearson, Canada's Minister of External Affairs, urged all sides to agree to a ceasefire and eventually one was reached without having the war expand into a greater regional or world conflict



Lester B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, addresses the UN General Assembly in September 1954.
United Nations Photo/UN-43945

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