

1950  
Korean War  
begins

1950  
McCarthy launches anti-  
Communist campaign

1953  
Soviet Union tests  
hydrogen device

1956  
Suez crisis

1957  
Eisenhower  
Doctrine

1957  
Soviet Union  
launches Sputnik  
satellite

1960  
U-2  
incident

1950

1955

1960

## 3 The Cold War Expands

### SECTION PREVIEW

#### Objectives

- 1 Describe General Douglas MacArthur and his role in the Korean War.
- 2 Analyze the effects of Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communist campaign.
- 3 Trace the development of the cold war and the arms race in the 1950s.
- 4 **Key Terms** Define: Korean War; 38th parallel; domino theory; arms race; brinkmanship; ICBM; *Sputnik*; U-2 incident.

#### Main Idea

During the 1950s, the cold war spread to new locations around the world. At home, a senator's anti-Communist crusade ruined many people's careers but ultimately failed.

#### Reading Strategy

**Outlining Information** Copy the headings in this section on a sheet of paper. As you read, add two or three key facts under each heading to create an outline.

Koreans hoped their nation would be restored after Japan withdrew. However, in 1945 the Allies agreed to divide the nation temporarily into a Soviet-occupied northern zone and an American-occupied southern zone. Soon a pro-American government formed in South Korea and a Communist regime in North Korea. Occupying forces withdrew from both zones in 1948 and 1949.

In June 1950, the **Korean War** broke out when North Korean troops streamed across the **38th parallel**, the latitude line dividing the two nations, aiming to reunite Korea by force. Because the USSR was boycotting the Security Council at the time to protest the exclusion of Communist China, the UN was able to act. It called on its members to defend South Korea.

### Douglas MacArthur

AMERICAN  
BIOGRAPHY

A hero of two world wars and a strong



General Douglas MacArthur  
(1880–1964)

anti-Communist, General Douglas MacArthur was Truman's choice to lead the UN forces in Korea. For MacArthur, the command capped a long, distinguished, and controversial career.

The son of an army officer, MacArthur graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1903 at the top of his class. He was cited seven times for bravery in World War I and by 1918, at age 38, had attained the rank of general. After serving in the Philippines during the 1920s, he returned to the United States in 1930 to become Army Chief of Staff.

At the start of World War II President Roosevelt appointed MacArthur to be commander of American forces in Asia. From this post he organized the defense of the Philippines and, later, the three-year island-hopping campaign against the Japanese in the Pacific.

As virtual dictator of Japan during the postwar occupation period, MacArthur was responsible for establishing Western democracy

there and for creating Japan's new democratic constitution. He was less successful in implementing democracy in South Korea, where he also commanded American occupation forces. There MacArthur supported South Korean president Syngman Rhee, despite Rhee's brutal elimination of his opponents.

Although a hero to those he commanded and to much of the American public, MacArthur was disliked by many political leaders, who viewed him as overly ambitious. MacArthur, in turn, had little respect for either Roosevelt or Truman, both of whom he viewed as soft on communism. His attitude made MacArthur an anti-Communist hero. Yet his characteristic contempt for anyone with authority over him led him to take actions that undermined his otherwise brilliant career. ■

## The Korean War

Despite his difficult personality, MacArthur was an excellent military strategist, and he developed a bold plan to drive the invaders from South Korea. With Soviet tanks and air power, the North Koreans had swept through South

Korea in just weeks. Only a small part of the country, near the port city of Pusan, remained unconquered.

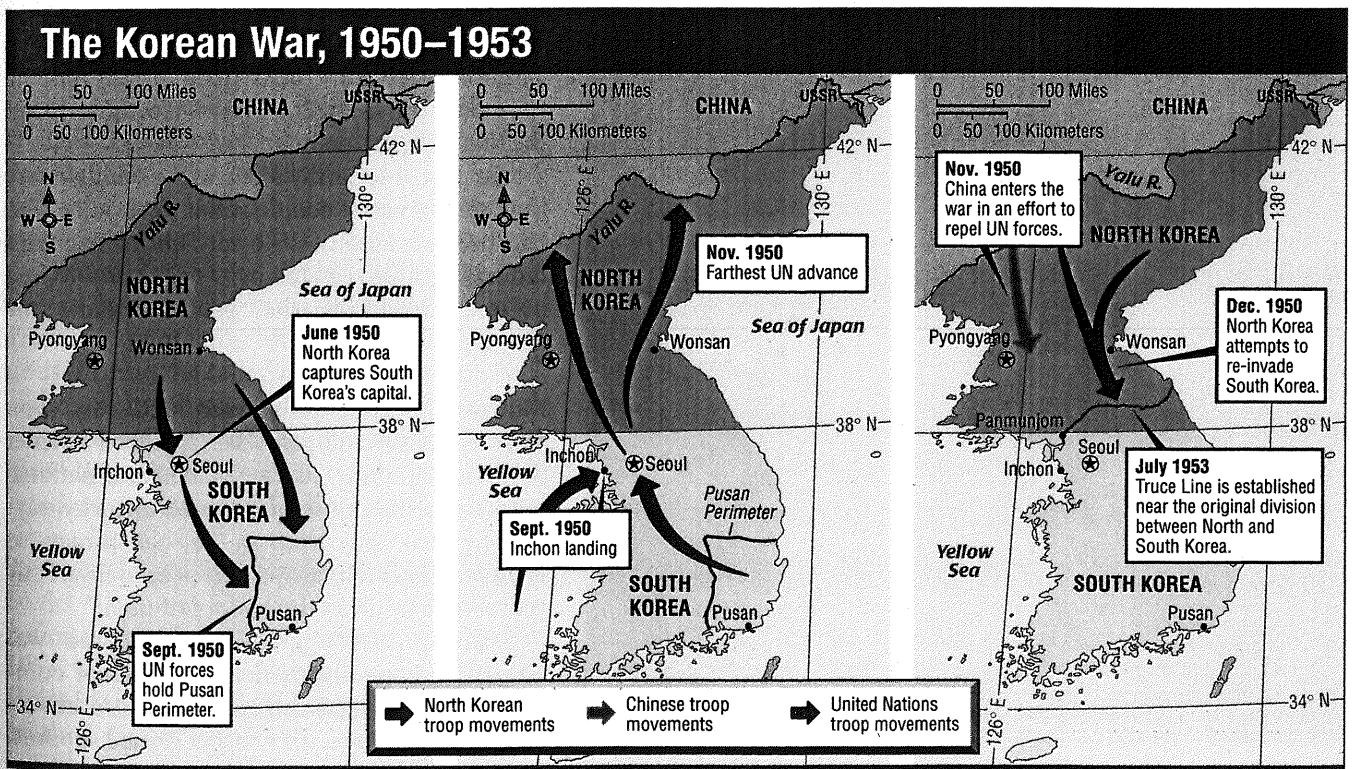
MacArthur suspected that the North Koreans' rapid advance had left their supply lines stretched thin. He decided to strike at this weakness. After first sending forces to defend Pusan, in September 1950 he landed troops at Inchon in northwestern South Korea, and attacked enemy supply lines from behind.

MacArthur's strategy worked. Caught between UN forces in the north and south, and with their supplies cut off, the invaders fled back across the 38th parallel. UN troops pursued them northward. American and South Korean leaders began to boast of reuniting Korea under South Korean control. Such talk alarmed the Chinese Communists, who had been in power less than a year and who did not want a pro-Western nation next door.

As UN troops approached North Korea's border with China, the Chinese warned them not to advance any farther. MacArthur ignored the warning. On November 24, 1950, the general announced his "Home by Christmas" offen-

## Main Idea CONNECTIONS

In what way was the Korean War a cold war conflict?



These maps show the back-and-forth nature of the fighting in the Korean War. **Movement** Examine the maps and the movements of the UN troops. Why do you think China entered the war when it did?

sive, designed to drive the enemy across the North Korean border at the Yalu River into China and end the war.

Chinese troops poured across the Yalu to take the offensive. The Chinese and North Koreans pushed the UN forces back into South Korea. A stalemate developed.

MacArthur favored breaking the stalemate by opening a second front in the war. He urged that the Chinese opposition forces of Jiang Jieshi on the island of Taiwan be returned to the mainland to attack the Chinese Communists. Truman opposed this strategy, fearing it could lead to a widespread war in Asia.

Unable to sway Truman, MacArthur sent a letter to House Minority Leader Joseph Martin in March 1951, attacking the President's policies. Martin made the letter public. On April 11, Truman fired MacArthur for insubordination.

MacArthur returned home to a hero's welcome. In an address to a joint session of Congress on April 19, he made an emotional farewell:

**AMERICAN VOICES**

“Since I took the oath at West Point, the hopes and dreams [of youth] have all vanished. But I still remember the

refrain of one of the most popular barracks ballads of that day, which proclaimed most proudly that old soldiers never die, they just fade away. And like the old soldier of that ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away, an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty. Good-bye.”

—General Douglas MacArthur,  
speech to Congress, April 19, 1951

Once tempers cooled, MacArthur did, in fact, fade from view, and Truman was able to keep the war limited. However, the struggle dragged on for over two more years. Finally, a truce was signed in 1953, leaving Korea divided at almost exactly the same place as before the war, near the 38th parallel.

The Korean War caused enormous frustration at home. Americans wondered why about 55,000 of their soldiers had been killed and 113,000 wounded for such limited results. They wondered if their government was serious about stopping communism.

## The McCarthy Era

The events in Asia seemed to many Americans to support sensational charges made in 1950 by Republican senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin. During a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, McCarthy held up a paper that he claimed was a list of 205 known Communists in the State Department.

In fact, McCarthy's list was nothing more than the names of people still in their jobs, who had been accused of disloyalty under Truman's federal employee loyalty program. When pressed for details, the senator reduced the number from 205 to 57.

**McCarthy's Rise to Power** McCarthy soon took on larger targets. He attacked former Secretary of State George Marshall, a national hero and a man of unquestioned integrity, saying he was involved in “a conspiracy so immense and an infamy so black as to dwarf any previous venture in the history of man.”

Communist aggression in Korea was already heightening Americans' fear of communism when McCarthy aired his accusations. In this atmosphere, his charges gained support.

**McCarthy's Fall** In early 1954, McCarthy charged that even the army was full of Communists. Finally, political and military leaders decided that he had to be stopped.



More than 5.8 million military personnel and more than 1.6 million draftees served in the Korean War. *Culture Why were Americans frustrated by the outcome of the war?*