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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the IYC's historical crisis committee, Group of 8. On behalf of the entire executive board, we are delighted to extend a warm welcome to each of you. We are excited to see you immerse yourselves in history and become part of this thrilling committee.

The G8 presents you with the platform to change the course of history. To change what we know today. Join us in the G8 and become a key player in the dynamic world, evaluating every decision and action.

This year, the committee will take you back to a critical yet often overlooked part of world history: the Korean War. Our main goal for the conference is to find a solution that ensures the well-being of all countries involved in this impending crisis. This agenda seeks a resolution to the Korean War and addresses the ideological conflict between the USA and the USSR. As representatives of your country, it is your duty to accurately convey your nation's objectives.

We are excited to see you navigate this conflict, excel in your communication skills, and enhance your ability to find solutions in times of crisis. This unforgettable experience will help you form fresh perspectives on global dynamics, and we are thrilled to be part of your journey, ensuring you have fun throughout.

Lastly, remember this study guide is just a starting point. It should not be your only resource for the upcoming debate. Conduct your research to dive deeper into the

intricacies of this fascinating issue and your nation's foreign policies. As always, we are here and eager to assist with any questions you may have.

We look forward to meeting you soon and making this edition of the G8 a resounding success!

Best regards,

Sanaa Agarwal, Chair of G8

Aadi Chaturvedi, Vice Chair of G8

About the Committee

Immerse yourself in the tumultuous decade of the 1950s by joining the historical crisis committee, G8 (Group of Eight), at the International Youth Conference. Experience firsthand the terrifying reality of bomb detonations, the oppressive atmosphere caused by tyranny, and the hazardous conditions of a hostile environment. Assume a leading role in the Korean conflict, possessing the authority to shape the region's destiny and determine the outcome of this conflict which would reverberate through decades. The 38th parallel is not the only boundary dividing this battle, as this is not just a conventional war but a decisive battleground where the ideologies of capitalism and communism clash for ultimate supremacy. At G8, hone your research, claim your speech, forge alliances, and be spontaneous. Change the course of history. Change what we know today, if necessary.

Agenda

About the Korean War

The origins of the Korean War can be traced back to the early 20th century, characterized by the interplay of imperialism, the aftermath of World War II, and the onset of the Cold War. Korea had been under Japanese rule since 1910, experiencing significant modernization coupled with harsh repression and exploitation. Following Japan's defeat in World War II in 1945, Korea was liberated but subsequently divided along the 38th parallel into Soviet and American occupation zones, intended as a temporary measure.

However, as Cold War tensions escalated, this division became more pronounced. By 1948, two separate governments had emerged: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the North under Kim Il-sung, supported by the Soviet Union, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in the South under Syngman Rhee, backed by the United States.

Between 1948 and 1950, both governments claimed legitimacy over the entire peninsula, leading to frequent skirmishes and internal uprisings. These border clashes and mutual provocations intensified the hostility. North Korea, emboldened by Soviet support and the recent communist victory in China, aimed to reunify Korea under communist rule. In contrast, the United States bolstered its support for South Korea to contain the spread of communism. On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces launched a surprise full-scale invasion of South Korea, armed with Soviet weaponry. Our committee starts on June 26, 1950, one day after North Korea crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea.

As G8 delegates, this is where the committee begins for you. All events before this point should be considered, however, all events after will be ignored and rewritten by the committee. This means that in the context of our committee, Resolution 83, which granted UN member states the ability to provide military assistance to South Korea, has not been adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The committee will represent the decision-making body of the international community during the time of the Korean War with the goal of resolving the conflict and the persisting ideological battle.

Historical Timeline

August 14, 1945: End of World War II

Following World War II, the US and the USSR became the two superpowers, creating a bipolar world. The US was unaffected by the devastation caused by World War II, and the Soviet Union had a large enough labor force to continue developing its industrial capabilities despite other European nations experiencing economic hardship.

August 1945: Korea Divided into North and South

Korea was initially part of the Japanese empire during the start of the 1900s, however, the territory had to be given up after Japan's defeat in World War II. The US and the Soviet Union agreed to divide Korea along the 38th parallel, where the Soviets occupied the North and the US occupied the South.

August 1945: Beginning of Cold War

Although the US and the Soviet Union never engaged in direct combat due to Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), tensions between the two powers persisted throughout the Cold War. Knowing that the other side would retaliate served as a deterrent to the employment of nuclear weapons. A full-scale use of nuclear weapons would cause the complete annihilation of both sides, therefore, this threat of nuclear war made the US and the Soviet Union fight each other in proxy wars instead of direct combat and nuclear destruction with one another.

1947: Truman Doctrine

The Truman Doctrine established that the US would provide military assistance to all democratic nations under threat of the spread of Communism. This was part of the US policy of containment- a military strategy to prevent communism from spreading.

1948: Marshall Plan (European Recovery Program)

The Marshall Plan Provided aid to Western Europe to recover from WW II. The US funded over 15 billion dollars to Europe's rebuilding efforts to prevent communist influence. Their rationale was that economic instability might lead to communism as previously seen by the rise of Hitler in Nazi Germany, so the recovery program encourages European nations to remain democratic.

August 1948: Republic of Korea (South Korea) is established

Syngman Rhee, an anti-communist tyrant who had backing from the US government, established South Korea. He oversaw South Korea's capitalist government during the Korean War.

August 1948: The People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is established

With Soviet backing, Kim Il Sung becomes the communist dictator and establishes North Korea. He ruled a communist North Korea during the Korean War. 1948-1950: Border Skirmishes Between North and South Korea The dictators of North and South Korea wanted to unify Korea under their state. Therefore, border quarrels on the 38th parallel between the North and South were common. Around 10,000 soldiers died during these battles before the Korean War began.

1949: NATO founded

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was a mutual defense pact or military alliance aimed at containing Soviet aggression against Western Europe. Its founding members were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the UK, and the US.

1949: COMECON founded

Stalin established COMECON as a group to aid in the economic growth of the Soviet Union's member states in Eastern Europe. Stalin established Five Year Plans in these governments to industrialize and collectivize agriculture; as a result, the economies of those nations were eventually shaped to serve the Soviet economy rather than the needs of their people.

January 17, 1950

North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung proposes the “liberation” of South Korea to Soviet officials. Weeks of telegram exchanges between Beijing, Moscow, and P'yŏngyang follow, and by early spring Kim has secured assurances of support for the invasion from Soviet premier Joseph Stalin and Chinese leader Mao Zedong.

June 25, 1950: Start of Korean War

75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea, marking the start of the Korean War. ***This is when the committee starts for you.***

Key parties and their stance

North Korea (Korean People's Army):

North Korea stands resolute in its pursuit of a unified, independent Korea, free from imperialist domination, and has already backed that up by breaching the 38th Parallel. The recent liberation of Seoul marks a decisive victory in their struggle against the "US-backed puppet regime in the South". They say that their actions are a just response to decades of provocation and aggression from the South, supported by foreign powers. They demand the unconditional surrender of the South Korean forces and the establishment of a democratic, people's government that will reunify the nation. They will not tolerate external interference in their internal affairs and will defend their sovereignty with all necessary force.

South Korea (Republic of Korea Army):

The Republic of Korea faces an unprovoked act of aggression by the communist North Korean regime, as now they have been pushed back to the Pusan Perimeter. The swift and brutal invasion of their sovereign territory is a blatant violation of international law. The North Korean regime, backed by external forces, seeks to impose a totalitarian dictatorship upon the South Korean people. They want to call upon the international community to condemn this act of aggression and to provide immediate military and humanitarian assistance. Their brave armed forces are fighting valiantly to defend their homeland and protect their democratic way of

life. They are determined to repel the invaders and restore peace and stability to the Korean Peninsula.

China:

China is deeply concerned by the escalating conflict in Korea. As a neighboring country, they have a vested interest in peace and stability in the region. They want to call for an immediate ceasefire and a peaceful resolution of the conflict through negotiations. They want the United States to bear primary responsibility for the crisis, as its support for the Syngman Rhee regime has fueled tensions. China urges restraint on all sides and supports the efforts of the United Nations to mediate a diplomatic solution. China will take necessary steps to protect its security interests and to prevent the conflict from spreading.

In 1949, on October 1st, Communist leader Mao Zedong declared the creation of the People's Republic of China (PRC). This came as a result of a full-scale civil war between the Nationalist Party (otherwise known as the Kuomintang) and the Chinese Communist Party which was in force immediately after the Second World War and had been systematically growing since the 1920's. The US tried to prevent the rise of the PRC by writing up reports and sending Nationalist troops to areas of Japanese occupation, to claim the land. On the other hand, the USSR, which occupied parts of Manchuria, solely withdrew when Communist forces came to claim the land. After years of civil war and international tension, there was a Communist victory and Chiang Kai-shek, the former leader of the Nationalist Party, found a retreat in Taiwan. This therefore explains the cooperation between China and Russia for the support of Northern Korea.

United States:

The United States is gravely concerned by the unprovoked North Korean invasion of South Korea. This blatant act of aggression threatens international peace and security. The United States supports the legitimate government of South Korea and will take necessary measures to assist in repelling the North Korean invaders. The United States call upon the United Nations to condemn this aggression and authorize collective action to restore peace to the Korean Peninsula. The United States is committed to defending freedom and democracy, and we will not allow communist expansionism to go unchecked.

Following the bleak period of the Second World War, the US became suspicious of the USSR's expansionist aims. The US itself wished to expand its economic influence to other continents and was pressured by the Republican Party to get involved to promote liberalism and worldwide trade. The US adopted the policy of containment after watching nations fall systematically one by one to Communism with the support of the USSR. Considering her own and global economic interests, the US decided to take the side of the South, setting up a nationalist puppet government led by Syngman Rhee to fight the Communist North.

Soviet Union (USSR):

The Soviet Union views the conflict in Korea as an internal matter arising from the historical division of the peninsula and the subsequent struggle for reunification. This condemns the actions of the US and its allies in supporting the right-wing Syngman Rhee regime, which has oppressed the North Korean people. While the USSR does not condone the use of force, we understand the North Korean desire to reunify the country under a progressive government. The Soviet Union calls for a cessation of hostilities and negotiations between the two Korean parties to find a

peaceful solution. The USSR urges the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Korean Peninsula.

In 1917, during the First World War, Lenin led the nation into communism, which lasted up until 1991. The USSR led an isolationist policy at the very beginning, even dropping out of the First World War to focus on its new domestic and economic policies. However, after the closure of the Second World War, the USSR was interested in acquiring satellite states on its Eastern border as a means of protection since its borders had no mountains or geological barriers to fend off enemies. Additionally, the USSR's ideology dating back to Tsarist Russia played a key role since it encouraged rivalry with the West and the building of an empire. Consequently, the USSR was interested in maintaining the Communist government which existed in the north, to expand its sphere of influence. This was done by sending over arms and economic support

Great Britain:

Great Britain is alarmed by the outbreak of hostilities in Korea and wants to call for an immediate cessation of fighting. They are supporting the United Nations' efforts to address the crisis and urge all parties to engage in peaceful negotiations. The United Kingdom believes that the Korean issue must be resolved through diplomacy, not force. We call upon the great powers to exercise restraint and avoid actions that could escalate the conflict. The British government is prepared to contribute to a peaceful settlement and to support the reconstruction of Korea once hostilities have ceased.

The North Korean action precipitated a three-year conflict with international dimensions. Sometimes described as the first “hot war” of the cold war, the Korean

War drew in a United Nations-mandated multinational force in response to the North's incursion. The UK participated in the conflict through its contribution to this UN force. China entered the conflict later that year on the opposing side

Japan:

Japan finds itself in a complex position following its defeat in World War II. Occupied by Allied forces, the nation is rebuilding and striving to re-establish its place in the international community. The outbreak of war on the Korean Peninsula is a grave concern to them. They have recognized the potential implications for regional stability and security. While they are committed to the principles of peace and cooperation, Japan's current status as an occupied nation limits their ability to actively participate in resolving the crisis.

Japan stands ready to contribute to post-war reconstruction efforts in Korea when the opportunity arises. On 25 June 1950, North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel of northern latitude into South Korea. This line had been used five years earlier to delineate American and Soviet zones of influence on the Korean peninsula following Japan's defeat in the Second World War.

Guiding Questions and Possible Solutions

Note: Refer to the mentioned guiding questions and be prepared to answer these in committee as well, these are key points that you can use to guide your way through the committee while the possible solutions and points below can be used to draft your moderated caucus topics. In addition to those points, some topics will be provided below.

Committee Guiding Questions For a Delegate: (note that these questions should be answered with the context of the period the committee is in.)

- What is your country's primary ideology?
- Was your country part of any pre-existing treaty, be it trade or military?
- Are there any internal conflicts within your country?
- Has your country undertaken any action which directly breaches the UN Charter?
- What was your country's foreign policy?
- With which countries does your country hold diplomatic or informal alliances?
- Did your country have any explicit interests concerning territories, arms, etc in mind?

Possible Solutions for the Committee:

Responses to Invasion

Countries have to decide how they will respond to North Korea's push across the 38th parallel. Is a counter-conventional force required to push North Korea back to the border for peace agreements to start? Or should there be an immediate ceasefire to suspend conflict?

Proxy Wars

The Korean War and many other conflicts in the Cold War are considered proxy wars. These drag allies and other countries into a larger conflict revolving around the two global hegemonies at the time, the Soviet Union and the US. The committee will have to decide whether it would be best to continue this approach of indirect conflict or force a confrontation between the Soviet Union and the US.

The Nuclear Option

The dread of nuclear weapons is what started the Cold War. Most people blame Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) for the absence of a nuclear attack; but is it too implausible that the US or the Soviet Union would use nuclear weapons to preserve their positions if they thought they were losing a conventional war? Is a nuclear attack a sufficient deterrent to further conventional attacks? Or is it that no one thinks the government will use its nuclear weapons, making the threat of attack implausible? The committee can investigate the use of nuclear weapons and the danger of using them to further its objectives, but delegates who do not own nuclear weapons must also consider their existence when making decisions.

International Responses

While the most obvious actors are the US, Soviet Union, and North and South Korea, many other countries have a stake in this crisis. Japan occupied Korea before the end of WWII, and we saw a huge wave of imperialism by Western nations in Asia during the late 18th century that lasted well into the 20th century. Our committee start date coincides with, precedes, and postdates many decolonization efforts, so the standards are far from set. How should countries

react to the Korean War in a way that either promotes decolonization or entrenches existing spheres of influence?

Resolving the Ideological Dispute

As the Korean War plays into the larger ideological dispute between Communism and Capitalism, through what means should the committee resolve this tension?

Nations should think about ways to keep this ideological conflict from spreading to other regions, particularly those that are more recently developed or lack well-established political structures. Are there any agreements that must be reached to stop foreign intervention in the political and economic decisions being made by recently independent states? Or does stopping domestic instability necessitate outside intervention?

Making it Economic

The application of economics is an overlooked strategy that delegates should consider in this dispute. Sanctions are an alternate strategy that nations might use to gain influence on the international scene as military advancements can be lethal and cause conflict. Non-tariff barriers (NTBs), trade embargoes, and tariffs can all be useful tools in averting war or unfavorable acts by other nations. Countries may choose to implement multilateral sanctions, which are implemented by several supporting nations, or unilateral sanctions, which are implemented by a single country.

Suggested Moderated Caucus Topics:

1. The Crossing of the 38th Parallel: A Surprise Attack or a Calculated Move?
2. The Role of Intelligence Failures in the Outbreak of the War
3. The Soviet Union's Stance on Korean Reunification and the current occupation of Seoul: Are they Neutral Observers or Secret Supporters?
4. The Capture of Seoul: A Strategic Victory or a Decisive Win for the North Koreans?.... and what next?

(Keep in mind that these topics are meant for the initial stages of the committee, but can be used accordingly concerning the course of the committee then.)

Q.A.R.M.A. (Question A Resolution/Directive May Answer)

1. How can the committee be certain that the mechanisms for preventing and resolving conflicts are developed?
2. How can the committee ensure that humanitarian law is adhered to and carried out by every party involved?
3. How can the committee ensure that all parties involved in this conflict are held accountable and impose proper penalties for war crimes and the infringement of human rights?

Additional Research Resources

“Korean War” | *Britannica*,

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War>

“What Caused The Korean War” | *The Infographics Show*,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jA9neyKI62k>

“Korean War and Japan Recovery” | *Office of the Historian*,

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/korean-war>

“The Korean War and the Central Intelligence Agency” | *CIA*,

<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/2010-05-01.pdf>

“Summary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols”

https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/International_Services/International_Humanitarian_Law/IHL_SummaryGenevaConv.pdf

“Korean War | Animated History”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tj7jXlr_M9w

“The Korean War (1950–53)” | *Simple History*,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxaegqv14aE&t=95s>

Credibility of Sources:

These are a few sources that are highly recommended for use in research. Do not, however, stop there. Feel free to critically evaluate and use any more knowledge that may be presented to you. The shared sources below will stand credible in the committee. However do note, the events and information should have occurred before the freeze date- June 25, 1950.

1. Any United nations-owned or affiliated website
2. Any INTERNATIONAL TREATY CONVENTIONS shall stand legitimate as to validate(any point if backed with substantial points, correlation, and prove factual inaccuracy)
3. News sources (provided more than 3 newspapers provide the same information)
4. Well-reputed independent organisations
5. Government-owned websites

Kindly Note:

AT NO POINT IN THE COMMITTEE SHALL THE BACKGROUND GUIDE BE USED AS A SOURCE

THE BACKGROUND GUIDE SHALL ONLY STAND AS A GUIDE OF REFERENCES, AND NOT THE ULTIMATE RESEARCH

DO NOT RESTRICT YOURSELF TO CONTENT PROVIDED IN THE BACKGROUND GUIDE AND FURTHER ENHANCED, INDEPENDENT RESEARCH BY DELEGATES SHALL BE APPRECIATED.

TIPS:

- Be familiar with the committee's mandate and jurisdiction
- Research the topic that will be debated in the committee
- Develop a stronger understanding of your country's position on the issues.
- Be prepared to negotiate and compromise
- Be respectful of other delegates and their opinions
- *Be aware of your foreign policy and stick to it.*