# 15.2

# The Korean War



### As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Explain how Mao Zedong and the communists gained power in China.
- Describe the causes and the reasons for U.S. involvement in the Korean War.
- Identify the long-term effects and outcomes of the Korean War.

## **China Turns Communist**

The Soviet Union hoped to spread communism, in 1949 it had begun to spread in China

Jiang Jieshi of the nationalist party had been fighting a civil war against Mao Zedong & the communist party



#### The Soviet Union supported Mao & the U.S. sent BILLIONS to support the nationalist party

The fear was that if China fell to communism, it would spread across Asia

## **China Falls**

Nationalist generals were reluctant to fight & corrupt officials pocketed the funds

Mao promised to stop starvation in the country & won increased support

## Jiang is forced to flee China with supports to Taiwain

Communist party takes over China & renames it The People's Republic of China."

## **U.S. Involvement in Korea**

Korea had been split into 2 independent countries along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel setting up North & South Korea

U.S. leaves the region in 1949 as North Korea builds up military



Seoul, capital of South Korea, is taken & the South Korean army retreats further south

## **U.S. Enters the Fray!**

Truman, fearing a repeat of WWII appeasement, announces the U.S. would support South Korea

The UN Security council votes to follow Trumans lead, except for The Soviet Union who was boycotting

Truman doesn't ask Congress to declare war, simply moved troops from Japan to South Korea

Soon other countries from the UN join the American & South Korean forces

### Counterattacks

General Douglas MacArthur launches a surprise attack behind enemy lines in the dangerous waters of Inchon

In less than a month the North Korean forces retreat & Truman debates continuing war



China threatens retaliation, but Truman listens to MacArthur focusing on a "unified, independent, & democratic Korea!

A victorious allied forces push into North Korea advancing to the Chinese border at the Yalu River

## **China Retaliates**

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1959 – Chinese soldiers attack South Korea & UN troops are forced back

MacArthur & Truman begin to argue over a land war in Asia, MacArthur wanting total war

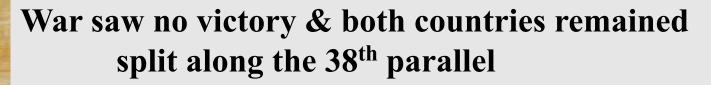
Truman favored limited war- a war fought to achieve only specific goals

Truman fires MacArthur for insubordination after he writes a letter to Congress

## **Outcomes of War**

A stalemate along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel begins for over 2 years as diplomats devise peace talks

July 27<sup>th</sup> a ceasefire is signed after the threats of nuclear weapons & the death of Stalin



Set a precedent that the US precedent could commit troops to battle without a declaration of war

Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)defensive alliance to prevent spread of communism