

Southern New Hampshire University

Love and Marriage

A Capstone Project Submitted to the College of Online and Continuing Education in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Master of Arts in History

By

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## **Abstract**

Most recently, the Trump Administration has taken a hard stance against the North Korean regime, against their nuclear build up, threats to other nations like Japan and South Korea, launching missiles, with nuclear capabilities towards and over the Sea of Japan, and showing a behavior that is considered unprofessional and dangerous. Some of the questions that the audience should be asking themselves before reading this, “how did we get here as an international community, who were the leaders, past and present, that shown their commitment to peace and defense for South Korea, and over the course of history between these two nations, the United States of America and South Korea, how have relations improved and prosper, with obstacles and challenges as well?”

Throughout this literature piece, you’ll find the information in a chronological fashion, helping you as the reader to better understand how the Korean War happened and how both western nations became partners that would last for decades and well into the future, not just with both governments, and militaries, but how American and Korean culture made their ways towards communities in America and in South Korea. Majority of the sources used throughout came from the Southern New Hampshire University Online Library, and others, came throughout the internet.

## **Dedication**

This is being dedicated to the men and women in the armed forces of the United States of America, both past and present. All have made sacrifices for the people of South Korea and have brought the possibility of peace and reunification between the South and North.

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## Introduction

Considering the new events happening on the Korean Peninsula right now, both the United States of America and The Republic of Korea have had challenging issues, both financially and politically since 1950, however, over the past six decades, both governments have maintained good relations that, not only have resulted in the containment of Democratic Peoples of Korea and their aggressive behavior but have contributed to the possible reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

The current presidential administration of the United States of America has taken a hardline against Kim Jong Un, causing the North Korean leader to change course with his diplomatic relations with the west. "In South Korea, President Donald Trump of the United States urged North Korea to 'come to the table' to discuss giving up nuclear weapons."<sup>1</sup> From President Harry S. Truman all the way to President Donald Trump, every American president has been working through the many challenges and obstacles with the South Korean people and government. Despite some discords and concerns upon the South Korean people, the direct efforts of President Donald Trump, the citizens of South Korea and the United States of America along with the world are witnessing history. Day by day, the possibility that North Korea and their leader Kim Jong Un might be changing their world ideology, an ideology that can result in the reunification of the Korean Peninsula. One Korea for all, along with opportunities, peace, freedom, and prosperity.

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<sup>1</sup> 2017, "In South Korea, President Donald Trump of the United States urged North Korea to 'come to the table' to discuss giving up nuclear weapons," Spectator, 2017, 6, Literature Resource Center, EBSCOhost (accessed May 7, 2018).

One can say that the first sign of this enormous historical moment put into motion was back during the winter Olympics when Vice-President of the United States of America Mike Pence shook hands and met with faith and respect of human dignity, on top of mankind itself, the sister of Kim Jong Un, Kim Yo Jong. As she extended the same courtesy to the Vice-President of the United States, the world watched with hope and anticipation of what might be for the first time in generations.

The recent winter Olympics in South Korea changed the tone for the world, setting the pace for what's likely to be historical events in the upcoming months and years. "Leaders, diplomats and citizens from the world over will witness North and South Korean athletes walking side by side. For this, there could be few better places than PyeongChang, which means peace (Pyeong) and prosperity (Chang): goals integral to the mission of the United Nations and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda."<sup>2</sup> The United States of America, along with the world, especially South Korea, have been too familiar with the tone and rhetoric of President Donald Trump. The current President of the United States of America has taken a different approach, as opposed to previous American leaders in the past. Many before having attempted to change this part of the region with talk, sanctions, and other "lite" punishments or even strategic patience if one is comparing approaches by President Trump. Although previous American leaders have tried to contain and settle the Hermit Kingdom to no avail, the North Korean regime has still maintained its rogue and aggressive behavior, trying to dare the world to stop them, throw their country into submission and World War III, along with talks of their nuclear weapons program. Still North Korea has remained a threat under previous American administrations.

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<sup>2</sup> 2018, "South Korea Olympics new cornerstone for peace, prosperity," Iran Daily (Tehran, Iran), 2018, Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed May 7, 2018).

Now, with the leadership and firm tone with the use of maximum pressure of President Donald Trump, the world is beginning to take notice that this is a leader that will not capitulate to anyone that signifies aggressive behavior and horrible judgement.

Let's not forget, in order for the containment of North Korea and relationships to continue to improve with the United States of America, the South Korean government had to pull their own weight as well. Seeing the fact that Seoul, the capital of South Korea, was a mere thirty-five miles away from the DMZ, the South Korean government and military had to deal with the North on a daily basis, but from a close and potentially eminent distance, as opposed to the United States of America being separated by the Pacific Ocean.

Upon the election of President Trump, one of his foreign policy initiatives was to end the "tug-o-war between the United States/South Korea and North Korea. "South Koreans, many living within range of North Korean artillery, were particularly alarmed by Mr. Trump's threat to bring down "fire and fury" on the North if Pyongyang continued to threaten the United States with nuclear missiles."<sup>3</sup> As mentioned earlier, President Donald Trump essentially set the tone for the events taking place right now in Korea, which includes a possible meeting with the North Korean leader in Singapore sometime next month. Yes, it's understandable that the citizens of South Korea and the United States of America have deep felt concerns of this American leader; however, if one spends time on studying the mentality of President Donald J. Trump, one would also see the other side of him. A leader that is firm, backs words with action, and understands the language that North Korea, Russia, China, all the big players in the region surrounding South Korea speak and understand. The world, being pessimistic at times, feels that World War III

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<sup>3</sup> Choe Sang-Hun, 2017, "U.S. General and South Korean Leader Push for Diplomacy on North Korea. (Foreign Desk) (Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Moon Jae-in)," The New York Times, 2017, Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed May 8, 2018).

would be triggered due to President Trump's rhetoric, but it should be seen that the President of the United States of America will not call for military force, only as a last resort but call for firmness and peace through strength, something that worked brilliantly well under the President Ronald Reagan's administration.

After mentioning what has been communicated to the general audience thus far, yes, due to the strength and character of President Donald J. Trump, the North Koreans have not surrendered, but have begun a journey that would create a few things, things that could reunify the Korean Peninsula, Officially end the Korean War, discuss and act on denuclearization, and create a safer Korean region.

If the general population reaches out to learn a more in-depth historical points of view, they will know that rogue nations can say one thing, then the next day, say something completely different. "There's no real indication that North Korea has much interest in giving up its nuclear weapons," Bell said. "There are opportunities for deals, but I suspect they won't involve the full denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."<sup>4</sup> Mark Bell, Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota in Political Science, hit the nail right on the head. Yes, the South Korean and American governments should tread carefully, not to get over excited and anxious on the possibility that North Korea can bring peace, based off the terms of the western allies of South Korea and the United States of America.

Time after time, the North Koreans have been those that might trick the world into thinking that they would want peace. The potential script that's being written right now still has a lot of work remaining. To better understand the historical context of how North Korea, the

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<sup>4</sup> Samuel King, "North and South Korea commit to denuclearization, ending Korean War," Fox 9, last updated April 27, 2018, <http://www.fox9.com/news/north-and-south-korea-commit-to-denuclearization-ending-korean-war>.

United States of America, and South Korea arrived at this pivotal point in history, the following things will be mentioned throughout this piece of literature. First, the general audience needs to understand how Korea became a nation, then split countries, this will enforce the thesis over the course since the Russo-Japanese War, from a chronological point of view.

It's important to know who the influential people were throughout the relationships of the South Koreans and the United States of America, who made the greatest impacts throughout the course of history between these two nations, their lives, tales, and how they changed the world, a nation, a community, and neighborhood forever. How Korea came into existence and why, in the first place, was Korea fighting each other for land rights and the split of South and North Korea.

Most notably, the Korean War will be addressed along with the players, battles, equipment, the bravery and personal experiences of the fighting servicemembers on both sides to better understand the "Forgotten War," enforcing that these two nations started having an international relationship like no other. The economic assistance that was provided to South Korea during the Syngman Rhee administration, a government that was corrupt during this time in Korean history, along with future U.S. and South Korean trade deals, the financial side of the relationships between the United States and South Korea.

Finally, three things will be addressed that also have significance towards this thesis. First the pop culture and entertainment industries of both the United States and South Korea. Next point will be how capitalism overtook the South, something that might have kept the North at bay. What daily life was like in the United States and South Korea after the United States took the South during the split. Militarily speaking, the drills and operations post Korean War and the defense positions and readiness of both governments in the recent months and years that contained North Korea, putting them on high alert during their missile tests and nuclear

development will also be brought up to bring us to the present status of this wonderful developing page of history.

## Chapter 1: The Birth of Korea

One of the things to consider how Korea and the United States became close in the upcoming years leading to the Korean War, it needs to be understood how Korea became such a vital interest to the world first, and with that, brings us to the Russo-Japanese War. “The origins of the war are closely connected to the 'Korea question' and the 'Manchuria question': if Korea was the reason for the Russo-Japanese War the war was a defensive war for Japan; if Manchuria was the reason for the war, it was an imperial war. However, I believe that the connections between the Korea question and the Manchuria question became entangled in a way that the actors involved did not realize clearly at the time.”<sup>1</sup> In a sense, Yoko Kato was right and this is how Korea became a nation waiting to erupt into conflict, splitting away into two separate nations, and being a part of an international fiasco in the near future, caught in-between imperialism, communism, but on a lighter note, capitalism, with the United States of America as the driving force into turning this nation into an opportunistic and prosperity of a country.

One thing to keep in mind about the Japanese Empire at this time in Korean history, the Japanese military used Korea as a “super highway” to move ground forces to engage Russian forces into Manchuria and vice-versa with the Russians, so as many are now realizing, Korea was right in the middle of all this. “In August of 1910, the Japanese Empire annexed the Korean Empire (Daehan Jeguk; also known as the Great Han Empire), the culmination of a step-by-step seizure of Korea's national sovereignty by means of a military force that was used starting from the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905). In this process, the Japanese Empire coerced five treaties

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<sup>1</sup> Katō Yōko, 2007, "What Caused the Russo-Japanese War: Korea or Manchuria?" Social Science Japan Journal no. 1: 95, JSTOR Journals, EBSCOhost (accessed May 10, 2018).

from Korea: (1) Japan Korea Protocol (February 23, 1904); (2) 1st Japan Korea Agreement (August 22, 1904); (3) 2nd Japan Korea Agreement, or Eulsa Treaty (November 1Z 1905); (4) Japan Korea Treaty of 1907 (July 24, 1907); and (5) Japan Korea Annexation Treaty (August 29, 1910). It is well known that the above treaties were forced upon the Korean emperor and ministers through threats.”<sup>2</sup> Before World War II had started, the Japanese Empire, not realizing yet for future purposes, had created this “vacuum” of problems that would come later and play a huge part in U.S. and South Korean relations, therefore the Russo-Japanese War is being addressed here, so not to be confused about the original thesis.

From here on out, the Japanese called the shots and had installed their government in Korea, during the Russo-Japanese conflict up until the Japanese surrender in August of 1945, ending the Second World War in the Pacific theater. “The protocol signed between Japan and Taehan Empire (the Korean Empire) on February 23, 1904 (37th year of Meiji) states the unlimitation of the Japanese military movements and other matters in Taehan Empire (the Korean Empire).”<sup>3</sup> This was the first treaty, essentially providing all essential military movement by the Japanese military through and around the Korean territory, along with other matters as well, so overall, everywhere you go if one is an individual in Korea, and the Japanese are there right next to you.

The next treaty that Japan had established was the first Japan-Korea Agreement in August of 1904. This treaty required Korea to engage financial and diplomatic advisers designated by Japan. Also, the treaty required Korea to consult with Japan before making treaties with foreign powers, and before granting concessions or making contracts with foreigners. This

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<sup>2</sup> Tae-Jin Yi, n.d., "Treaties Leading to Japan's Annexation of Korea: What Are the Problems?" Korea Journal 56, no. 4: 5-32, Arts & Humanities Citation Index, EBSCOhost (accessed May 10, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> “February 23, 1904: Korea-Japan Protocol,” Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, <https://www.jacar.go.jp/english/nichiro/19040223.htm>.



was another bullet point that proved Japan was in full control in the Korean Peninsula. Korea was able to conduct international business with other nations, but not entirely, as Japan ensured that they were still making the vital and important decisions in the region.

Next is the Eulsa Treaty, a treaty that granted more control over Korea by the hostile takeover of the Korean countryside by Japan. “The Korean cabinet signed an agreement that had been prepared by Ito in the Jungmyeongjeon. The Agreement gave Japan complete responsibility for Korea’s foreign affairs and placed all trade through Korean ports under Japanese supervision.”<sup>4</sup> Once again, the Japanese allowed the Korean government to conduct business daily, however, it was Japan that overseen everything that was going on, day in and day out regarding foreign affairs and trade matters.

The next treaty is the Japan Korea Treaty of 1907, an agreement that states Korea was a protectorate of Japan, giving more rights to Japan to own and control Korea. “Japan declares in a treaty that Korea is its protectorate. Korea also agrees a convention giving Japan control over its government through Japanese vice ministers in its major departments. Japan has controlled Korea's foreign policy since 1905.”<sup>5</sup> Just to give the audience an idea of what the points were of this treaty, simply stating the following: Korea cannot enact any laws or other measures without the consent of the Japanese government, Korea shall not conduct nor engage in international affairs without the oversight of the Japanese government, and one final point would be, the judicial affairs of Korea shall be kept distinct from ordinary administrative affairs. As mentioned before, Korea was able to somewhat function, but of course, the Japanese government would keep a watchful eye on all Korean related government activities.

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<sup>4</sup> “Eulsa Treaty,” World Library Foundation, accessed May 10, 2018, [http://netlibrary.net/articles/eng/eulsa\\_treaty](http://netlibrary.net/articles/eng/eulsa_treaty).

<sup>5</sup> 2017, “25 July 1907,” The Hutchinson Chronology of World History Credo Reference, EBSCOhost (accessed May 11, 2018).

Since the establishment of all the treaties set in stone by the Japanese Empire, it was only a matter of time before Japan had officially took control of the entire country and or peninsula. “His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, having in view the special and close relations between their respective countries, desiring to promote the common weal of the two nations and to ensure the permanent peace in the extreme East, and being convinced that these objects can be best attained by the annexation of Korea to the empire of Japan, have resolved to constitute a treaty of such annexation, and have that purpose appointed as their plenipotentiaries.”<sup>6</sup> Not knowing that the attack on Pearl Harbor would happen thirty-one years later, changing the entire international landscape of the Japanese Empire, this is where the United States of America comes into play and the split of the Korean Peninsula is set into motion.

In 1945, before the ending of World War II in the Pacific Theater, things began to change for a nation, known as an empire, began to take shape, into a more appeasement but peaceful role, as both the United States and Soviet Union began to take ownership and gain considerable ground in the Asian region. Japan had lost everything, from territories once conquered and owned by the Japanese government to the stronghold they had on international affairs, this is where the split came into play in 1948, as three years earlier, Japan had unconditionally surrender to the allies, losing everything. “Imperial Japan seized control of Korea in 1910 and ruled the state until the end of World War II (1939–1945). That year, the Soviet Union and United States divided the country in two, with the Soviet Union taking control of North Korea

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<sup>6</sup> 1910, "Text of the Treaty of Annexation between Korea and Japan, signed August 22, 1910," *The Advocate of Peace* (1894-1920) no. 10: 246, JSTOR Journals, EBSCOhost (accessed May 11, 2018).

and the United States managing South Korea.”<sup>7</sup> When addressing the relationship that the United States and South Korea have had over the past six decades, it needs to be shown to the general audience that Korea was a nation that had that “red bullseye” on them by the Japanese empire.

World War II was an unfortunate event in world history, millions had been killed, injured, property destruction, along with homes, communities, and how much life changed for those directly affected by this terrible conflict, however, it should be concluded that if it wasn’t for the mistake made by the Japanese military at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Korea might be still controlled by Japan as of today. It’s funny how certain events might not have any meaning to the future until later. Now, in one of the upcoming chapters, the Korean War, this was an event that took place because of the aggressive behavior and ideology of the Soviet Union. “Patton said to Patterson: "Let's keep our boots polished, bayonets sharpened, and present a picture of force and strength to the Red Army. This is the only language they understand and respect.”<sup>8</sup> Maybe one of America’s historical military officers was right, although the Soviets and Americans defeated the Axis Powers in World War II, what were the Soviets and Joseph Stalin up to soon?

Overall, it’s good to understand how Korea ended up being split into two separate nations, understanding how this peninsula in the Pacific became so well-known, and yet, the event was called the Forgotten War. To continue to better understand the relations of these two western nations, one must understand the historical figures that played a major role throughout the many years of South Korean and American relations, who made the relations possible, even from the rogue and communist regimes of North Korea, China, and the Soviet Union.

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<sup>7</sup> Michael Ruth, 2017, "Korea (historical state in Northeast Asia)," Salem Press Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 13, 2018).

<sup>8</sup> Raquel Baranow, “Patton on Communism and the Khazar Jews: General Patton's Warning,” last accessed May 13, 2018, <http://www.rense.com/general85/pats.htm>.

## Chapter 2: The Historical Figures

In 1948, the Korean Peninsula was split into two rival nations, with the Soviet Union accepting the reigns of the North, while the South Korean government was granted to the United States of America, as this caused, over the next six decades, some fierce and conflicting concerns between the North and South, as the major superpowers were now involved in this regions international affairs, but the question is, who were the leaders of these nations and who were the faces over time that either came together or made the more aggressive approach towards this part of the world?

The beginning of the South Korean and American relationship wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for two great leaders, Syngman Rhee, the newly installed President of South Korea and Harry S. Truman, President of the United States of America. "Rhee began his career as a student movement leader in the 1890's. In exile, he became the leader of an overseas movement to liberate Korea from Japanese rule between 1913 and 1945. He later became president of South Korea, holding that position throughout the Korean War."<sup>1</sup> When the United States of America was looking for the right character to lead the new government of South Korea, they were looking for someone that can accept American ingenuity and ideals in South Korea, making the presence felt in the North, China, and the Soviet Union, as this needed to be mandatory of American ideology because it was said to believe that the North, backed by the Soviet Union, was looking to spread communism into South Korea, either by ways of domestic policies or military conflict. This was very concerning for President Truman and the United

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<sup>1</sup> Donald N. Clark 2013, "Syngman Rhee," Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 14, 2018).

States, as at the same time, the newly elected leader of South Korea had some issues of his own, like corruption for starters.

Syngman Rhee was born on March 26, 1875 in Korea, as this was a man that had leader written all over himself in his upcoming future. This was a character that was realist, a man that demanded more of himself, challenging and wanted nothing less but success throughout his life, not just for himself, but for others as well. “He also achieved notoriety as a student demonstrator in the Korean reform movement and as a member of the reformist Independence Club, for which he was arrested in 1898 and imprisoned by the Korean government for six years. In 1904 when he was released, American friends arranged for him to pursue his studies in the United States.”<sup>2</sup> As many are following, the future leader of South Korea was motivated, goal-oriented driven, and wouldn’t let anything nor any obstacles stand in his way of success and accomplishment. This was proven when, after his six years imprisonment, he wanted to push himself even more, taking his talents to the United States of America, one of the reasons why he was installed as the new and opening face of South Korea in 1948.

Syngman was highly educated, especially in the United States of America, where many had followed, like Admiral Yamamoto, who studied at Harvard University, one of America’s prestigious educational institutions, as this shows that a lot of leaders from the Asian continent had studied within America and took their talents back to their native land, a way of extending America’s role in educating others from different countries like South Korea. “He earned an M.A. at Harvard and went on to Princeton for a PhD. in political science. The distinction of being the first Korean to earn a doctorate in the West created an enormous fund of respect for

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

him among the education-conscious Koreans, both in their homeland and in exile.”<sup>3</sup> With the future leader of South Korea being educated in the states, this brought upon a lot of positives to look at Syngman Rhee as a leader of a nation, as he demonstrated quite a few qualities that a leader is supposed to have.

Knowing of Mr. Rhee’s education, this was a man that never gave up, this was an individual who was hungry for success and achievements. “Once in the United States he stayed there, moving to Hawaii to establish himself as a Korean community leader. He founded a school, an association (the Tongji-hoe, one of the main Korean associations in America), and a magazine (the Pacific Weekly, in Korean). Though he was respected for his attainments, he was also a controversial figure who fell out with rivals and found it difficult to rise above the status of faction leader.”<sup>4</sup> Every human on this planet has to start somewhere, meaning, if he/she wants to become a role-model or an inspiration for their communities, neighborhoods, maybe even their families, well, as the saying goes, “all babies have to crawl before they can walk,” this was truly the case of Syngman Rhee. One of the things that pushed him to be better was the many individuals that wouldn’t had seen him as a leader of a country, especially in South Korea, as this nation was now on the “evil list” of the communist ran nation of North Korea. Many people doubted him, he was isolated, he had to take matters into his own hands and push himself through a lot of doubt and discords among others.

Another example of the courage of Mr. Rhee was that he shared the frustrations of the Korean people, as many of them were happy that they had been liberated from the Japanese, however, they had still found themselves somewhat occupied. “He obtained MacArthur’s help in

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

returning to Korea in October 1945 and arrived back in Seoul as if to claim his destiny as leader of the independent Korean republic. Like most Koreans, Rhee was frustrated and upset by the fact that his homeland had been liberated from Japan only to be divided at the thirty-eighth parallel and reoccupied by the United States and the Soviet Union. He helped lead the fight against a short-lived proposal to put Korea under an international trusteeship. Then, as American and Soviet negotiators failed to agree on a slate of Korean leaders to form a combined Korean government, Rhee maneuvered himself into a commanding position for leadership in the south.”<sup>5</sup> Syngman Rhee was a fighter for change, a man that listened to the Korean people in the South, a human being that was eager for pride, pride for a nation to govern themselves and live their own lives. One of his goals, besides letting Korea be its own independent nation was to extend their influence internationally, as this would generate more assistance and recognition of the South, as the threat remained by the encampment of communism from the North Koreans and Soviet Union.

Syngman Rhee was more known throughout the Korean War, pressing all United Nations forces in his country to keep pushing forward and driving the communist forces out of South Korea, back across the 38th parallel. “Despite his flaws Syngman Rhee is remembered by Koreans with a special kind of reverence. His fiery nationalism was always a source of pride in a country so victimized by foreigners. He is admired for the years he spent in exile working in the nearly hopeless cause of Korean independence, for his leadership in the Korean American community, and for bringing South Korea through the war. Rhee believed that the division of Korea was a great injustice.”<sup>6</sup> It is true that President Rhee did have many flaws, with corruption

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

being one of them, along with the South Korean countryside being turned upside down from 1961-1987, but the consensus was, he was a man of great character and devoted his energy towards Korean independence.

One of the reasons why Syngman Rhee was the leader that he was, was because the United States of America didn't give up on him. Especially, this relationship didn't falter because, Harry S. Truman didn't want to see a great historical figure fall, letting the North and Soviet Union overtake the South, making international relations tougher and chaotic within that part of the world, and of course, now that the introduction of nuclear weapons had been made in 1945, this would have made things more complicated. "Truman defended and institutionalized the New Deal reform program of Franklin D. Roosevelt and established the doctrine of containment that guided American policymakers in the Cold War era. Part of his legacy includes sanctioning the dropping of atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima in August 1945, which ended World War II in the Pacific and placed the Soviet Union in a position of accommodation to US demands."<sup>7</sup> In total agreeance on what William Pemberton was saying, these were some strong and truthful words that described President Truman right down to his character and to the leader he was for the United States of America, especially when America had lost a beloved and one the country's most admired leaders in its history, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

These words described exactly who Truman was, especially when establishing relationships with the South Koreans, knowing that they were under threat by the international spread of communism in this part of the world. When Syngman Rhee and the South Korean

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<sup>7</sup> William Pemberton, 2013, "Harry S. Truman," Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 15, 2018).



government began moving forward and into the international spotlight. President Truman had a gut feeling that the Soviet Union, North Korea, and China were going to try and be aggressive and influential when it came to lower part of the Korean Peninsula. Understanding that the Rhee Administration had its concerns and issues over governmental corruption, the leader of the free world knew that he had to do whatever means possible, financially and morally, to assist the South Korean government, to show the Soviets that the United States had to be involved in all international matters to protect South Korea.

Financially speaking, one the first major signs of this great relationship between the United States and South Korea was President Truman extending economic assistance to South Korea, ensuring that the communist regimes understood that they would stand side by side with the South Korean government and its people. "The people of the United States have long had sympathetic feelings for the Korean people. American missionaries, supported by American churches of many denominations, brought spiritual guidance, education and medical aid to the Korean people during their forty years of Japanese bondage. All Americans who have come to know the Korean people appreciate their fierce passion for freedom and their keen desire to become an independent nation."<sup>8</sup> President Truman knew exactly what he was asking for, in all different directions. For starters, as mentioned, he knew that by providing and maintaining economic assistance to the South Korean government, this would keep South Korea on the international stage now that the United States had the world's attention after the victories over Japan and Germany in World War II.

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<sup>8</sup> Harry S. Truman 1949, "Basic Economic Relief for Korea," Vital Speeches of the Day 15, no. 17: 539, MasterFILE Premier, EBSCOhost (accessed May 15, 2018).

If the United States maintained this presence and utilized their image for international affairs and justification, the South Korean government would be able to rely on the United States in all matters, economically and militarily. As it continues to state about the churches and spiritual guidance, this is a direct mirror of the United States of America. In saying so, President Truman knew, not only would economic assistance from the United States would maintain a strong and professional partnership from one superpower to the South Koreans, but it would bring an American viewpoint into South Korea. Later, in this capstone, it would be proven that one of the big signals of the relationship between the United States and South Korea was how both nations mirrored each other, throughout daily life, within society, sharing each other's cultures, pop and entertainment, and overall, how American capitalism defeated the North Koreans, with regards to where we stand today. The economic assistance to South Korea brought this nation out from its own corruption, depression, and made it towards its own successes and provided the nation a military and their equipment that made it possible to defend themselves from communist aggression.

Of course, it was Harry's leadership that made this all possible, as now, the leader of the free world had a huge card to play with in Asian affairs, after defeating the Japanese with the uses of nuclear weapons, something that Truman would match with the moves of the Soviet Union, knowing that they had controlled and influenced North Korea. "President Harry S. Truman once said that if he were remembered for anything, it would be for his foreign aid programs. Despite the fragmented appearance of the Truman administration's various foreign aid programs, they were all inspired by a clear policy "to assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way," and with the clear purpose of helping create conditions throughout

the world compatible with American values and interests.”<sup>9</sup> Truman was definitely known for his world affairs, ensuring that, after the devastation of World War II, he knew that the Soviet Union was going to play huge role as well, being the other superpower in the world, the Soviet Union already had begun to spread their aggressive behavior throughout Europe and Asia, with North Korea being one of them. Although the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine applied to Europe, South Korea was still on him plate of ensuring that things don’t get badly out of control there, thus approving economic assistance to the South for assurances that the South Korean government would be able to take care of themselves, but also maintaining an American presence there for years to come.

Harry S. Truman was born on May 8, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri, close to Independence. Truman, the leader he was, was also born into a family gene pool that was stubborn, tough, aggressive, and like Syngman Rhee, this was a man that never capitulated to anyone, as the world knows from Nagasaki and Hiroshima, despite his opposition from those within the political spectrum, he kept moving forward and believing in doing what was right. “His parents also taught him a Victorian set of moral absolutes, a tendency to see the world in black-and-white terms, that later influenced his decision making.”<sup>10</sup> In the case of the Korean War, before and during, President Truman was known for a couple of things, now that William is mentioning that he was taught to look at things from a black and white perspective, realistically. One, he knew that the communist aggression was going to one day filter into South Korea, therefore the economic assistance was so vital the South Korean government, to not bail their country out of

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<sup>9</sup> Raymond H. Geselbracht 2014, *Foreign Aid and the Legacy of Harry S. Truman*, Kirksville, Missouri: Truman State University Press, 2014, eBook Collection (EBSCOhost), EBSCOhost (accessed May 15, 2018).

<sup>10</sup> William Pemberton, 2013, "Harry S. Truman," Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 15, 2018).

debt but to also ensure that Syngman Rhee and his military forces were ready to some extent before fully mobilizing the South Korean military, considering the events of June 25, 1950.

The other thing that President Truman had seen was the military thinking of his top general in Korea, General Douglas MacArthur, an individual that will be mentioned in a just a bit. “He openly criticized its policy of limiting the war to Korea; it issued restrictions on these pronouncements that barely restricted the pronouncements at all. After that, Truman did his best to ignore these comments while Ridgway handled combat operations.”<sup>11</sup> As mentioned before, when President Truman was born, he was taught to be a man that look at things realistically, in black and white. Here, Truman had felt that to maintain the stability of the Korean Peninsula during the war, he felt that pushing the North Koreans out of South Korea was the primary goal, Truman wanted a limited war, that’s it. He knew that if the United States became more violent and aggressive, that China was going to enter the war, making military operations for all United Nations Forces difficult to compete with a suitable force of the Chinese Army. MacArthur had challenged the Commander-In-Chief of the United States Armed Forces, as MacArthur wanted to push even further into North Korea and into China as well, MacArthur was a risk taker and solely a military “God.” This made Truman relief his commanding officer in Korea and replaced him with General Matthew Ridgeway, as Truman didn’t want the war to spiral out of control, with the possibility of introducing nuclear weapons.

The military God like figure was General Douglas MacArthur, a military officer that proudly served his country since he was a young man, too young to be exact. “MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers from 1945 through 1951, had a greater impact on

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<sup>11</sup> Michael D. Pearlman 2008, *Truman & MacArthur: Policy, Politics, and the Hunger for Honor and Renown*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008, eBook Collection (EBSCOhost), EBSCOhost (accessed May 16, 2018).

American military history than virtually any other officer in the twentieth century. Various gifted, he was a hero to much of the American public but a center of controversy on several occasions.”<sup>12</sup> If anyone in the world were to be blessed and lucky to have a military figure like General Douglas MacArthur, it was the United States and South Korea, especially the situation that they were both in during the Korean War, most notably, the opening stages of combat operations.

Since World War II, General MacArthur was at the top of the military food chain, next to the President of the United States and Joint Chiefs of Staff, so he was up there alright. One of America’s only 5-star generals, MacArthur had a lot of military experience under his belt. “Yet another strategic factor concerned some unique and decisive doctrines implemented during the Asian/Pacific war: “island-hopping,” “leap-frogging,” and by-passing strongholds.” These were variations of the classic envelopment concept. MacArthur frequently touted these doctrines, especially in his memoirs, occasionally claiming to have invented them. Sometimes he practiced them as in the cases of the Hollandia and Leyte campaigns; more often he acted as he pleased, attacking strongholds directly and expending massive resources in mopping-up campaigns.”<sup>13</sup> When it came to the Philippines, although the Japanese had overrun and taken these islands by force, MacArthur was also known for his confidence and mentality, saying that, one day, we’ll be back to re-claim these islands. Sure enough, as he made his way down the ramp of a landing craft off one of the beaches in the Philippines, he stepped off and claimed victory for the United States in 1944.

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<sup>12</sup> Lloyd J. Graybar 2014. "Douglas MacArthur," Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 16, 2018).

<sup>13</sup> Eugene L. Rasor 1995, "General Douglas MacArthur, the Philippines, and strategic decisions of World War II: A survey of," International Social Science Review 70, no. 1/2: 15, MasterFILE Premier, EBSCOhost (accessed May 17, 2018).

Having done his patriotic duties throughout his military career, he finally earned top military positions, Army Chief of Staff, the United States Military Academy at West Point Superintendent, commanding officer of U.S. Army Forces Far East, and finally, Commander of United Nations Forces for the Allies in Korea. “The war that broke out in divided Korea in June 1950, brought MacArthur new military laurels followed by an abrupt end to his long career. After initial retreats, the forces under MacArthur’s command recovered following the Inchon landings that reprised the best of his World War II operations for audacity and success, and by October, victory seemed at hand. Tensions instead mounted between the general and President Truman following the Communist Chinese entry into a war that settled down into one of attrition. In April 1951, MacArthur was relieved of all of his military responsibilities following the publication of a letter the general had sent to an influential Republican politician making clear his disagreement with the president’s policies of limiting the warfare in Korea until a negotiated peace could be had.”<sup>14</sup> It seemed that over the span of his military career, the general essentially “ran over” everyone that tried to get in his way, even figures like Dwight D. Eisenhower and President Truman, this was a man that wasn’t afraid nor would take any criticism from anyone, this was your typical American hero and god-like military iconic figure.

General Macarthur was born on January 26, 1880 in Little Rock, Arkansas but cemented his place in American history on April 5, 1964 in Washington D.C. “MacArthur served in the U.S. Army for almost fifty years, achieving his country’s highest honors. He led his forces to memorable victories after appalling defeat, only to have his career end amid controversy. Throughout, he was an actor almost as much as a soldier, a characteristic that was recognized by

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<sup>14</sup> Lloyd J. Graybar 2014, "Douglas MacArthur," Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 17, 2018).

many who observed him closely. MacArthur always seemed too removed from the people of the United States to become their president. Perhaps he was indeed, as one of his biographers has put it, the “American Caesar.”<sup>15</sup> MacArthur was already born into a military family and a group of individuals that were rowdy and had a gangster like mentality, so most definitely, he fitted right in into the United States Army and the soldiers that he commanded.

The next military officer that will be analyzed will be a South Korean general, born in North Korea, this was Korea’s top military officer at their disposal, working side by side with the United States and bringing the ideal military iconic figure to the South Korean side. “When I saw the division commander himself leading the attack, I knew that the ROK army was God's own Force.” So remarked U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel John H. “Mike” Michaelis, after seeing Maj. Gen. Paik Sun Yup leading the Republic of Korea army's 1st Infantry Division during the critical First Battle of Tabu-dong in August 1950.”<sup>16</sup> When historiography points out the Korean War, many in the general audience think of the United States and figures like General MacArthur and President Truman. With this mentioned, it’s also important to realize that it was the Koreans that had to bear this burden daily from 1950 till present day. Therefore, it's important to remember figures, like Syngman Rhee, but other leaders too, leaders that assisted the United States in fighting the North and other communist partners as best as they could, which of course, the war ended in a stalemate, so no one officially ended the war, still, recognition deserves to be present to those that fought and led magnificently.

It’s very interesting that this military general of the South Korean armed forces led America’s First Infantry Division (Big Red One) during the critical First Battle of Tabu-dong in

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Peter B. Zwack 2003, "South Korea's Fighting General," *Military History* 20, no. 5: 66, MasterFILE Premier, EBSCOhost (accessed May 17, 2018).

August 1950. This shows a lot on what would happen over the next six decades between the United States and South Korea. This military officer showed that both nations would come together and die with each other to save one nation, South Korea. A nation that was the next best hope and prosperous country in the Pacific theater, as President Truman knew that this piece of land had to be saved from communist aggression, and as history as shown, this is where the true relationship began.

General Park Sun Yup was a warrior, a fighter, a believer in freedom and thrived for opportunity, not just for himself, but for all of mankind as well. “General Paik Sun Yup, one of the key players in the ROK army's wartime success, was North Korean, born near Pyongyang in 1920. Commissioned as a lieutenant in the Japanese-controlled Manchukuoan army to fight the Chinese--and battling the Soviet army for a few days in August 1945--this warrior exemplified the contradictions extant on the historically blood-drenched Korean peninsula. Brought up a Methodist Christian, Paik fled Communist-dominated North Korea later in 1945, subsequently joining the South Korean constabulary, and becoming its senior intelligence officer. Enlisting in the ROK army, he experienced a meteoric rise from a 29-year-old brigadier general in 1950 to a four-star army chief of staff in 1953.”<sup>17</sup> Two things come to mind when addressing this as a part of the capstone, one, and this was a general that helped American and U.N. forces throughout the Korean War, as mentioned before, South Korean military officers are basically unheard of through Korean War history throughout the United States of America. Finally, this source digs a little deeper about the kind of character General Park was, a primary source one would say. Peter Zwack explores the personal life and experiences of this person, past events and knowledge this military officer had to offer.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.



Believe or not, one of the gaps that needs to be addressed is how President John Fitzgerald Kennedy encountered Korea, yes, he was president of the United States, however, his concern of the spread of international communism was a priority for him, not just with the Soviet Union and Cuba, but from an overall standpoint of view. “There are three basic circumstances prevailing in Korea today, the conjunction of which makes it imperative that the U.S. Government recognize the gravity of the situation and act promptly to remedy it. The existence of any one or two of these elements without the third would be serious, to be sure, but not such as to warrant emergency consideration and immediate action. The three together, however, are compelling reasons for alarm, for they seriously danger the whole U.S. position in Korea, and threaten to discredit, not only the aid program in Korea, but the Mutual Security Program as a whole.”<sup>18</sup> As mentioned, President was a man that had a vision, to bring a beacon of hope and a new light to the world during the administration. The history books will only tell the stories during the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis, but Korea stands alone for the 35th President of the United States.

These three elements that Kennedy and the other Korean representatives were stating that both nations understood that the problem remained north of Seoul, with the North Koreans. As mentioned earlier in this capstone, President Truman, since accepting the South Korea side when the split had occurred, had to ensure that the priority of the United States towards South Korea was to ensure that the presence was made, putting a potential expansion in the region on hold or convey different thoughts, upon the Soviet Union and North Korea. The fact remained, financial economic and military assistance still had to be a top priority for the United States, to ensure that

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<sup>18</sup> “Korea: Security, 1961-1963,” John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, accessed May 19, 2018, <https://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/JFKPOF-121-004.aspx>.

the South Korean government can still function, move forward, and defend itself with building up a strong military force against communist nations in the region.

Not only for the United States, but around the world, Kennedy wanted all nations to be thriving and confident towards their success, goals, and visions. “Combining intelligence with personal charm, Kennedy became a model to millions around the globe, inspiring them to seek new goals and to work toward those goals with self-confidence. His assassination is still studied and debated.”<sup>19</sup> Born on May 29, 1917, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was a man that a vision of hope and a new beacon of light for the world. He was born into a family that had money and lots of it. His Father was the man that made everything possible, not only for “Jack,” but for Bobby and Teddy, his brothers. In fact, his Dad, Joseph Patrick Kennedy was ambassador for the United States of Great Britain during the Franklin Roosevelt administration, so already, the Kennedy’s had that political mentality in their blood already.

Jack was a born leader, a character that knew what it took to become historic and make positive change exist and an opportunity. “He was sent to the South Pacific where he commanded PT 109, a patrol torpedo boat. The boat was sunk in action on August 2, 1943, and Kennedy not only rescued survivors but also swam for help though badly injured. Awarded the Navy and US Marine Corps medal, he briefly commanded another boat but soon went on sick leave and was discharged for disability as a full lieutenant in December 1944. Because of his injury, coming in the wake of earlier illnesses, he was often sick.”<sup>20</sup> After the United States had entered World War II, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, JFK wanted to do something important, other than follow his Dad around Europe. If memory serves correct,

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<sup>19</sup> Robert W. Sellen 2013, "John F. Kennedy," Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 19, 2018).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

the ambassador, Joseph, had phony Jack's records to get him in the Navy. Joseph wanted his sons to be extremely successfully, which is why when Joe was shot down and killed in Europe during a secret mission, Joseph was devastated, and passed the torch to Jack to run for political office, Congress, the Senate, then the Presidency in 1960.

His father planned out perfectly to get Jack to the White House in 1960 and start building and directing the United States of America in a way that would be better for everyone in the world, to give that sense to communist nations the United States was there to stay and make their presence felt always. "Plagued by a painful back, he was diagnosed in 1947 as having Addison's disease also, then usually fatal, and was often absent from the House. He showed more interest in national issues than local ones and became deeply interested in foreign policy. He rejected his father's isolationism, supported the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, but joined right-wing critics of the so-called loss of China to Mao Zedong. In 1951, he toured Europe and Asia for several weeks and returned better balanced regarding a Soviet threat to Western Europe and the significance of Asian anticolonialism."<sup>21</sup> In regards to reinforcement of the relationship between the United States and South Korea, President Kennedy had that international foreign policy experience already, he understood the world, looking at it from a realistic and threatening point of view, knowing that, after World War II, the Soviets were trying to appease and trick the entire world, but really, wanted to expand their ideology of international communism. Kennedy, being familiar with how the Soviets and then leader Nikita Khrushchev approached things, this was why talks with the South were almost important. Showing the world that the United States and South Korea will remain together, and at any cost or burden, the United States will always be there for the South Korean government, economically and militarily.

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

It's important to remember that, the relationships between the United States and South Korea were not always good, they also had some sour moments, challenging, but possible to overcome and start fresh once again. For the next biography, one South Korean leader, although a leader that President Kennedy had agreed with, and during the Nixon Administration, was Park Chung Hee. "Park's primary task as the new leader of South Korea was to repair the country's economy. Soon after the coup, Park ordered the arrests of scores of South Korean business executives who had profited from the corruption in Rhee's government over the last decade. He then nationalized South Korean banks, or placed them under state control, thereby enabling the government to direct the country's income into economic development initiatives. To this end, Park also created numerous government branches devoted to managing South Korea's economy. These included the ministry of finance and the economic planning board."<sup>22</sup> Before the United States and the Truman Administration had found out, former president of South Korea, Syngman Rhee, was corrupt and had directed the South Korean government and its people towards a disaster waiting to happen. Of course, something at this magnitude would lead the United States to believe that South Korea was over and done, in a way that would've concluded that the United States abandoned their Asian partner.

Imagine how South Korea would have been, how chaotic it would've been if it wasn't for this leader of South Korea, it might've been the end of the southern portion of the peninsula, inviting the North and other communist regimes to attempt a takeover of the South, establishing a temporary government and ruining the chances for the United States of America to be involved there. "In 1965, Park normalized diplomatic relations with Japan. This decision angered the

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<sup>22</sup> Michael Ruth, 2016, "Park Chung Hee," Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 19, 2018).

South Korean people, who still remembered Japan's violence against Korea during World War II. At the same time, the new relations meant that Japan and the United States, which welcomed the South Korean–Japanese treaty, would now begin to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in the South Korean economy. Park's economic reforms also led to significant improvements in South Korea's infrastructure and heavy industry sector."<sup>23</sup> Born November 14, 1917, in Gumi, South Korea, Park tried in very best to help revitalize the motivate the South Korean economy, as this was his primary task.

After the conclusion of the Korean War, it began to instill in the South Korean communities that Syngman Rhee was bad news and the country's morale and hopes of an economic future began to vanish and deteriorate. Given the history between South Korea and Japan, Park took a chance and re-established relations with the Japanese, not forgetting, the United States of America was keeping a watchful eye on both nations, not only building rapport and trust in one another, but ensuring that international relations in Asia were going to be possible to strengthen in the region. Therefore, the president of South Korea did this, knowing that the United States was more than willing to provide more economic assistance to South Korea, on top of the partnership Park had with Japan and the United States. Despite his political views and approaches, throwing South Korea into turmoil, the United States continued to build on the priorities for them and the South Korean government. Not to forget, the communist regime of North Korea was still a threat, and pertaining to the Soviet Union, communism had to be contained to keeping moving forward with both the United States and South Korea.

On October 26, 1979, the South Korean leader was assassinated by the leader of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency. Well within the South Korean countryside, many Koreans

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

had their discords and concerns on how Park was conducting himself as a leader, although he seemed to care more about the economy than what was going on in the communities and neighborhoods of South Korea. “On October 26, 1979, Park met with government leaders at the headquarters of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) in Seoul. During the meeting, Park criticized KCIA head Kim Jae Kyu for neglecting to stop the protests that had recently broken out in Korea’s Jeolla region. Park wanted Kim to do this, even if it meant the deaths of thirty thousand people. Outraged, Kim took out a gun and shot Park, who died a short time later.”<sup>24</sup> Although this was a setback, not just for South Korea, but for the United States as well, both nations moved forward and maintained the close relationship with one another, understanding their priorities and missions that still had to be carried out for the safety and peace of the world.

Knowing how much of a role the communist regimes of North Korea and the Soviet Union played, from a negative and aggressive point of view, China also played a huge part in this too, especially from a geographical standpoint. During the Korean War, President Truman and General Douglas MacArthur were duking it out over this issue, as Truman was cautious about the Chinese entering the war, but on the other hand, MacArthur wanted to flex American force and drive towards China’s border near North Korea, as Truman became concern for this and relieved the general of his command in Korea.

If one leader had the right approach to China, although this was after the Korean War, and during Vietnam, the right man for the job was Richard Milhous Nixon, 37th President of the United States of America. “A series of treaties ensued with the Taiwan-based Republic of China (ROC) and others in which the United States worked to contain and isolate China. The United

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

States also blocked PRC from membership in the United Nations, maintaining that the ROC was the true legal government representing China. During the Vietnam War, China gave to communist North Vietnam massive aid but not combat troops, and the United States provided aid and military support to South Vietnam, a situation that further exacerbated relations between the two nations.”<sup>25</sup> Similar to the possible meeting of President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore in the middle of June, the world was anticipating the travel to China, by the first U.S. President to ever do so, President Nixon. As it is shown, whether it may be Korea or Vietnam, China presented a lot of challenges for the United States and South Korea, trying to gain advantages in the international communities, especially during the Korean and Vietnam War, which is why, the meeting between Nixon and Chinese communist leaders was so historic and a sign of good faith between the American leader and South Korea.

As part of the international partnership and relationship that both South Korea and the United States had since the Korean War, a huge part of it was this visit and determination by the American president, Richard Nixon. “President Nixon’s visit to China ended two decades of confrontation between the two nations on two battlegrounds: Korea and Vietnam. It was a result of changing international relations, most notably the Sino-Soviet split in the 1960’s that ended the Western fear of a monolithic communist bloc. It also reflected a new alignment of world powers from the bipolarization of the post-World War II era to a multilateral world consisting of the United States, Soviet Union, Western Europe, China, and Japan. With the Soviet Union posing a greater danger to both China and the United States, improved U.S.-China relations

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<sup>25</sup> Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur, 2013, "Nixon's visit to China," Salem Press Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 20, 2018).

promised to benefit both countries in their dealings with the Soviet Union.”<sup>26</sup> The reason for this visit by an American president for the first time was to set the tone of America’s policy in Korea. Up to this point in foreign policy between the United States and South Korea, China remained a credible threat to the South, especially there in assisting the North during the Korean conflict, and by now, Vietnam.

Looking at it from a firm and strong point of view, President Nixon enforced America’s policy to the face of the Chinese leader, Mao Zedong. Knowing that China had the support of the Soviet Union, Nixon wanted to ensure that China cautiously approached their thoughts on South Korea. “Of course, the symbolism of the visit mattered more than the substance of the talks. Surely governments across the world, but especially in Moscow, Pyongyang, and Hanoi, must have carefully reconsidered their respective positions on the Cold War in East Asia. Nixon's visit helped bring an end to the so-called Bamboo Curtain, and along with announcements on trade, the gold standard, and currency valuation, caused the so-called Nixon shocks in Japan, and a schism in the once extremely warm relations between the two postwar allies on either side of the Pacific.”<sup>27</sup> President Nixon changed the faces of the international community, as he knew that South Korea was the top priority. Yes, Japan was there, making their presence felt in the region and providing support for the South Koreans, but, Nixon knew that he had to stay in the game and up the ante against the North, China, and the Soviet Union, nations that the United States can compete and hold that card if South Korea and its people became under threat.

Ronald Reagan was the 40th President of the United States from 1981-1989, a leader that created and invented the peace through strength method, preferably for the Soviet Union and

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> n.d. "Nixon's Visit to China," Credo Reference Collections, EBSCOhost (accessed May 21, 2018).



their behavior before the wall came down. “Nearly 35 years ago, then-President Ronald Reagan laid out a vision that dramatically changed how the U.S. viewed its national security. By reversing the strategy of "Mutually Assured Destruction" (MAD), he introduced a blatantly innovative idea that, at the time, earned laughter and derision from many in the political and national security elite. As it turns out, with North Korea threatening the lives of millions of Americans by flaunting its ballistic missile capabilities, Reagan was as prescient as ever.”<sup>28</sup> Moving into more modern times, North Korea was becoming a bigger threat to the western world with the potential introduction of nuclear capable weapons, striking South Korea and the United States of America.

The threat from North Korea has always been potential and taken seriously, in relation to this, the Soviet Union was the main partner in the region, acting in defense and assisting the North Korean regime, making their capabilities more troublesome for the United States and South Korea. “Today, the real and imminent threat comes from North Korea. There is an urgency before us like never in the modern day to increase the use of space, from sensors to interceptors, to counter enemy ballistic missiles. Investments in resiliency, data collection, increased ground computing power, increase radar power on the ground and in the air, and laser technology can help defeat the threat. Testing, operational testing to simulate real-world combat conditions to assess the capability of our existing missile defense systems, is a must.”<sup>29</sup> As part of the relationship and testament towards each other, the Reagan defense department wanted to ensure that all measures were being addressed and carried out in the event of a missile attack, by the North Koreans, upon the United States, South Korea, and Japan, something that, most recently,

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<sup>28</sup> John Heubusch, 2017, "President Reagan's SDI Vision Could Still Protect Us from North Korea," Investor's Business Daily, September 12, 36, Business Source Ultimate, EBSCOhost (accessed May 24, 2018).

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

has been seen in recent months. President Reagan wanted to promote peace and safety but was prepared to fight back if any of its allies, like South Korea, was imminently threatened.

South Korea was blessed and honored to have a leader like Ronald Reagan, a character that transformed American foreign policy forever, exercising that strength and firmness with the Soviet and North Korean regimes. "At the last of four summits with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in a historic presidential trip to Moscow, the two leaders signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, intended to eliminate thousands of nuclear weapons. In 1987, Reagan issued his famous challenge to Gorbachev to "tear down this wall" dividing East and West Berlin, an event that would not occur until 1989 and then through popular, not governmental, action. He also pressured Gorbachev during negotiations on what he saw as human rights issues, such as religious freedoms."<sup>30</sup> The greatest thing that came out of these meeting between the United States and Soviet Union, was not only the Berlin Wall coming down, but it was the signing of Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The treaty itself eliminated nuclear weapons, and not only this, it proved that with a leadership quality like President Reagan had during his terms, a rhetoric like this can go along ways with nations like Soviet Union, and then from there, can start falling upon other nations like North Korea, ensuring the safety of the South.

As mentioned before, not all relationships are perfect, challenges will exist, especially with nations that keep disrupting their own way of life, with the United States at the waist side, watching and hoping that things don't go badly out of control, like a North Korean takeover or something along these lines. "In 1981 he lifted martial law, in effect since 1979. In 1987 he

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<sup>30</sup> Arthur F. McClure 2013, "Ronald Reagan," Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed May 24, 2018).

picked Roh Tae Woo to be his party's presidential candidate and subsequently endorsed Roh's democratization policies. Chun and Roh were both indicted in 1995 and 1996 on corruption charges, as well as for their roles in the 1979 coup and in the massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Gwangju (Kwangju) in 1980. Sentenced to life in prison, Chun was pardoned in Dec. 1997, by President Kim Dae Jung, as a national reconciliation gesture.”<sup>31</sup> During the Reagan Administration, somethings had to be overlooked in South Korea. During this time, the South Korean president, like the previous leader of the South, this was an individual that wanted nothing less than be a dictator and rule all South Korea, on top corrupting the government. However, despite the troubles in South Korea during that time, President Reagan ensured that the Soviet Union and many of her allies would stop acting aggressively and take precautionary measures to defend the United States and South Korea from total annihilation.

Now, in the most recent events that have been happening in South Korea and the United States, both current leaders have done as much as the world could ask for in deterring Kim Jong Un and North Korea to surrender their nuclear weapons program and come to the negotiating tables to discuss ways forward with peace, unity, making all of Korea unified and work together in strengthening relations with one another. “The presidential election that took place in South Korea on May 9, 2017, produced a clear winner. The Democratic Party candidate, Moon Jae-in, received 41.1 percent of the vote, thus becoming the country’s 19th president. In this issue of the Asia Policy Brief, Hannes B. Mosler, assistant professor at the Institute of Korean Studies and the Graduate School of Asian Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, analyzes the election and the

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<sup>31</sup> 2017, "Chun Doo Hwan," Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6Th Edition 1, History Reference Center, EBSCOhost (accessed May 24, 2018).

reform agenda of the new president.”<sup>32</sup> Born January 24, 1953, President Moon Jae In was sworn in as the 12th President of South Korea, after the previous leader of the South, President Park Geun Hye, was impeached and removed from office. This is significant because, while President Trump began his goal and rhetoric towards the North, South Korea was amid a political chaos.

President Moon was also committed to work with the United States of America and contain the North Korean leader of Kim Jong Un and his aggressive behavior/nuclear weapons program. “In contrast to the two previous conservative presidents, Park and Lee Myung-bak, who were generally skeptical of interacting with the North, Moon has already begun to move forward with limited overtures toward engagement with Pyongyang. Although those offers have been mostly symbolic, they represent a clear change in tone. As chief of staff under Roh Moo-hyun, Moon was deeply involved in engagement policies toward the North, playing a key role in setting up the summit meeting between Roh and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in 2007.”<sup>33</sup> It was important to understand that, although South Korea needed a new leader, President Moon understood that, because without a leader or throwing the country into a political fiasco, in the past, North Korea tends to act aggressively, in the hopes that the North, with the possibility of other communist nations, can find ways to infiltrate the South, President Moon knew that the top priority on the government’s mind was always North Korea, along with working with the United States of America in these efforts.

It has been shown that President Moon understood the task in hand, not just domestically in the South, but the entirely peninsula as well, knowing that things could get out of control. “An example of this limited engagement came early in Moon’s tenure. A month after assuming the

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<sup>32</sup> Hannes B. Mosler 2017, "President Moon Jae-in – The Right Choice for South Korea, Asia Policy Brief 2017/02," Archive of European Integration, EBSCOhost (accessed May 25, 2018).

<sup>33</sup> David C. Kang 2017, "A New President Aims to Change South Korea's Course," Current History 116, no. 791: 217-222, Humanities International Complete, EBSCOhost (accessed May 25, 2018).

presidency, Moon welcomed the North Korean women's hockey team to South Korea, saying, "Sports are a powerful tool to demolish walls and separation." He called for North and South Korea to send a unified team to the Winter Olympics in 2018."<sup>34</sup> As both President Moon and Trump worked closely together on the North Korean leader, South Korea had to deal with this problem more of a head on approach. He had to deal with domestic issues like human rights, refugees, economical situations, and of course the North, as all of this had to be taken step by step to ensure that the country, nor the entire peninsula ended up being destroyed. The main priority was to keep everything calm and on the same page, as the United States was heavily involved as well.

In more recent events, two things have happened between the North and the western allies of South Korea and the United States of America. "Kim Jong-un, the ruler of North Korea, agreed to meet President Moon Jae-in of South Korea at a summit in April at Panmunjom on the border."<sup>35</sup> As the world watched, both South Korea and North Korea met at the 38th Parallel, a map coordinate that's engraved into history for both nations. Of course, at that time, this was the starting of something that can lead into a more unified Korea soon, as Kim Jong Un crossed into South Korea, first North Korean leader to ever do so. President Moon did all he can to show, not just the South, the region, or the United States, that he was also committed to the same thing that the United States was also very anxious to begin, but in recent events, the summit that was planned between the North and the United States has now been cancelled. Not to be worry, as both South Korea and the United States are still anxious and committed in having talks with the

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> 2018, "Kim Jong-un, the ruler of North Korea, agreed to meet President Moon Jae-in of South Korea at a summit in April at Panmunjom on the border," Spectator, 2018, 6, Literature Resource Center, EBSCOhost (accessed May 25, 2018).

North and finding a solution(s) to make the Korean peninsula more unified and stronger than ever.

Finally, in the decade's long relationship between the United States and South Korea, one leader has been more committed and has worked tireless days and weeks to bring peace and stability to the Korean Peninsula, that man is Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States of America. "Together, we dream of a Korea that is free, a peninsula that is safe, and families that are reunited once again. We dream of highways connecting North and South, of cousins embracing cousins, and this nuclear nightmare replaced with the beautiful promise of peace. Until that day comes, we stand strong and alert."<sup>36</sup> In relation to America's commitment to its western Asian ally, President Trump was convinced that the North Korean regime had to be dealt with, with more firmness and action on the part and heels of the American president.

President Trump did everything within his authority to assist the South Korean nation and deter the North from being more aggressive and continue to behave badly during his first one-hundred days in office. "Not since Ronald Reagan has the US been so willing to engage in naked displays of its own military potency in quick succession — and seek to gather diplomatic yields from them as swiftly as possible. The past fortnight brought a missile attack on an airbase manned by the Assad regime — changing the tenor of US-Russian relations overnight — and the dropping of the so-called Moab ("mother of all bombs") on an Isis affiliate in Afghanistan. The latter was a far cry from the "clear, hold, build" counterinsurgency operations in vogue half a decade ago. But it did fit with a campaign promise by the new president that he would "bomb the

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<sup>36</sup> 2018, "OUR EYES ARE FIXED TO THE NORTH," Vital Speeches of the Day 84, no. 1: 2-5, History Reference Center, EBSCOhost (accessed May 26, 2018).

shit out of Isis" should the opportunity arise."<sup>37</sup> Although U.S. and Russian relations are being analyzed here, it's important to remember that this can be related to U.S. and South Korea relations as well. How? In the past, the United States has been too soft on South Korea's rival, North Korea. Economic sanctions have been enforced and issued towards the North Korean regime, but nothing like what President Trump has shown the type of Commander-In-Chief he truly is.

With President Trump, this is a man that will act upon his promises and thoughts that he communicates with the world or to his defense department. This is stated because, his vision seems to be the vision of previous administrations, like President Reagan for example. Like North Korea, President Reagan wanted to defeat the Soviet Union to create a long-lasting peace around the world. He had seen that the people in the Soviet Union were suffering under the rule of the aggressive behavior of the Soviet government. Take President Trump now, same thing, as he sees that the people of the North are suffering in the same way that the Soviet people were suffering before the fall of that nation. President Trump understands what the North can create if this type of stand and partnership is taken by both South Korea and the United States, provides an everyday moment of pause for the rogue regime. "NORTH Korea threatens a missile strike against the U.S. airbase on Guam, and, in return, President Trump promises a response featuring 'fire and fury like the world has never seen'."<sup>38</sup> Now although this never happened, with regards to the more recent Syrian airstrikes, President is playing his cards carefully, as he is a man of his word, as the United States is figuring out a little at a time, the President of the United States is

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<sup>37</sup> John Bew, 2017, "Rehearsing for war: from the Middle East to North Korea, Donald Trump is reasserting us military strength and intensifying the rivalry among the great powers," *New Statesman*, 2017, 23, Literature Resource Center, EBSCOhost (accessed May 26, 2018).

<sup>38</sup> 2017, "NORTH Korea threatens a missile strike against the U.S. airbase on Guam, and, in return, President Trump promises a response featuring 'fire and fury like the world has never seen'," *Stoke Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent, England)*, 2017, *InfoTrac Newsstand*, EBSCOhost (accessed July 1, 2018).

weighing his options with words and strong firmness, as it seems that North Korea reacts to this type of language. Politically speaking, this may be a little tricky, but in a way, not only does President Trump want to maintain the seriousness of the United States and their foreign policy towards the North, but also wants to create something more that would have an impact for generations to come, peace and stability, a possible reunification in that part of the Asian continent. Partnerships and business can be conducted in a good way between the United States and Asian partners like China, Korea, Japan, and others within that enterprise.

In Reiss's view, it is "highly unlikely that the North can be cajoled, threatened or given incentives to surrender its nuclear weapons". The uncomfortable truth is that "short of regime change, which could inflame the entire Korean Peninsula in war", the US cannot halt the North's nuclear weapons program. But that does not mean there are no options. Slowing the pace and raising the costs would be "prudent steps". More, too, could be done, Reiss says, to "interdict imports of sensitive technologies, to sanction Chinese and other nationals who act as purchasing agents for the nuclear and missile programs, and to punish Chinese banks that help finance these programs through so-called secondary sanctions."<sup>39</sup> With this being said, President Trump is a realistic and pragmatic individual, knowing how the real world works. Sanctions by the United States and tough talk from previous American leaders has been the status quo since 1953, at the end of the Korean War. With President Trump, ordering naval presence in the region, stand by alerts for any missile launches by the North, and or placing batteries of artillery units in the South and assist the Republic of Korea military from any aggressive action by the North, well, President Trump wasn't joking around nor giving in to the fact that general society has been

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid.



suggesting that he would be responsible for starting World War III, of course, everyone is only human and concerned.

Over the past few months, President Trump has done everything he could, without ordering military force, to get the North Korean regime to stand down, halt all remaining missile tests, and bring the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to the table to sort out any new talks of ending the Korean War, officially, dismantle all tests and nuclear productivity, and come to terms in bringing the peninsula together and re-unified. "Mounting belligerence from Pyongyang has loomed over Mr. Trump's first year in office, testing the limits of international diplomacy and raising the spectre of nuclear conflict. North Korea has tested multiple ballistic missiles and threatened to annihilate its neighbors; Mr. Trump and his surrogates have responded by saying they're prepared to launch an overwhelming military response."<sup>40</sup> In getting to know the current U.S. leader, President Donald Trump, as mentioned earlier, previous U.S. policies towards the North have been tough, but not tough enough, especially as we continue well far into the nuclear age. President Trump understands that the North can be tricky and lie to the world if they were looking for peace, only way to continue their aggressive and intended behavior behind closed doors.

From the beginning of his presidency, the North Korean regime have been doing things in getting to know the new American leader. Conducting ICBM missile, nuclear, tests and launching them into the Sea of Japan, alarming the region, and awaiting to see what the United States would do and how they would react. In relation in doing so, a strong naval presence has already been a part of the military strategy of the Trump defense department, while at the same

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<sup>40</sup> 2018, "North Korea: Donald Trump agrees to meet Kim Jong-un as dictator pledges no new nuclear tests," The Independent (London, England), 2018. Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed May 26, 2018).

time, military exercises and drills have been conducted in a show of force and strength between the United States and South Korea. Two major things have been going on most recently in targeting and containing the North Korean regime. First, President Trump has been keeping up international relations with impacting countries that play a vital importance in North Korea, especially China. Tough rhetoric between President Xi of China and the United States has gone into a direction that a new trade war has begun, however, President Trump is showing that, as previous administrations, the United States will stand by South Korea forever, as talks continue with China.

Finally, and more recently, the United States has rejected and pulled out of the summit that was originally planned with Kim Jong Un on June 12 in Singapore, this is due in large part that the North Korean regime has shared their discords about joint military exercises between the United States and South Korea. President Trump understands that Kim Jong Un has behaved and conducted himself like his predecessors, Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, making the world believe that the North wants peace, and although one of the missile sites has been destroyed in North Korea, a lot of work still needs to be done. Therefore, Trump continues to not only continue to work closely with the South and other allies in the region, but he remains alerted and vigilant that the North can still be the North Korea we know from the past. As of May 25, 2018, the Trump Administration continues to listen and work with the North Korean government for a way for talks and peace, but Trump and South Korea continues to remain ready for all possibilities.

In describing these individuals that have been essential and vital in the partnership between the United States and South Korea, all leaders of both nations have shown their commitment to one another and to the world, regarding peace and freedom. “Experts have suggested South Korea may have exaggerated to the US how willing North Korea is to get rid of

its nuclear capability. Robert Kelly, a political analyst at Pusan National University in South Korea, said: "It increasingly looks like the Moon administration overstated North Korea's willingness to deal. Mr. Moon will probably get an earful (from Mr. Trump) over that."<sup>41</sup> In can, be understandable and agreed upon with what Robert Kelly was stating, that the South might have miscalculated the North's intentions. With, over the years, "marriages" are not always perfect, it takes time to work on and understand with one another. Therefore, that both the United States and South Korea have had many and extreme challenges with each other, this being one of them. However, the good thing about South Korea and the United States is that they continue to move forward and work closely, understanding that the current North Korean regime is behaving like the past, reason why the United States will not accept these conditions for a possible summit, but are still working on the firmness of international diplomacy.

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<sup>41</sup> 2018, "New doubts over US-North Korea summit; Trump says he detected a change in attitude after Kim Jong-un met with Chinese president, (News)," Daily Telegraph (London, England), 2018, Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed May 26, 2018).

### **Chapter 3: The Korean War**

In 1948, the Korean Peninsula was divided into two separate nations, with both the United States and the Soviet Union take one piece of each. The Soviet Union would take control of North Korea, making Kim Il Sung the leader of North Korea, a newly established communist nation. On the other side, the United States of America would take the South Korea side of the peninsula, turning it into an American style like nation, forming their government and electing Syngman Rhee as the leader of the South, everything was now setup for a fiasco and a decade's long confrontation between North Korea and South Korea. By some luck, this would also establish a challenging, but stable and loving relationship between the United States and South Korea, taking the world to the point where, now, it might be possible of reunifying the peninsula, or at least, keeping rogue nations like North Korea in check and under the watchful eye of a superpower like the United States leading this priority in international diplomacy.

Throughout this chapter, the true relationship will be shown between the United States and South Korea. After the invasion conducted by the North Korean government, with the backing of communist nations like China and the Soviet Union, the United Nations, led by the United States, began making military preparations to join the fighting, providing a pause against communist forces in Korea. Addressing from start to finish, the invasion of the North, the landing at Inchon by the United States, known as Operation Chromite, providing personal experiences from those that were fighting side by side, the landings and at the battle of the Chosin Reservoir, and finally, the importance of MASH units throughout the conflict, providing medical support for U.N. and South Korean forces.

On June 25, 1950, the puppet government of North Korea invaded its neighbor South Korea, as two different sets of ideologies sparked this war and sent the peninsula into a firestorm. “In the spring of 1950, Kim went to Moscow and Beijing in an attempt to persuade Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and Chinese leader Mao Zedong to approve an invasion of South Korea. Both leaders feared that an attack might expand into a wider war without significantly advancing their national interests. However, Kim insisted that his forces could conquer South Korea within a few days. After Stalin unenthusiastically agreed to provide tanks and other military equipment, Mao Zedong had no choice but to go along.”<sup>1</sup> No one could determine or know that, since the split of the Korea's, that war would break out a couple of years later. When World War II concluded, the main goal was achieved by the United States and the Soviet Union, as both Japan and Germany were defeated. In the case of Japan, the empire had created the issue of claiming Korea during the Russo-Japanese war, and years later, was defeated by the Americans and Russians, creating this vacuum like occurrence that set everything into motion in 1948, thus setting up the Korean War.

The invasion conducted by the North upon the South set worldwide concerns and immediate responses by the United Nations, led by the United States, as the United States were the ones to setup the new South Korean government. As mentioned before, all the communist nations of the Soviet Union and China had already planned to take over the South, in a way to spread communism and aggressive behavior all over Asia. “The North Korean army had about 135,000 well-trained troops that were supported by Soviet airplanes, heavy artillery, and tanks. The South Korean army had about 95,000 poorly trained troops and very few airplanes or tanks.

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Tandy Lewis, 2013, "Korean War," *Salem Press Encyclopedia Research Starters*, EBSCOhost (accessed May 27, 2018).

Because of their superior strength, combined with the advantages of a surprise attack, the North Koreans achieved a smashing success. Within three days of the attack, they had captured the capital city of Seoul and continued to advance southward. Without foreign intervention, the South Korean government had no chance of survival.”<sup>2</sup> With all this military equipment and personnel, there wasn’t any question that the North had the backing of China and the Soviet Union, it was time for the United Nations to get involved, providing a deterrent for both of the communist nations.

At this point in their relationship with each other, President Truman has already provided economic and military assistance to the South Korean government, so at this point, it’s morally imperative that the Truman Administration sends American forces to the peninsula to assist the South Korean government in their defense of their country. “The Truman administration called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council, which met on June 25, 1950, and voted nine to none to approve a resolution calling for a cease-fire and a withdrawal of North Korean forces. On June 27, the Security Council passed a second resolution, requesting countries to assist South Korea “to repel the armed attack and restore international peace and security in the area.” The Soviet delegate would have vetoed the two resolutions, except that the Soviet government was boycotting the Security Council to protest the refusal of the United Nations to replace the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan with the People’s Republic of China. The Soviet delegate later returned to the Security Council in August to attempt to veto the two resolutions, but the council held that a veto could only be legally exercised while the resolutions were passed.”<sup>3</sup> As mentioned before, the North Korean invasion force was fully prepared and

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

well-equipped, making them more sustainable and capable of overthrowing the South Korean nation within a short period of time.

The North had training and equipment from the Soviet Union, as oppose to the South, yes, they had what they needed, but the training and military personnel were not there to immediately defend themselves from the communist aggressors. “The same day that the second U.N. resolution was approved, President Truman ordered U.S. air and naval forces to support South Korean troops. On July 1, a U.S. task force of 403 men flew from Japan to Pusan at the southeastern tip of Korea. Americans fought their first battle with the North Koreans on July 5 at Osan, thirty miles south of Seoul. Two days later, the Security Council voted in favor of a unified command in Korea, under a commander to be chosen by the United States. The next day, Truman designated General Douglas MacArthur for the position. MacArthur would direct operations from his Japanese headquarters. For the field commander in Korea, Truman appointed Lieutenant General Walton “Bulldog” Walker of the U.S. Eighth Army, then on occupation duty in Japan.”<sup>4</sup> An immediate response was provided by the United States of America, however, this mini-conflict would create an ordeal for American forces on the southeastern tip of the South Korean peninsula.

The Pusan Perimeter was the first battle that South Korea and American forces fought together in the opening stages of the Korean War. “North Korean forces invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, advancing southward quickly despite U.S. military intervention. After defeats at Osan, the Kum River, and Taejon, the U.S. Eighth Army established in late July a defensive position in the southeast corner of the peninsula. A rectangular area, the Pusan Perimeter was about eighty miles from north to south along the Nakdong River and fifty miles east to west to

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

just north of Yongdok on the Sea of Japan. Defending it was the U.S. Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry and First Cavalry Divisions together with the First, Third, Sixth, Eighth, and Capital Divisions of the Republic of Korea (ROK), guided by General Walton Walker.”<sup>5</sup> Throughout American military history, American military forces have always been eager to fight, however, they overlook the planning and their opponent, as in the case here, similar to the first battle of Trenton during the American Revolutionary War and the Civil War, battle of Bull Run.

American and South Korean forces were overwhelmed with the military engagements of the North, forcing United Nation forces into a full retreat, practically into the waters off Pusan, having to setup defensive perimeters until the next military move can be made, thus awaking a masterful plan from General Douglas MacArthur, commander of United Nations forces in Korea. “I found it difficult to see men, veterans of the last war, older guys, sitting by the side of the road crying. They just didn’t give a hoot. They were tired, disgusted. People just couldn’t understand this part of the war.”<sup>6</sup> It’s important to understand that from the personal experiences of those that were directly involved during this ordeal with their Korean partners, United Nation forces had to be rescued and relieved in any kind of way, this is where General Douglas MacArthur and Operation Chromite come into play.

When MacArthur had found out the situation with U.N. forces off the Pusan Perimeter, he began to plan his next move, a move that was strategically perfect and outstanding, as this was a leader that knew how to ensure total victory for his forces that he commanded. “Admiral

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<sup>5</sup> James I. Matray 2015, "Pusan Perimeter (military campaign)," *Salem Press Encyclopedia Research Starters*, EBSCOhost (accessed May 27, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> “Fire Brigade US Marines in the Pusan Perimeter,” last accessed May 28, 2018, [https://www.marines.mil/Portals/59/Publications/Fire%20Brigade%20US%20Marines%20in%20the%20Pusan%20Perimeter%20%20PCN%2019000315000\\_2.pdf?ver=2012-10-11-163359-357](https://www.marines.mil/Portals/59/Publications/Fire%20Brigade%20US%20Marines%20in%20the%20Pusan%20Perimeter%20%20PCN%2019000315000_2.pdf?ver=2012-10-11-163359-357).



Doyle's staff determined that high tides would occur just after sunrise and just after sunset on D-day, 15 September 1950. Planners decided that a Marine battalion would storm Wolmi-do on the morning tide and defend the position until the primary assault regiments arrived with the evening tide to seize objectives at Red Beach north of the island and Blue Beach below it. Seventh Fleet destroyers, backed up by U.S. and Royal Navy cruisers, were expected to provide the Marines on Wolmi-do with direct fire support.”<sup>7</sup> A lot of those alongside MacArthur were concerned about this operation, his battlefield commanders. They kept wondering why he (MacArthur) wanted to focus on a landing at Inchon, concerns of the obstacles presented to the landing forces, having to infiltrate tiny islands to get to the main land mass off Inchon, and not only this, but the tides would become a huge problem for the landing craft, creating even more issues for the landings.

One can look back on it now and say that the landings were a risk, but a risk that would have an impact on the war itself, turning the tide in favor for American and U.N. forces, up until the Chinese forces made themselves a part of the war. The intention of the landing at Inchon was to relieve the pressure off the forces surrounded at Pusan. MacArthur's plans would cut off the North Korean forces and split their supply lines, making their forces slow down and forcing them to regroup and start from scratch again. “As the destroyers and cruisers took position in the harbor, AD Sky raiders from the USS Philippine Sea (CV-47) attacked Wolmi-do with bombs, rockets, and cannon fire. Working to draw enemy fire, the destroyers opened with their five-inch guns, which soon bathed Wolmi-do in fire and smoke. The response was not long in coming. Communist gunners ashore put seven rounds into the USS Collett (DD-730) and three into the Gurke (DD-783). Other fire hit the Lyman K. Swenson (DD-729), killing Lieutenant (junior

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<sup>7</sup> Edward J. Marolda 2010, "Operation Chromite Target: INCHON," *Naval History* 24, no. 5: 38-45, *History Reference Center*, EBSCOhost (accessed May 28, 2018).

grade) David J. Swenson. But the American "tin cans" won the contest, silencing the North Korean batteries with 998 five-inch rounds. The gunfire support group retired to seaward for the night and returned on the 14th to ensure no enemy guns would remain to menace landing ships and craft!"<sup>8</sup> To an extent, the landings took the North by surprise, as MacArthur unleashed what he had at his disposal. His main objectives were to rescue those from Pusan and get allied forces into South Korea to push back the communist aggressors and back into North Korea and across the 38th parallel.

One of the other major battles that both the United States and South Korea had fought side by side was the battle of the Chosin Reservoir. "Chinese soldier about 20 yards away fired a burst in Yancey's direction, and one of the rounds hit him under the right eye jarring the eyeball loose from its socket and knocking him over. With his left eye Yancey saw the soldier crouch down and jam another magazine in his weapon. Yancey groped around for the carbine, and, not finding it, took the .45 from under his armpit and pumped two rounds into the soldier. Then, as carefully as he could, Yancey removed his gloves and pushed the eye back where it belonged." It was like pushing a hardboiled egg into a knothole, but it went in and it stayed there."<sup>9</sup> One of the biggest reasons why South Korea is at where it's at today is because of this significant battle. Christopher Check shared his research with the general audience, servicemembers personal experiences from those days during the battle. "Courage is not common," wrote Lord Moran in *The Anatomy of Courage*. Martin Russ, USMC, Korean War combat veteran, teaches the same lesson. In *Breakout: The Chosin Reservoir Campaign, Korea 1950*, rare valor is displayed by the men of the First Marine Division, who exhibit courage, endurance, resourcefulness, and sheer

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Christopher Check, 2000, "Breakout: The Chosin Reservoir Campaign, Korea 1950, (Review)." *The American Enterprise* no. 1: *Business Insights Global*, EBSCOhost (accessed May 28, 2018).

strength of will at levels that are anything but common, even among fighting men.”<sup>10</sup> With the Chinese now involved, the United States Marine Corps showed its true colors this day, hanging on and pushing forward, experiencing the horrible realities of war.

The reason for this battle in the first place was because of the mentality, hard and rigorous, of General MacArthur, this guy was a winner and wanted to win at all cost, despite the cautious attitudes of President Harry S. Truman. “MacArthur's goal of quickly winning the Korean War entailed two major field forces, the Eighth Army and the Tenth Corps, driving north on opposite sides of the Korean Peninsula. The North Korean army would then be driven across the Yalu River, and Korea would be unified under a pro-western government in Seoul. This plan worked well initially; a few US army battalions reached the Yalu River before November of 1950. However, the US officers at the Chosin (especially those in the south who had not yet begun the move north) worried about launching a major offensive in difficult terrain during the coldest winter in ten years. Although many had noted that the Chinese presence appeared to be growing, most believed it was comprised solely of volunteers, and thus presented little obstacle. Moreover, CIA analysis concluded that extensive Chinese involvement was unlikely, so the officers were commanded to step up their offensive and to move north quickly.”<sup>11</sup> As mentioned, MacArthur wanted to win and drive the communist forces, not just across North Korea, but now, he wanted to go into China, with the possibility of using nuclear weapons, similar to what was done when the Japanese didn't want to surrender, this is of course where Truman and MacArthur disagree, resulting in the relieving of the general from his command.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Marta Schaff, 2017, "The Battle of Chosin Reservoir," *Battle Of Chosin Reservoir 1-2. History Reference Center*, EBSCOhost (accessed May 28, 2018).

One of the major concerns and problems that U.N. forces had to endure during the battle of the Chosin Reservoir was the icy and frigid cold weather temperatures that these forces had to experience during the cold winter months in Korea, worse than the winters in the Soviet Union. “Not the kind of cold you compensated for by putting on a warmer sweater or adding another log to the fire. I mean really, cold. The kind of chill you experienced sledding on a favorite hill for too long a time or bracing icy winds while sitting high up in the bleachers during a December football game. Your teeth chatter, your fingers and toes grow numb, your nostrils turn raw and your lip crack. You struggle to walk, talk, think; your only clear thought is two words--get warm. Jeff Shaara attempts to put the "brrr" in the reader as he describes the appalling conditions the combatants faced in "The Frozen Hours." Rations and canteens frozen, weapons locked up, engines seized. Temperatures so cold it hurts to breathe.”<sup>12</sup> Attesting to the cold weather in Korea, it was literally cold, and how this author explains, as oppose to the attachment, this is an understatement. Soldiers that are stationed in South Korea, one of the first things of in processing into the new unit is picking up cold weather gear, gear that, should, keep you warm during military exercises. However, the American and Korean personnel fighting throughout the Chosin with the Chinese, they can say that it was beyond cold. All the cold weather gear can be worn, gloves, jackets, sweaters, etc., and yet, one can still suffer from cold weather sickness, like frostbite and other medical conditions that might occur.

As it has been shown, American military personnel were willing to put themselves through some of the harshest weather conditions that Mother Nature can ever make exist, as all American and U.N. forces were willing to pay any price to rescue South Korea from total

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<sup>12</sup> 2017, "Book review: 'Frozen Hours' explores real adversary of Korean War's Battle of Chosin Reservoir," Free Lance-Star (Fredericksburg, VA), 2017, Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed May 30, 2018).

annihilation. "Chosin, in North Korea, left its mark on the Marines of Dog Company. By Nov. 26, they were among other Marines surrounded and outnumbered 8-1 by troops of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in the mountain basin of twisting roads. The temperature plummeted to 20 below to 30 below zero with strong winds, and it stayed about that miserable for the more than two weeks it took for the "attack to the rear" to bring the Marines to relative safety."<sup>13</sup> The significance of this story is that the United States Marines at the Chosin Reservoir stood by each other, supported one another, and looked after each other, ensuring that no matter what the outcome would be, the only thing that had was each other, brothers of the same the family.

When the Korean War first began, as mentioned earlier, the North Koreans were backed by the Soviet Union and the Chinese, and this is important to remember because, as the war broke out, the South Koreans, although receiving military and economic assistance from the United States, were undermanned, outgunned, outdated when it came to training, overall, the South Korean military didn't stand a chance to take on communist forces right away. When the United States of America committed itself to the war and to South Korea for decades to come, after the job that was done by the Americans, the Americans were willing to match the Soviet Union when it came to military equipment and personnel, thus making it possible for the allies to win the war and drive the communist forces back into North Korea. "At first, the Marines flew their Corsairs from carriers, but soon brought them ashore and flew them from the South Korean airfields throughout the war. The Corsair soon became the weapon of choice for many forward

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<sup>13</sup> Trudi Hahn, 2005, "They became like brothers; Marines who fought at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea are a quiet bunch who don't talk easily about the horrors they faced, (NEWS)." Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN), 2005, Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed May 30, 2018).

air controllers.”<sup>14</sup> At that time during the Korean War, the South Korean military didn’t understand the meaning and importance of airpower, as the Americans did, proven in World War I and World War II. During the ground offenses throughout the war, the F4 Corsair played a huge and vital role in supporting allied ground forces, especially during the landings at Inchon and the battle of the Chosin Reservoir. This aircraft proved its importance in defeating the Japanese in the Pacific Theater during World War II, and during Korea, was mainly used in ground attacks in support of advancements of American and U.N. forces. During the setback at the frozen Chosin, American Marines had to retreat from an onslaught of Chinese advancements, as the Corsair helped with the retreat and reset of American military personnel to be saved from total defeat, including death.

As one of the ways to deter popular support of communist forces in Korea, the Americans once again turned to an aircraft that was known for its firepower during the Pacific campaign in World War II, the B-29 Superfortress. “The Reds complained with almost unprecedented shrillness. Radio Pyongyang called the U.N. air campaign "a new international crime worse than the atrocities committed by Hitler." The Communists also protested the U.N. use of napalm fire-bombs as an act of "barbarism," a charge long made by European Communists and fellow travelers. During the next few days U.N. planes attacked a cement factory (whose output was being used for Red fortifications) at Osu, about 35 miles north of the 38th parallel in western Korea, and supply tar gets on both coasts and in Pyongyang, the already battered North Korean capital.”<sup>15</sup> The B-29 was known for this type of “behavior,” as the world had seen in Japan

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<sup>14</sup> Peter B. Mersky 2009, "Professional reading, (U.S. Navy A-1 Sky raider Units of the Vietnam War) (F4U Corsair Units of the Korean War) (Flying to Norway, Grounded in Burma: A Hudson Pilot in World War IF Pen and Sword) (Book review)," Naval Aviation News, 2009, Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed May 30, 2018).

<sup>15</sup> 1952, "The Communists Complain," Time 60, no. 9: 22, Complementary Index, EBSCOhost (accessed May 30, 2018).

during the Second World War. The B-29 destroyed cities and military factories, plus bases, making the enemy production of military hardware and equipment slow down tremendously. Of course, history will show that the B-29 was famous for the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in August of 1945. General Curtis Lemay, commander of the air forces in the Pacific during the World War II campaign against the Japanese, was known for this type of bombing campaigns, missions that would bring America's enemy to its knees, showing no mercy or capitulation. In Korea, MacArthur wanted the same thing, utilize the B-29 at all costs and missions that were necessary for ground advancements into North Korea, possibly China, as MacArthur wanted, but was later fired by the President of the United States, Harry Truman.

Naval support was a huge part throughout Korean operations, most significantly regarding the battle of the Chosin Reservoir, but other battles as well, like Operation Chromite and the landings at Inchon. "The withdrawal operation began on Dec. 10, 1950, when Task Force 90 embarked elements of the 1st Marine Division, which had just finished an arduous, masterful fighting withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir. Fleet carriers Philippine Sea (CV-47), Valley Forge (CV-45), Princeton (CV-37) and Leyte Gulf (CV-32) and three escort carriers had provided the American ground troops with crucial close-air support. Navy and Marine Corps aviators carried out more than 1,700 sorties during only one week of the operation. At the same time, the battleship Missouri, cruisers St. Paul (CA-73), and Rochester and a score of destroyers and rocket ships provided a ring of fire around the embarking allied troops. More than 23,000 16-inch, 8-inch, 5-inch and 3-inch rounds and rockets fell on Chinese and North Korean forces moving against the U.N. defensive perimeter. By Christmas Eve, when Navy explosive teams destroyed the port facilities at Hungnam, the Navy had withdrawn 105,000 troops, 91,000 civilian refugees, 350,000 tons of cargo and 17,500 military vehicles. Another 3,600 troops,

1,300 tons of cargo and 196 vehicles had been airlifted out by Air Force and Marine Corps aircraft. Clearly, the Navy's control of the sea enabled the X Corps to live to fight another day.”<sup>16</sup>

The battle of the Chosin was the perfect example of how important the United States Navy was throughout the Korean War, especially for ground advancements and retreats of American and allied forces in Korea. Essentially, at the battle and during the retreat, pro-Korean forces were bogged down and in a pretty pickle, they needed support from the air and sea to cover their retreat to regroup and refocus on the mission in hand. Two things came out of this, one, most of the lighter ships, non-carriers, along with battleships like the U.S.S. Missouri, they provided fire support on North Korean and Chinese positions trying to advance towards and pass the allied defensive positions. This support provided a ring of protection for allied forces to get out of harm's way and work their way back to a safer strategic position. Finally, the support provided cover for those throughout the civilian population, as refugees were making their way out of the battle zone and to a safer location.

Overall, yes, this might have been or seem like a lost for allied forces, but in the sake of showing the relations between the United States and South Korea, both nations were supporting each other, making sacrifices, and looking out for one another. “The navies of the U.N. coalition also maintained a blockade of North Korea's coastlines. This prevented the enemy from using the sea and allowed allied vessels to move about in relative freedom. This strategic advantage also enabled U.N. Command surface ships and submarines to land U.S. Navy underwater demolition teams (UDTs), U.S. Marines, British Royal Marine commandos, South Korean commandos and other special forces on both Korean coasts and on many coastal islands. The elite units destroyed

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<sup>16</sup> “Naval Operations during the Korean War,” Naval Historical Center, last accessed May 31, 2018, <http://www.nj.gov/military/korea/factsheets/navy.html>.



enemy railways and railway tunnels, highway bridges and supply depots. U.N. naval forces also landed Korean guerrillas ashore for long operations behind enemy lines. In a major effort from Feb. 16, 1951, to the end of the Korean War, the fleet prevented the enemy from using the port of Wonsan by subjecting it to bombardment by air units, battleships, cruisers and destroyers of Task Force 95. One history of the war also credits this operation with diverting 80,000 North Korean troops from frontline duty.”<sup>17</sup> One thing that was learned previously was the method of Carl Von Clausewitz and his economy of force. Meaning, everyone has a role to play and is always essential to the importance of the mission. The United States Navy played a huge role in slowing down the potential North Korean advancements back down to the South of the Korean peninsula.

In relation the American Civil War, the Anaconda Plan was planned perfectly, utilizing the Union Navy to block off all Confederate ports from supplies and essentials to keep the flow going for the Confederate military. Like this, the American Navy ensured that North Korea couldn't use the sea for supplies or troop movements, slowing down their chances, along with the Chinese, to turn the tide of the war back into Communist forces favor. Not only did it stop hundreds of thousands of North Korean troops for reporting for frontline action, but this encirclement also surrounding communist forces, leaving them subjected to aerial bombardment and the firing of American artillery from the sea and strategic locations on the ground, from both American and U.N. forces.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

## Chapter 4: Participants and the Air War

One of the well-known units during the Korean War was the American 8th Army, still serving and active in Korea as of today. “Due to the tactical situation that existed during the first six weeks of the Korean War, ROK and US ground forces were compelled to conduct an economy of force mission. Inherently risky and difficult to execute under the best of circumstances, a series of delays and withdrawals defined the ROK-US effort in the early stages of the Korean War.”<sup>1</sup> The 8th Army has been committed to the safety and security of their South Korean counterparts since the opening shots were fired that started the Korean War. Both the 8th Army and the Republic of Korea military units have been working diligently and tirelessly, day in and day out for decades now, as it continues to progress well into the future for both the United States and South Korea.

As it continues, the 8th Army played a vital role during talks of ending the Korean War. “The history of the Korean War truce talks began on 10 July 1951 and after two years of intricate, verbose and exasperating dialogue, an armistice was finally consummated on 27 July 1953 – formally suspending full-scale hostilities on the peninsula. As the post-Armistice period began, Eighth Army assisted the Republic of Korea in relief and rehabilitation efforts and it continues to play a significant role in the common defense of South Korea. Today, there is no evidence to suggest that North Korea has abandoned its option of unifying the peninsula by force of arms.”<sup>2</sup> Till this day, and from personal experience, the United States 8th Army continues to play a defensive posture on the Korean Peninsula. Not only does it continue to build and improve

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<sup>1</sup> “History,” Eighth Army, last accessed May 31, 2018, <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/site/about/history.asp>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

relations with military units of South Korea, working together, not just militarily, but morally as well, the 8th Army presents itself as a force that stands ready for battle in the event of a North Korean aggressive move.

On the other side of the ocean, the South Korean military has been partnering with the American military in the containment of North Korea, and not only this, but working closely with its American partners. "During his speech, Gen. Kim Hyun-Jip emphasized how great Eighth Army was as the neighbor to Republic of Korea (ROK) Army and the civilians." "64 years ago, when the Korean War broke out, it was Eighth Army who immediately gave South Korea a hand," Gen. Kim Hyun-Jip said."<sup>3</sup> The general is showing his appreciation for what the 8th Army has done in its history, however, the Republic of Korea Army cannot go unrecognized either. As mentioned before, South Korean units have bleed and sweat the same amount as American forces during the Korean War. Both military forces have worked closely since then, training and conducting military operations/exercises in the spirit of both nations, training and remaining alerted always ready to go on a moment's notice.

Mobile Army Surgical Hospital or M.A.S.H. units played a huge and vital role throughout the Korean conflict. "Upwards of 100 surgical cases a week could pass through a MASH (mobile army surgical hospital), and the medical staff lived in primitive surroundings within an earshot of the conflict. Dr. Apel describes the scene of the surgeon at war, so well, with feet swollen and sore after up to 80 hours of continuous operating."<sup>4</sup> Throughout this book, Apel also describes the horrors of war, how, while operating on service members, being so close to frontline action, the amount of stress it took on doctors and nurses through every mobile hospital,

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<sup>3</sup> Cpl. Suh Dongkwon, "Third Republic of Korea Army hosts an Alliance Festival," Eighth Army, last modified November 7, 2014, [https://www.army.mil/article/138320/third\\_republic\\_of\\_korea\\_army\\_hosts\\_an\\_alliance\\_festival](https://www.army.mil/article/138320/third_republic_of_korea_army_hosts_an_alliance_festival).

<sup>4</sup> RN Villar, 1998, "MASH: An army surgeon in Korea," *BMJ (Clinical Research Ed.)* 317, no. 7172: 1599, MEDLINE, EBSCOhost (accessed June 3, 2018).

in providing a general feeling of what and how chaotic the Korean War really was to the general audience.

When it comes to the real-life MASH units, a good portrayal comes in the television show *MASH*, with the star of the show being Alan Alda. In the show, it shows what daily life was like in Korea for these American doctors, nurses, and other American military personnel. It also shows that life during the conflict, in Korea, especially just miles away from actual fighting, this showed that life was also frustrating for many personnel throughout war torn South Korea. “The MOBILE ARMY SURGICAL HOSPITAL, 8076th ARMY UNIT is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in Korea in support of combat operations during the period from 25 July 1950 to 11 May 1951. During this period the MOBILE ARMY SURGICAL HOSPITAL, 8076TH ARMY UNIT functioned in close support of front line units rendering outstanding medical services.”<sup>5</sup> MASH units throughout South Korea and the Korean conflict performed with steadfast loyalty, not just for the United States of America, but in assisting the South Korean government as well. American military personnel were making contributions that were fighting off the spread and aggressive behavior of the North Koreans and Chinese armies. Not only this, but MASH units provided support with medical equipment and treating those of their South Korean allies.

One of the big things about the Korean War that both the United States and South Korea had to ensure and maintain was air superiority, now that it was clear that the Soviet Union and China were involved, North Korea had what it needed to compete with the allied nations. “The MiG-15 was good, but hardly the super fighter that should strike terror in the heart of the West ...

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<sup>5</sup> Joris Nieuwint, “The Real MASH Units in Korea,” War History Online, last updated July 30, 2015, <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/guest-bloggers/the-sad-sack-a-happy-memory.html>.

There was no question that the F-86 was the better fighter.”<sup>6</sup> Believe or not, this is coming from a former North Korean pilot who had escaped to South Korea after flying for the North during the conflict, his name was No Kum-Sok. One of the significance of the Korean War was that it brought upon the first time that jets would be used in major combat, and not only this, but it would be the first time that both superpowers would face off, the United States and Soviet Union.

One of the impacts that the United States of America had on the Korean War was showing the South Korean military how to defend themselves from their aggressors like North Korea. “Despite numerous obstacles, Hess and his men not only trained the inexperienced South Korean pilots, but also conducted operational combat flights, which he often led. After receiving more F-51s and training enough pilots, ROKAF operations became autonomous from the USAF in January 1952.”<sup>7</sup> This had established future relationships with their South Korean partners in the region. Later, numerous air bases would be established and made permanent between the United States and South Korea. Nowadays, both nations would conduct training exercises to prepare all in the event of another major conflict in the region. Sharing equipment, teachings, and other vital pieces of information that benefits both nations for the event of war with North Korea and other aggressors that would support the North. This truly showed the idea of a love and marriage between South Korea and the United States, despite challenges in the past, both nations have worked continuously to improve on this and not let anything stand in the way of this vital importance in international relations.

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<sup>6</sup> “Korean War 1950-1953 Teacher Resource Guide,” National Museum of the United States Air Force, last accessed June 3, 2018, [http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Portals/7/documents/education/teacher\\_resource\\_korean\\_war.pdf](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Portals/7/documents/education/teacher_resource_korean_war.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

Although the Korean War had its stalemates between allied nations versus communist aggressors, one thing that the allied forces had going for them, especially the United States were the bombing campaigns conducted on the North and other key communist positions. One on one battles throughout MiG alley was one thing, but bombing missions were another, as if it wasn't for bombing campaigns being successful, the Korean War might have been a different outcome than just a "tie." "The Chinese intervention in November 1950 signaled a new escalation in the Korean War and new responsibilities for bomber crews. Super fortresses hammered towns and cities all along the North Korean side of the Chinese border and interrupted the enemy's transportation system by bombing bridges and railroad marshalling yards. They also neutralized enemy airfields (including those situated along the Korean side of the Manchurian border) and attacked enemy troop concentrations."<sup>8</sup> These types of missions were vital to allied ground forces trying to make advancements into North Korea, possibly close enough to China. Without it, UN forces would've been surrounded and killed, due to the fact that the enemy would have been able to re-supply their ground forces, move and transport enemy reinforcements and vehicles that would've been beneficial to the enemy, and not only this, but communist forces like the Soviet Union would have gained mass air supremacy over the skies of the Korean peninsula, making the mission and priorities harder for the United States and South Korea, possibly ending of a total surrender of allied forces, which goes to show the importance of air superiority over a combat zone.

Continue throughout the air war over Korea, there were some downfalls, with American B-29s being shot down, along with being escorted by allied fighter planes, the Soviet Union primary fighter, the MIG-15, would be responsible for the shoot downs, the allies continued to

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 17.

press on, targeting key essentials that slow down the war machine of the communist. “Many features of the strategic air war in Korea pointed to USAF tactics of the future: the use of air power against sensitive enemy targets as a bargaining chip in negotiations, the first extensive use of precision bombing at night by strategic aircraft, and the large-scale use of strategic aircraft against tactical targets. Moreover, the use of smaller, tactical aircraft against strategic targets foreshadowed later multi-role aircraft that could function as fighters, fighter-bombers, and even long-range strategic bombers.”<sup>9</sup> In the conclusion of the air war in Korea, two things come to mind. First, the tactics that the United States had used throughout Korea have been the same most recently. Passing along to other nations like South Korea, in more modern air missions like the Gulf War, the United States and allied nations have conducted strikes, majority of the time, at night. The targets have always been the same, like in the case of North Korea during the Korean conflict, targets would be communications, radar, railroads, power centers, etc., anything that would make the possibility of moving forward with combat operations useful for the aggressors. Targeting vital military importance like these would limited and or destroy the enemy’s ability to gain any type of an advantage over the allies, like in this case, the United States and South Korea. Finally, it has been shown and determined that throughout the air campaigns over Korea, American service members made the ultimate sacrifice for their Korean counterpart. Not just being shot down and more, but on the ground as well. Throughout the Korean War, the total number of American and South Korean personnel that paid the ultimate price rose up to 36,574 for the United States and about 217,000 for South Korea. Willing to die for each other shows that this was truly a love and marriage between South Korea and the United States throughout the Korean War.

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 18.

## Chapter 5: Modern Gaps and Events

One last stint about the Korean War were those that went above and beyond for both nations, the United States of America and South Korea. Military personnel that, not only made the ultimate sacrifice but were recognized with their countries highest award, the Medal of Honor. “The Medal of Honor is the highest medal awarded by the United States to recognize heroism among members of the nation’s armed forces. The medal was authorized by US president Abraham Lincoln in the name of Congress in 1862. It was known as the Army Medal of Honor and was based on the US Navy Medal of Valor that was authorized the previous year. In 1863, the Medal of Honor became a permanent military decoration available to all individuals, including noncommissioned officers, who serve in the nation’s military forces. The award is given to individuals who have distinguished themselves through actions that go beyond the call of duty—such as putting their own life at risk—during times of combat. Since its inception during Civil War, the Medal of Honor has been bestowed on more than 3,400 men and one woman in recognition of their heroic actions during a US military conflict.”<sup>1</sup> The Medal of Honor is awarded to those that signify brave and heroic actions during combat operations. Whether it’s charging up a machine guns nest, throwing oneself on top of a grenade, or just something out of the ordinary during battle, these individuals are awarded this prestigious award that any nations have to offer.

Two Americans that served in Korea come to mind, that were awarded this honor for their contributions to the Korean peninsula and people, people that these two military service

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<sup>1</sup> Shari Parsons Miller, MA, 2014, "Medal of Honor," Salem Press Encyclopedia Research Starters, EBSCOhost (accessed June 3, 2018).



members were unaware of, but still made sacrifices for both nations. “Hector A. Cafferata Jr., a former Marine private who received the nation's highest military honor for single-handedly holding off an enemy regiment during the Korean War and safeguarding his comrades from a live grenade until he was felled by a sniper's bullet, died on Tuesday in Venice, Fla. He was 86.”<sup>2</sup> Private Cafferata was awarded this medal for his actions at the Chosin Reservoir, and looking back at the battle, this was also known as the frozen Chosin for the subzero temperatures that took a toll on American personnel during the battle. At the time that the Chinese joined the war and began infiltrated towards the allied forces at this battle, Hector took immediate action, as the Americans were over run by Chinese forces. Being face to face with his opposition, Private First Class Cafferata began fighting back, leaping out of his foxhole, with nothing on but a light jacket and socks, in freezing, cold weather temperatures, Hector fought all the way through, with his rifle and grenades, he was able to force the enemy to retreat and create another day for his fellow brothers that survived the ordeal against the Chinese. Originally, he was credited with killing one-hundred communist soldiers, but his commanding officer, with the concern of the medal of honor being downgraded by Congress, shrunk the number to fifteen, but either way, this outstanding marine did his duty to the end and exemplified the true colors of what a U.S. Marine is supposed to do when in battle.

One thing about the Korean War and relations between the United States and South Korea, that doesn't seem to get enough attention, are African-Americans and the contributions they had made during this conflict. “His heroic story took place during the Korean War, which in addition to be the last American conflict that involved segregated units, was also the first war

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<sup>2</sup> Sam Roberts, 2016, "Hector A. Cafferata, 86, Dies; Given Medal of Honor for Korea Heroics, (Obituary)," The New York Times, 2016. Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed June 3, 2018).

since the American Revolution in which black soldiers fought alongside white soldiers in the same units.”<sup>3</sup> African-Americans need to be honored for the selfless service they provided, not just America, but for the Korean people as well. One such example was this Buffalo Soldier that was a part of an all-black unit serving in Korea with the 24th infantry regiment, 25th infantry division. Sergeant Cornelius Charlton give his all during Operation Piledriver, which the main mission was to steer North Korean and Chinese soldiers away from the south and back further North. During the battle, his leader was injured during the fight and had to be immediately evacuated out of the combat zone, so during and after this had happened, Sergeant Charlton took over and resumed into the fight against enemy forces. His platoon was engaging a heavily fortified position by communist forces, and what made it difficult for the Americans was that, the position of the communist forces was on a hill, so they had the capabilities of overlooking everything, providing an advantage for their forces and an outcome to win the confrontation. He, himself, was struck two times, once in the chest, which at that point denied medical attention by the platoon’s medic, and at this point, urged his soldiers to charge up the hill and destroy a key enemy mortar and machine-gun position. After this, he was injured again, but this time by an enemy grenade, which the force and impact of the grenade proved to be fatal, costing him his life. Overall, by destroying the kept enemy positions and saving countless and important American service members lives, Sergeant Charlton was, posthumously, awarded the Medal of Honor.

The ideal of the love and marriage relationship these two nations have for each other can easily be found within normal society itself. In South Korea, they have a daily and night life of

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<sup>3</sup> 2017, "Washington: 'Buffalo Soldier' earned his Medal of Honor in Korea," US Official News, 2017, InfoTrac Newsstand, EBSCOhost (accessed June 3, 2018).

fast food places that one can find in the United States, bars and clubs, movies and other forms of entertainment. In the United States of America, the same thing, mirroring the South Korean countryside. In downtown Los Angeles, California, there is a part of the city called Koreatown, where many Korean culture and other forms of the style can be found, in Chandler, Arizona, and throughout other parts of the city, you have Korean restaurants and other types of cuisine from the peninsula. “In 1903, the first wave of Korean immigrants to the United States arrived in Hawaii to begin working in the sugarcane fields. One hundred years later, in 2003, the Centennial of Korean immigration to the United States was commemorated across the United States in ceremonies large and small, along with the usual speeches and pronouncements that, in general, generated more heat than light. One product of the Centennial celebration of a more enduring nature, however, was the publication of the volume under review, a special issue of *Manoa: A Pacific Journal of International Writing*, a semiannual journal.”<sup>4</sup> For more than a decade now, the United States of America has been honored and blessed to have “ambassadors” of the Korean peninsula to share their culture with America. Since 1903, Americans have been afforded what daily life has been like in Korea since the creation of that country. As mentioned before, throughout the United States, especially in California and Arizona, Korean food has been experienced by many Americans, cuisines like ramen noodles, kimchi, a spicy like cabbage, and bulgogi, pieces of chopped up meat that is fried and served, usually with steamed rice. It has truly been astonishing that America and South Korea have almost the same taste in food, slightly different in some respects, but the same to show their love for one another.

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<sup>4</sup> Wayne Patterson, 2002, "Century of the Tiger: One Hundred Years of Korean Culture in America 1903-2003," *Korean Studies* no. 2: 323, U.S. History in Context, EBSCOhost (accessed June 3, 2018).

To continue with this, in South Korea, American culture can be experienced as well, ranging from food to entertainment. “Other Korean rock bands, then known as the 'group sounds,' followed suit. Group-sound rok flourished in the live music salons, outdoor festivals, and go-go dance clubs, captivating the youth in the 1960s and 1970s. As the authoritarian regime started noticing and clamping down on the 'threat' of the youth culture, Shin Joong Hyun and other group-sound musicians were making a breakthrough in the mainstream popular culture. In 1975 the regime banned and censored Shin and other musicians, criminalizing the youth culture. In analyzing what sparked off this monumental culture clash, we find that rok's reimagination of nation as a community of peace and love caused the harsh reaction from the regime, whose doctrine of 'national culture' was heavily influenced by the militaristic vision of the Japanese Empire.”<sup>5</sup> This quote was significant to the relationship over the years between the United States and South Korea, for one reason, rock and roll. Throughout the program of study, one of the things that was taught and learned was American music influences in Europe, and of course, here in the United States of America around the 1950s, the era that made Elvis Presley into the star and iconic figure he was. During the split of western and eastern Germany, rock and roll made its way to Europe, spreading all over the continent during this time. It was said to be believed that American music was dangerous and detrimental to the younger generation at this time. Causing teenagers to act recklessly and act irresponsible at an inappropriate age, with drinking, protesting in an unprofessional manner, and the possibility of having unprotected intercourse, all these types of behaviors, as concluded by the older adults, were because of the wording of the music lyrics and just the feelings of the rock and roll genre. Like South Korea, American entertainment

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<sup>5</sup> Pil Ho Kim and Hyunjoon Shin, 2010, "The Birth of 'Rok': Cultural Imperialism, Nationalism, and the Glocalization of Rock Music in South Korea, 1964–1975," *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 18, no. 1: 199-230, MLA International Bibliography, EBSCOhost (accessed June 3, 2018).

found its way throughout the southern portion of the Korean peninsula and immediately began influencing the general and younger population, with forms of these types of behaviors, reason being why it was frowned upon, but eventually made its way throughout popular culture and modern times in South Korea. “Global sensation PSY would now be appearing in a TV commercial, promoting Korea, announced Korea Tourism Organization (KTO). As part of their annual TV campaign, they are going to launch a series of ads titled as 'PSY's Wiki Korea', which enfold the core of Korean culture 'Gi (energy)', 'Heung (joy)' and 'Jeong (affection and love)'. These are some of the keywords which international tourists might not fail to notice. The commercials, along with their print ad versions, will be launched simultaneously in May through major international media sources.”<sup>6</sup> Throughout American and South Korean pop culture, PSY is one of the most popular international music stars that took both nations by storm. Of course, being from South Korea, he was like a “God” like figure there, but in America, his hits such as Gangnam Style and Gentleman reached the top of the music charts.

Throughout American and South Korean entertainment, not only music, but movies had been the ideal gateway for both societies. “If Pearl Harbor had been rated R and starred Koreans, it would've looked like Tae Guk Gi, Korea's highest-grossing film of all time. Titled after the South Korean flag (yes, apparently it has a name), the historical war epic ships out two brothers-- an older, street-smart shoe shiner, Jin-tae (Jang Dong-gun, who resembles Chow Yun-Fat), and the weakly constituted student Jin-seok (Won Bin) --to fight the North in the Korean War. Golden-colored early scenes establish that these guys are as tight as Pearl Harbor's Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett, so when Jin-tae gets to the front, he hatches a plan to prove himself as a

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<sup>6</sup> 2013, "'Gangnam' star PSY to promote Korea in TV ad," Selling World Travel, 2013, Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed June 3, 2018).

warrior in hopes of requesting a ticket home for Jin-seok. Soon Jin-tae is fearlessly setting mines, storming bunkers, gouging eyeballs, and--in the film's richest twist--starting to enjoy it.”<sup>7</sup> One thing about the South Korean and American movie industries know how to do is make pretty good war movies. As already explained, *Tae Guk Gi* is a war movie that resembles and mirrors the American war movie *saving Private Ryan*. Both movies are gruesome in some parts but have a pretty good storyline to them. One is about two brothers being sent off to war, protecting their right and families right to live freely, as opposed to *Saving Private Ryan*, where a group of ordinary soldiers, who are sent to go find a brother that lost all his brothers throughout World War II, are given the order to bring him home, and of course, still encountering German battle scenes. Both movies show the bravery and heroism that both the United States and South Korea had solidify throughout both conflicts, but it also shows that both nations had what it takes to protect one another from aggressors, threatening mankind, thus having to protect freedom and the peaceful way of normal daily life.

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<sup>7</sup> Gregory Kirschling, 2004, "Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War: The North and the South are at it again...in Korea," *Entertainment Weekly*, 2004, General OneFile, EBSCOhost (accessed June 3, 2018).

## Conclusion

In conclusion of this love and marriage between the South Korean and the United States of America governments, militaries, and people, one thing is clear, both nations have been standing by each other for decades and will continue to do so in the upcoming centuries, long after this generation is long and gone. “Ladies and gentlemen, war must not break out again on the Korean Peninsula. And in this respect, the United States has provided enormous support. The close coordination between Korea and the United States, and the overwhelming superiority of power that stems from the ROK-U.S. alliance, will eventually make North Korea cease its reckless provocations and make North Korea come out to dialogue for denuclearization.”<sup>1</sup> Current events has the United States and South Korea working towards a summit with the North Korean regime. Despite some obstacles, President Trump has rescheduled the meeting for June 12 in Singapore. This summit can contain lots of valuable information that might change the Korean Peninsula forever, with the possibility of denuclearization and officially ending the Korean War.

As stated earlier, the relationships between the South and the United States are not always perfect, disagreements are going to exist, but it’s all for a good cause. “Seoul was blindsided and disappointed by Mr. Trump's withdrawal early Thursday, and Mr. Moon said he was "perplexed." South Korea's presidential national security adviser, Chung Eui-yong, said Friday that Seoul was trying to enable direct communication between the leaders of the U.S. and North Korea. As the president said this morning, certainly we would like to have a meeting," Ms.

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<sup>1</sup> 2017, "PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP DELIVERS REMARKS WITH PRESIDENT MOON JAE- IN OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AT STATE DINNER, (Broadcast transcript)," Financial Markets Regulation Wire Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed June 4, 2018).

Sanders said. "But the president is not just looking to have a meeting. He's not looking for just a cheap political stunt. He wants to get something that is long-lasting and actual real solutions."<sup>2</sup>

The White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders was clearly stating that President Trump wants to have this meeting, but to ensure that the meeting is concrete and immediately turns things around for the Korean peninsula, not for show or just more talk like the world has experienced in the past, but the summit on June 12 has to be extremely productive, not just a check off the international diplomacy checklist.

What Sarah Sanders meant was that, originally, North Korea and the United States cancelled the summit over a series of wargames conducted by the United States and South Korea, however, not only were these wargames already scheduled months in advance, the leadership of both South Korea and the United States must continue to be shown to the world, as to ensure that both nations are not losing control nor appealing to the rogue hermit kingdom. "Pyongyang has also begun dismantling its underground nuclear test site at Punggye-ri. Satellite images taken last week showed that buildings had been razed. Ventilation equipment that pumped air into the tunnels had been removed, and there were signs of camera positions being set before a visit by journalists next week to witness what the North says will be the final destruction of the site's tunnels. The photographs were published on 38 north, a monitoring website in the United States. "Commercial satellite imagery from May 7 provided the first definitive evidence that dismantlement was already well under way," it said."<sup>3</sup> The point of the summit is to ensure that the North Korean leader understands that it's going to be a long and bumpy road, however, the North Korean regime must be carefully watched when

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<sup>2</sup> Vivian Salama and Peter Nicholas, 2018, "Trump Revives Hopes of North Korea Summit," The Wall Street Journal Eastern Edition, 2018. 1, General OneFile, EBSCOhost (accessed June 4, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> 2018, "Kim threatens to cancel summit over war games; North Korea, (News)," The Times (London, England), 2018, Business Insights Global, EBSCOhost (accessed June 4, 2018).



denuclearization is being made, after the signing of the document, officially ending the Korean War. Both the United States and South Korea, and other allied nations, must remain vigilant, to ensure that a new North Korea will transform and change the region and the world forever, the relationships between the United States and South Korea must continue to improve and being built to ensure that this happens, and a new Korea is formed, bringing peace and freedom to the region.

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