

The Korean War, 1950-53

Consequences and Conclusion

Consequences

	Negatives	Positives
The UN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was obviously dominated the USA: ▪ 90% of UN troops came from America ▪ MacArthur took orders from Truman ▪ The Secretary General, Trygve Lie, was forced to resign by the USSR for being too pro-American 	
Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It remains divided to this day: a million troops are massed either side of the 38th Parallel and conscription exists in both North and South Korea. ▪ Of 2 million people killed in the war, 1.5 million were Korean. 	
The USSR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It rejoined the UN during the Korean War, and used its veto to block dozens of ideas proposed by the Security Council. ▪ This showed the weakness of the UN's structure. 	
The USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It ended up looking aggressive and indecisive, and almost sparked off World War III with China. ▪ Truman's popularity rating plummeted to 22% and he didn't run for President again in 1952. 	

Task 1

Complete the right hand column of this table with any ideas you can come up with after discussion in pairs, small groups or as a class.

Task 2

Read this source, then produce a reply either AGREEING or DISAGREEING with its judgement in your own words.

"President Truman must be prosecuted and convicted. His hasty and vindictive removal of MacArthur is the culmination of series of acts which have shown that he is unfit, morally and mentally, for his high office...The American nation has never been in greater danger. It is led by a fool" – The Chicago Tribune, 1951

Task 3: Your views on the Big Issues

- The class should be divided into two teams. The first team should fill in the "Yes" column, the second team should fill in the "No" column.
- Then, the teacher will conduct a debate allowing you to complete the table.
- When the debate is finished, divide 100% between the "Yes" and "No" columns for the first row (e.g. 50 / 50 if you are torn between the two ideas, and so on).
- Add up the total score for each column to get an overall summary of your view.
- Your teacher will add up the "Yes" and "No" totals to get an overall class score.

	"Yes!"	"No!"
1. Do you think that the USA was right to get involved in Korea in 1950?		
2. Do you think that Truman was right to move from a policy of "containment" to one of "rollback"?		
3. Do you think that Truman was right to pursue a policy of "limited war" rather than the "general war" promoted by McArthur?		
4. Do you think that Truman was right to dismiss MacArthur?		
5. Do you think that the Korean War can be regarded as a success for the US and the UN?		