

The Korean War, 1950-53
Should the USA settle with "Containment" of communism, or pursue "Rollback" of the communist threat?

Task 1: Complete this timeline using the notes you made in the interactive newsfeed activity at www.activehistory.co.uk.

1950	June 27 th :
1950	September 15 th :
1950	October:

Sourcework:

Should Truman order MacArthur over the 38th Parallel into North Korea?

Source A: Ambassador George Kennan to Truman, Aug 23rd 1950

"I was not tolerable that communist control should be extended to South Korea, since this would have damaged our prestige in Asia...Nevertheless, it is not essential to us to see an anti-Soviet Korean regime extended to **all** of Korea for all time...it is impossible to keep Korea permanently out of Soviet influence"

Source B: The National Security Council reports to Truman, Sep 9th 1950

"The political objective of the UN in Korea is to bring about the complete independence and unity of Korea. If the present UN action in Korea can accomplish this without substantially increasing the risk of general war with the Soviet Union or Communist China, we should support it..."

Source C: CIA report, Sep 27th 1950

"There are no convincing indications of an actual Chinese Communist intention to resort to full-scale intervention in Korea...While full-scale Chinese Communist intervention in Korea must be regarded as continuing possibility, a consideration of all known factors leads to the conclusion that barring a Soviet decision for global war, such action is not probable in 1950...there will be no Soviet or Chinese communist intervention in Korea"

Source D: UN Resolution, October 7th 1950

"The UN recommends that all appropriate steps be taken to ensure conditions of stability throughout Korea"

Source E: Radio Peking, Oct 10th 1950

"The American War of intervention in Korea has been a serious menace to the security of China from the very start... The Chinese people cannot stand idly by with regard to such a serious situation...The Chinese people firmly advocate a peaceful resolution to the Korean problem and are firmly opposed to the extension of the Korean War by America"

Task 1: Complete this table after reading through the sources as a group, then take a class vote on what Truman should do.

Source	"Containment": Evidence that we should call a truce now	"Rollback": Evidence that we should take the campaign into North Korea
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		

Class vote was:

Task 2

- The USA was very concerned that extending the war into North Korea could lead to the intervention of the USSR and / or China.
- Make a few notes about the leaders of each of these two countries using any sources available to you. Focus on why they were regarded as **dangerous**!

	USSR: Josef Stalin	China: Mao Zedong	