

# Containment in Asia

# Intro.

Just when Americans believed they has succeeded in checking the spread of communism, **the world's most populated nation – China – became communist.**

# The Civil War in China (1949)

China had become a democracy in 1912, but its **government was unstable**. Warlords controlled parts of the country, most people were poor, and Japan had taken over large areas of China in WWII.

Since the 1920s, communists had been trying to overthrow the government, and after WWII, the struggle grew more intense. **The communists, led by Mao Zedong, finally defeated the government of Chiang Kai Shek in 1949. Chiang and his followers fled to the nearby island of Taiwan.**

# Chinese Civil War: Mao v. Chiang Kai Shek



# China Turns Communist - 1949



# US Reacts

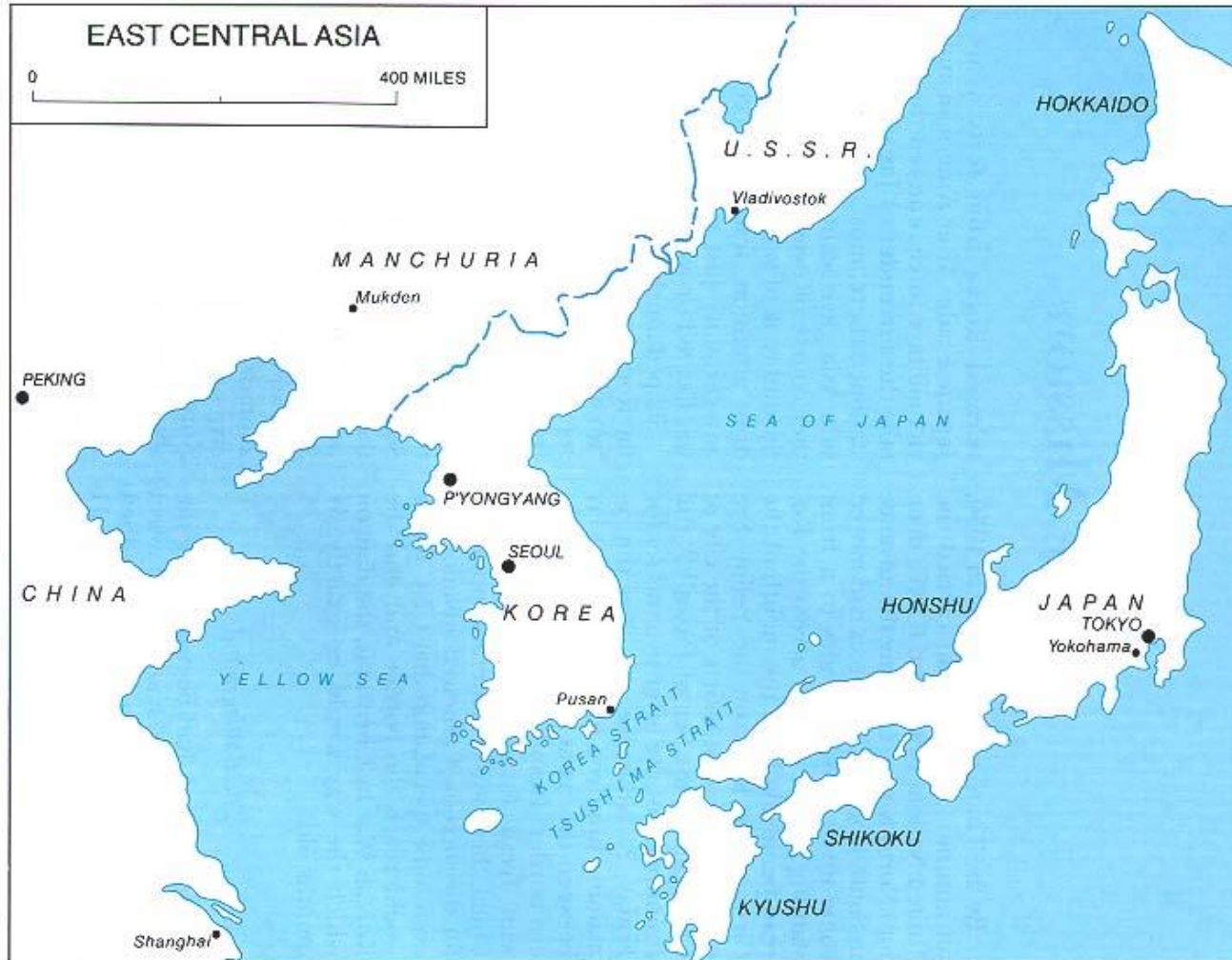
The **United States refused to extend diplomatic recognition** to the communist government in China, and **vetoed its admission to the United Nations**. The U.S. **pledged to protect Chiang's government in Taiwan** from communist attacks.

# The Korean War (1950-1953)

Intro.

Korea is a peninsula extending out of northern China. It was ruled by Japan from 1910-1945. After WWII it was taken away from Japan and **divided into northern and southern parts**. In the **north, a communist government** was established. Elections in the **south** led to the creation of a **non-communist government** there.

# Where is Korea?



MAP 1

From: Ebb And Flow, November 1950-July 1951  
Center of Military History, 1990  
By Billy C. Mossman



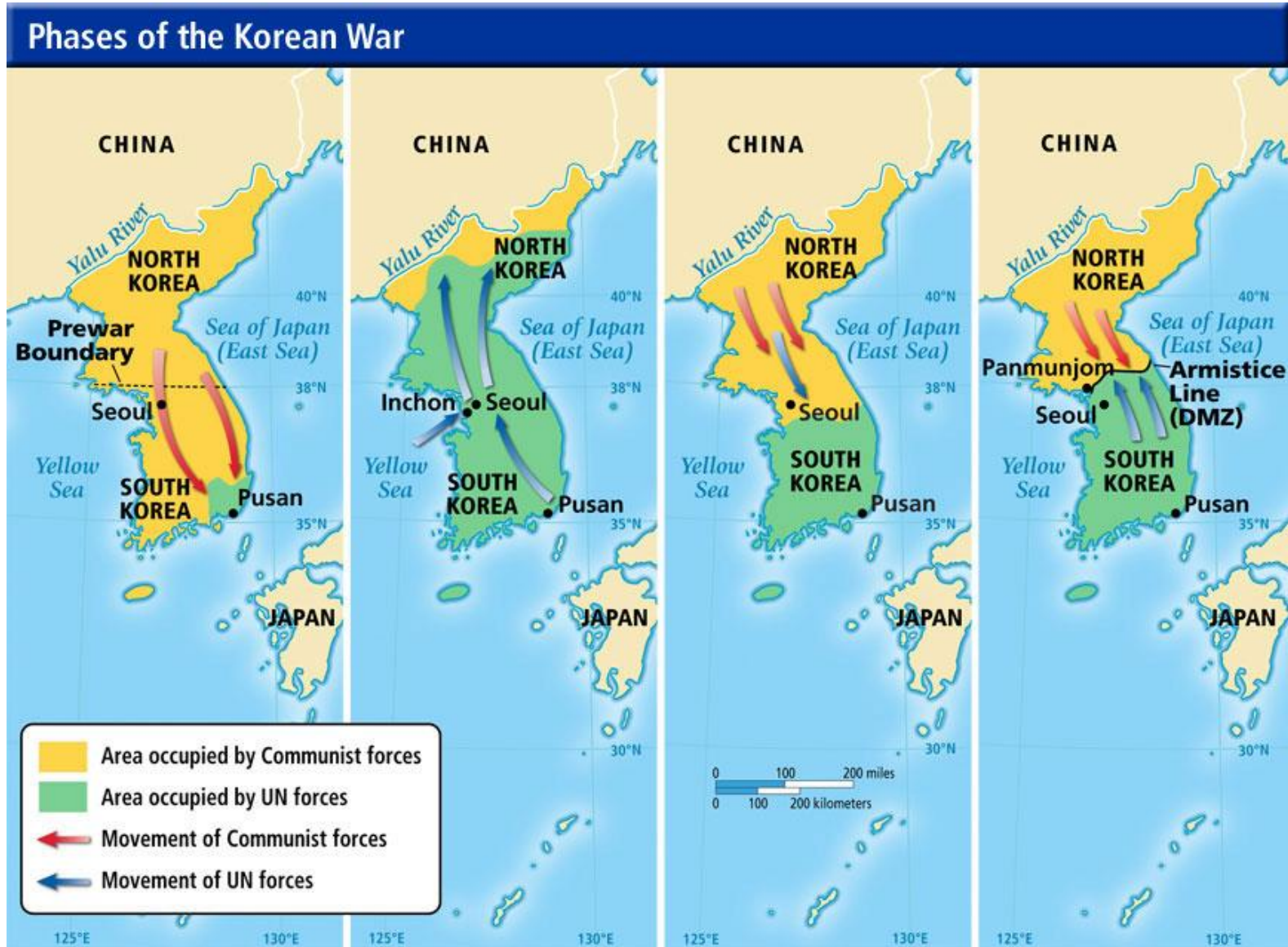
# The Korean War

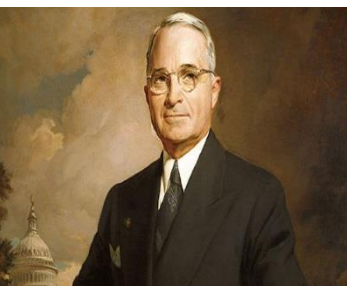
In **1950**, **North Korea invaded South Korea** in an attempt to unify the country under communist rule.

**President Truman**, using his **emergency powers** and **without a declaration of war from Congress**, ordered **US forces into South Korea to resist the invasion**.

**United Nations troops joined the Americans**; it was the first time that an international peace organization used military force to oppose aggression.

# Phases of the Korean War





# Conflict Between the President and General MacArthur

In 1951, U.N. forces entered North Korea and **advanced close to the Chinese border**. **China entered the war in support of its ally North Korea**.

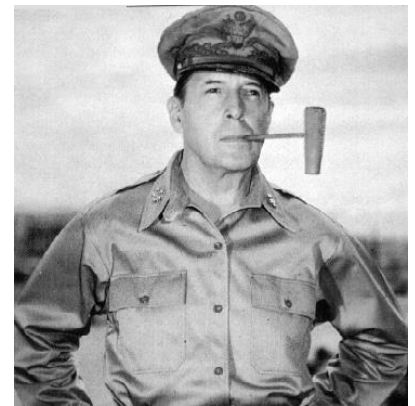
**General Douglas MacArthur** was in command of American troops. He **urged President Truman** to use the opportunity to **invade China** and overthrow its communist government.

MacArthur was even **willing to use atomic weapons** if necessary.

Truman refused, and when **MacArthur criticized the President in the press**, **Truman removed him from his command**.

The war soon reached a **stalemate**.

Neither side could force the other to move.



# **President Eisenhower Brings the war to an End**

**In 1952, Dwight Eisenhower was elected President on a pledge he would end the war in Korea.**

**Fighting ended when a peace agreement was signed in 1953. The agreement left Korea divided exactly as it had been before the North Korean invasion three years earlier.**