

# Background Essay on the United Nations and the Korean War

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Truman Presidential  
Museum & Library

The development of the United Nations came in response to the world's growing desperation for peace and prosperity after two world wars. An international body was first attempted in 1919 with the League of Nations. The League of Nations was to be an assembly where countries could meet and develop peaceful resolutions to world conflicts. The failure of the League, and yet another world war, motivated world leaders to once again attempt to organize an international forum.

The United Nations emerged from early coalitions of Allied forces during World War II. Three key meetings laid the groundwork for the future governing body, as the Allies signed declarations to join forces to end the rise and expansion of the Axis Powers. The Declaration of St. James' Palace (1941) was the first Inter-Allied declaration, and it joined the multiple European, Asian and African countries in the fight against Adolf Hitler's German forces and Emperor Hirohito's Japanese forces. Within the same year, Great Britain and the United States would sign the Atlantic Charter, which served as a joint declaration by Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin D. Roosevelt to work together in developing a better future. In January of 1942, 26 nations (including the United States) came together to sign the Declaration of United Nations, forming the coalition of countries that would defeat the Axis Powers. The three declarations would lay the founding principles of what would become the United Nations Charter.

As the war progressed, major world leaders recognized the need to develop an international organization that would provide a forum that would allow the monitoring and mediating of conflicts among nations. The organization would have multiple focuses, including humanitarian aid, education and security for its members from aggressive actions that threatened their way of life. The Moscow Declaration and Tehran Conference in 1943 provided the initial plans to bring an end to the war and provide the forum to preserve peace. The structure of the United Nations was formally outlined the following year in Washington D.C., when leaders from China, the U.S.S.R., United Kingdom and the United States drafted the model for the United Nations.

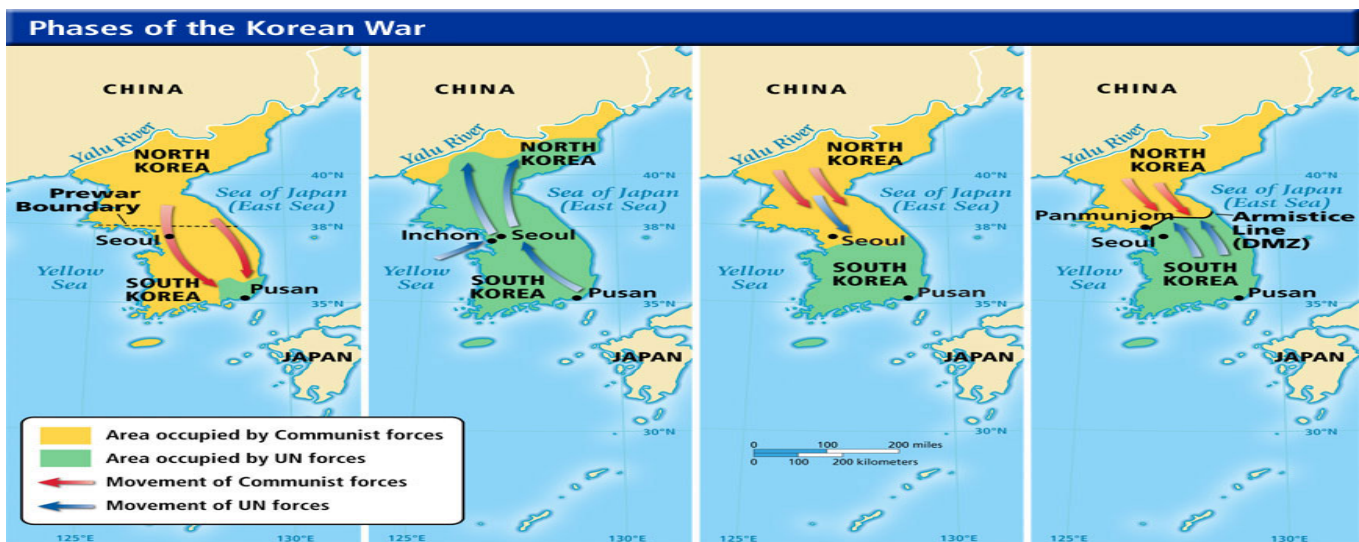
As the war in Europe came to the end, leaders from 50 countries, representing 80% of the world population, met in San Francisco, California, to organize and approve a formal charter for the United Nations. Throughout the two months, leaders discussed the focus and organizational model that would define the international organization. The United Nations structure would include the International Court of Justice, Security Council and the General Assembly, along with minor assemblies that answer to the larger body. The newly formed assembly would be tasked with the preservation of peace and the development of a better world. On June 26th, 1945, 50 countries unanimously approved the United Nations Charter.

The end of World War II resulted in the rise of two new superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union. Both nations sought to expand their influence and protect their interests around the world. The Cold War was not a war in the traditional sense; instead, it was fought with propaganda, a nuclear arms race, space race, covert operations and proxy wars. President Harry S. Truman developed the policy of “containment” in which the United States pledged military, economic and political assistance to any nation threatened by Soviet supported communist movements.

The United Nations had been created in a critical period in history where its mission of peacekeeping and international cooperation had the potential to keep the Cold War from going “hot.” The United Nations first stepped onto the world stage with notable successes such as the publication of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the negotiation of the cease-fire between the new state of Israel and Arab states. However, the first true test of the strength and effectiveness of the UN was the Korean War.

At the end of World War II, the Soviet Union and the United States both occupied half of Korea and accepted the surrender of the Japanese in that region, effectively splitting the country into two along the 38th parallel. Under the influence of the Soviet Union, a communist government was put in place in North Korea. South Korea, led by Syngman Rhee, maintained close ties to the United States.

On June 25th, 1950, North Korean forces invaded South Korea by crossing over the 38th parallel with the support of the Soviet Union. The United States immediately pressed for the United Nations to act. On June 25th and June 27th, the United Nations passed directives urging for a ceasefire and for all member nations to provide assistance to the South Koreans. The UN Security Council was able to pass these measures because the Soviet Union had recently boycotted the Security Council and chose not to participate. President Harry S Truman did not press for a Congressional declaration of war. Instead, he classified the Korean conflict as UN led “police action.” President Truman wanted to keep Korea a limited war, avoiding a nuclear World War III at all costs.



## Source 1: UN Charter

Source Information: The following source was an excerpt from the United Nations Charter passed in the San Francisco Conference, 1945. Article 1 & 2 of the Charter outline the purpose of the United Nations.

### CHAPTER I PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

#### *Article 1*

The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

#### *Article 2*

The Organization and its Members, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles.

1. The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.
2. All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.
3. All Members shall settle their international

disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.

4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

5. All Members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the present Charter, and shall refrain from giving assistance to any state against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement action.

6. The Organization shall ensure that states which are not Members of the United Nations act in accordance with these Principles so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.

7. Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.

### CHAPTER II MEMBERSHIP

#### *Article 3*

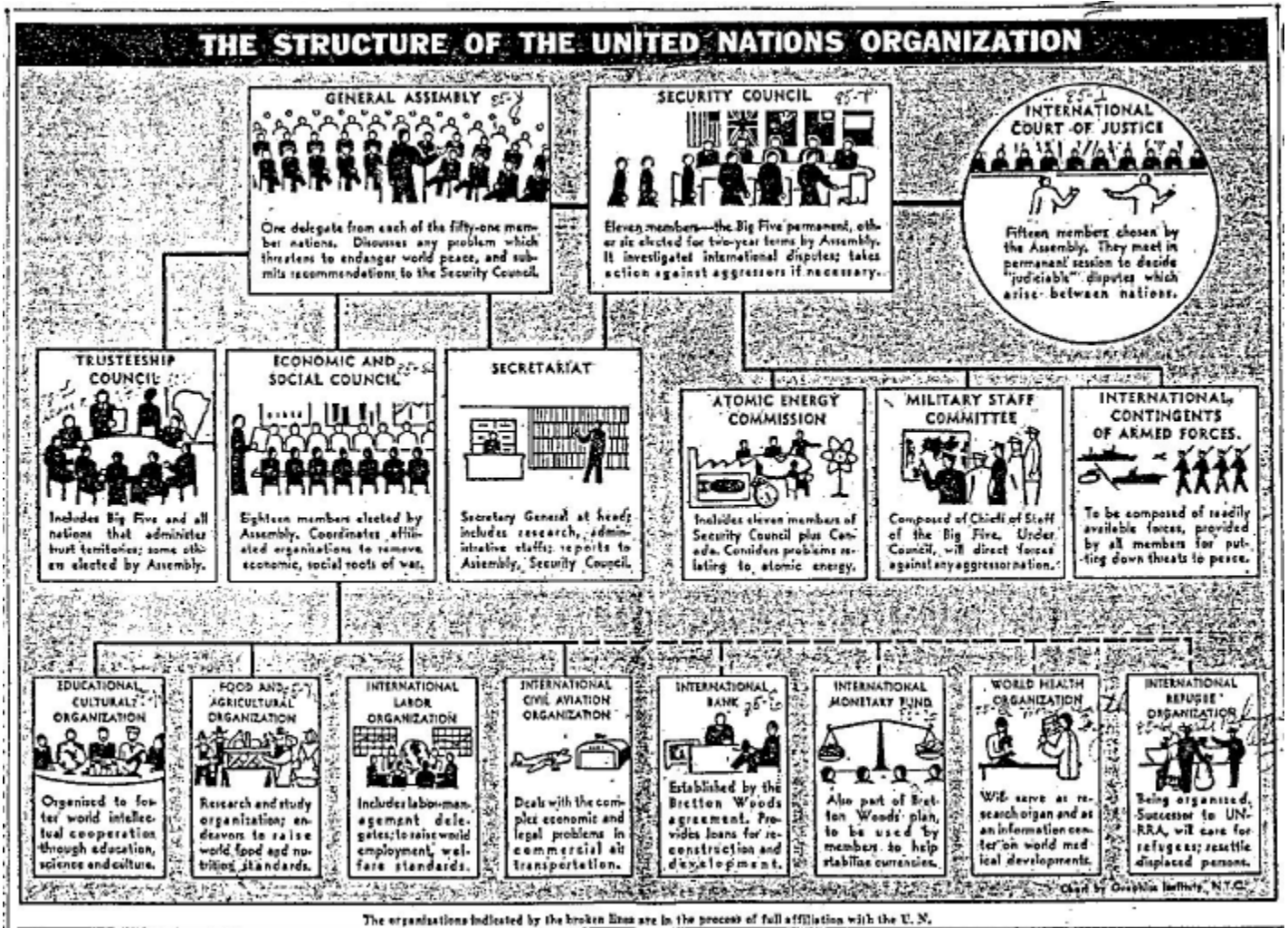
The original Members of the United Nations shall be the states which, having participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco, or having previously signed the Declaration by United Nations of January 1, 1942, sign the present Charter and ratify it in accordance with Article 110.

Using Source 1

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	What is the United Nations? Why is it important to understand what the United Nations is when examining the Korean conflict?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	When was the United Nations charter ratified? What purposes were addressed in the charter? How might this document, which addresses the U.N. role, be more meaningful when understanding U.S. foreign policy at the time?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	According to the document, how is U.N. to be involved in foreign affairs? How might that affect opposing political ideologies throughout the world?

## Source 2: UN Organizational Chart

Source Information: The following source was an excerpt from the New York Times, published on October 20, 1946 (pg. 4E). The diagram outlines the initial divisions of the newly formed United Nations.



### Using Source 2

<p><b>Sourcing Questions</b></p>	<p>When was the chart published? What organization created the chart?</p>
<p><b>Contextualization Questions</b></p>	<p>When did the U.N. was published? What major U.N. bodies are outlined within the chart?</p>
<p><b>Corroboration Tasks</b></p>	<p>How does this chart relate to the purpose of the U.N., as outlined in the U.N. charter?</p>
<p><b>Close Reading Questions</b></p>	<p>What conclusions can the reader draw from the chart? What do these details indicate about the size and scope of the United Nations?</p>

### Source 3: Blair House Meeting

Source Information: Notes on Blair House Meeting on June 26th, 1950. South Korea was invaded on June 25th. While President Truman was in office, the White House was under renovation and the Trumans lived at Blair House.

Papers of:  
George M. Elsey

June 26, 1950 - Monday

Subject: Blair House Meetings



During the course of the day on June 26, it became apparent that the forces of the Republic of Korea were not capable of holding Seoul, and there were some reports that they were in danger of imminent collapse. At 9 o'clock in the evening of June 26, a meeting was held, attended by the President, the Secretary of State with Messrs. Matthews, Rusk, Hickerson, and Jessup, the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Pace, Secretary Finletter, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. At this meeting it was agreed that:

- a. The Navy and Air Force be instructed to offer the fullest possible support to the South Korean forces south of the 38th Parallel;
- b. orders be issued to the Seventh Fleet to prevent an attack on Formosa, the National Government of China be told to desist from operations against the mainland, and the Seventh Fleet be ordered to effect this;
- c. U. S. military forces in the Philippines be increased, and aid to the Philippines accelerated;
- d. aid to Indochina be stepped up and a strong military mission sent there.

During the course of the meeting the problem of whether or not ground forces might be committed was considered, and it was agreed that this would require substantial mobilization.

Appropriate orders were issued that evening and a public announcement made the next day.

Source: Secretary Acheson's Briefing Book,  
borrowed by G.M.E. from Averell Harriman.

P. 516

### Using Source 3

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	When was this document written? What type of document is this?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	What is the purpose of this document? Why was the meeting at Blair House called?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	Can we trust this source? Why or Why not?
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	When were the orders detailed in the document to be put into place?

## Source 4: UN Resolutions

Source Information: The following two sources are each resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council in June 1950 that give recommendations on the international response to the North Korean invasion of South Korea. (2pgs.)

### 82 (1950). Resolution of 25 June 1950

[S/1501]

*The Security Council,*

*Recalling* the finding of the General Assembly in its resolution 293 (IV) of 21 October 1949 that the Government of the Republic of Korea is a lawfully established government having effective control and jurisdiction over that part of Korea where the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea was able to observe and consult and in which the great majority of the people of Korea reside; that this Government is based on elections which were a valid expression of the free will of the electorate of that part of Korea and which were observed by the Temporary Commission; and that this is the only such Government in Korea,

*Mindful* of the concern expressed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 195 (III) of 12 December 1948 and 293 (IV) of 21 October 1949 about the consequences which might follow unless Member States refrained from acts derogatory to the results sought to be achieved by the United Nations in bringing about the complete independence and unity of Korea; and the concern expressed that the situation described by the United Nations Commission on Korea in its report<sup>a</sup> menaces the safety and well-being of the Republic of Korea and of the people of Korea and might lead to open military conflict there,

*Noting* with grave concern the armed attack on the Republic of Korea by forces from North Korea,

*Determines* that this action constitutes a breach of the peace; and

I

*Calls for* the immediate cessation of hostilities;

*Calls upon* the authorities in North Korea to withdraw forthwith their armed forces to the 38th parallel;

II

*Requests* the United Nations Commission on Korea:

(a) To communicate its fully considered recommendations on the situation with the least possible delay;

(b) To observe the withdrawal of North Korean forces to the 38th parallel;

(c) To keep the Security Council informed on the execution of this resolution:

III

*Calls upon* all Member States to render every assistance to the United Nations in the execution of this resolution

<sup>a</sup> See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifth Year, No. 15*, 473rd meeting, p. 2, footnote 2 (document S/1496, incorporating S/1496/Corr.1).

### 82 (1950). Résolution du 25 juin 1950

[S/1501]

*Le Conseil de sécurité,*

*Rappelant* les conclusions que l'Assemblée générale a formulées dans sa résolution 293 (IV) du 21 octobre 1949, à savoir que le Gouvernement de la République de Corée est un gouvernement légitime qui exerce effectivement son autorité et sa juridiction sur la partie de la Corée où la Commission temporaire des Nations Unies pour la Corée a été en mesure de procéder à des observations et à des consultations et dans laquelle réside la grande majorité de la population de la Corée; que ce gouvernement est né d'élections qui ont été l'expression valable de la libre volonté du corps électoral de cette partie de la Corée et qui ont été observées par la Commission temporaire; et que ledit gouvernement est le seul qui, en Corée, possède cette qualité,

*Conscient* de ce que l'Assemblée générale, dans ses résolutions 195 (III) du 12 décembre 1948 et 293 (IV) du 21 octobre 1949, s'inquiète des conséquences que pourraient avoir des actes préjudiciables aux résultats que cherchent à obtenir les Nations Unies en vue de l'indépendance et de l'unité complètes de la Corée et invite les Etats Membres à s'abstenir d'actes de cette nature; et conscient de ce que l'Assemblée générale craint que la situation décrite par la Commission dans son rapport<sup>a</sup> ne menace la sûreté et le bien-être de la République de Corée et du peuple coréen et ne risque de conduire à un véritable conflit armé en Corée,

*Prenant acte* de l'attaque dirigée contre la République de Corée par des forces armées venues de Corée du Nord, attaque qui le préoccupe gravement,

*Constata* que cette action constitue une rupture de la paix; et

I

*Demande* la cessation immédiate des hostilités;

*Invite* les autorités de la Corée du Nord à retirer immédiatement leurs forces armées sur le 38<sup>e</sup> parallèle;

II

*Prie* la Commission des Nations Unies pour la Corée:

a) De communiquer, après mûr examen et dans le plus bref délai possible, ses recommandations au sujet de la situation;

b) D'observer le retrait des forces de la Corée du Nord sur le 38<sup>e</sup> parallèle;

c) De tenir le Conseil de sécurité au courant de l'exécution de la présente résolution;

III

*Invite* tous les Etats Membres à prêter leur entier concours à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour

<sup>a</sup> Voir *Procès-verbaux officiels du Conseil de sécurité, cinquième année, n° 15*, 473<sup>e</sup> séance, p. 2, note 2 (document S/1496) et document S/1496/Corr.1 (miméographié) figurant quant au fond dans la déclaration du Président, p. 3 et 4 de la même séance.



## Source 4: UN Resolutions (Cont.)

and to refrain from giving assistance to the North Korean authorities.

*Adopted at the 473rd meeting by 9 votes to none, with 1 abstention (Yugoslavia).<sup>10</sup>*

### 83 (1950). Resolution of 27 June 1950

[S/1511]

*The Security Council,*

*Having determined* that the armed attack upon the Republic of Korea by forces from North Korea constitutes a breach of the peace,

*Having called for* an immediate cessation of hostilities,

*Having called upon* the authorities in North Korea to withdraw forthwith their armed forces to the 38th parallel,

*Having noted* from the report of the United Nations Commission on Korea<sup>11</sup> that the authorities in North Korea have neither ceased hostilities nor withdrawn their armed forces to the 38th parallel, and that urgent military measures are required to restore international peace and security,

*Having noted* the appeal from the Republic of Korea to the United Nations for immediate and effective steps to secure peace and security,

*Recommends* that the Members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security in the area.

*Adopted at the 474th meeting by 7 votes to 1 (Yugoslavia).<sup>12</sup>*

l'exécution de la présente résolution et à s'abstenir de venir en aide aux autorités de la Corée du Nord.

*Adoptée à la 473<sup>e</sup> séance par 9 voix contre zéro, avec une abstention (Yougoslavie)<sup>10</sup>.*

### 83 (1950). Résolution du 27 juin 1950

[S/1511]

*Le Conseil de sécurité,*

*Ayant constaté* que l'attaque dirigée contre la République de Corée par des forces armées venues de Corée du Nord constitue une rupture de la paix,

*Ayant demandé* la cessation immédiate des hostilités,

*Ayant invité* les autorités de la Corée du Nord à retirer immédiatement leurs forces armées sur le 38<sup>e</sup> parallèle,

*Ayant constaté*, d'après le rapport de la Commission des Nations Unies pour la Corée<sup>11</sup>, que les autorités de la Corée du Nord n'ont ni suspendu les hostilités, ni retiré leurs forces armées sur le 38<sup>e</sup> parallèle, et qu'il faut prendre d'urgence des mesures militaires pour rétablir la paix et la sécurité internationales,

*Ayant pris acte* de l'appel adressé aux Nations Unies par la République de Corée, qui demande que des mesures efficaces soient prises immédiatement pour garantir la paix et la sécurité.

*Recommande* aux Membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies d'apporter à la République de Corée toute l'aide nécessaire pour repousser les assaillants et rétablir dans cette région la paix et la sécurité internationales.

*Adoptée à la 474<sup>e</sup> séance par 7 voix contre une (Yougoslavie)<sup>12</sup>.*

## Using Source 4

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	What organization passed these resolutions? When were each of these resolutions passed?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	Why do you think these resolutions were printed in two languages?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	Compare the dates these two resolutions were passed to what you learned from Source 3. What does this tell you about who was really in charge of the Korean War?
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	Summarize what each resolutions is asking for in your own words.

Source 5: Joint Chief Staff (JCS) Memo

Source Information: Memo: Summary of events in Korea. June 26th 1950.

Papers of:  
George M. Elsey

DECLASSIFIED  
JCS Memo, Jan. 17, 1973  
By ~~45166~~ NARS, Date 2-26-74

June 26, 1950 - Monday

Subject: Events in Korea.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff summary of events in Korea prepared for the Senate Committees summarized events in Korea on June 26 which led up to the decision to employ United States Air and Naval forces as follows:

1. It appeared that the North Koreans could take Seoul within 24 hours; North Korean tanks were in Seoul.
2. The South Korean Government had fled to Taegu.
3. Ammunition and other supplies were being loaded in Japan; nothing had arrived in Korea.
4. The ROK forces had not succeeded in halting the advance of the North Koreans.

Source: JCS Secret Summary Book for Senate Committees, 30 April 1951.

### Using Source 5

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	Who is the author of this document? Why was it written?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	What decision is this document defending? How does this document defend this decision? How might the circumstances under which this document was written affect its content?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	Where else could I look up to support or refute the claims made by this source?
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	Which piece of information listed in this source do you believe most influenced the decision made?

## Source 6: Soviet Statement

Source Information: Excerpt from statement made by Soviet Foreign minister Andrei Gromyko on July 4th, 1950 regarding the Soviet Union's perspective of the situation in Korea.

### Excerpt 1:

It is known that the United States Government had started armed intervention in Korea before the Security Council was summoned to meet on June 27, without taking into consideration what decision the Security Council might take. Thus the United States Government confronted the United Nations Organisation with a *fait accompli*, with a violation of peace.

The Security Council merely rubber-stamped and back-dated the resolution proposed by the United States Government, approving the aggressive actions which this Government had undertaken. Furthermore, the American resolution was adopted by the Security Council with a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations Organisation.

In accordance with Article 27 of the United Nations Charter all Security Council decisions on major issues must be adopted by an affirmative vote of not less than seven members, including the votes of all the five permanent members of the Security Council, i.e., of the Soviet Union, China, the United States, Great Britain and France.

However, the American resolution approving the United States armed intervention in Korea was adopted by only six votes — those of the United States, Britain, France, Norway, Cuba and Ecuador. The vote of the kuomintangite Tsiang Ting-fu, who unlawfully occupies China's seat on the Security Council, was counted as the seventh vote for this resolution.

### Excerpt 2:

It follows from the aforesaid that this resolution, which the U.S. Government is using as a cover for its armed intervention in Korea, was illegally put through the Security Council with a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations Organisation. This only became possible because the gross pressure of the United States Government on the members of the Security Council converted the United Nations Organisation into a kind of branch of the U.S. State Department, into an obedient tool of the policy of American ruling circles who acted as violators of peace.

The illegal resolution of June 27, adopted by the Security Council under pressure from the United States Government, shows that the Security Council is acting, not as a body which is charged with the main responsibility for the maintenance of peace, but as a tool utilised by the ruling circles of the United States for unleashing war.

This resolution of the Security Council constitutes a hostile act against peace.

## Using Source 6

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	Who is the author of this document? What type of biases could this author have?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	When was this statement released? Why do you think the author chose that particular day?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	Which of the other sources you have analysed, support the information presented in Source 6.
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	How does the author of the document describe the United Nations? What two criticisms of the United States are put forth in this document? “What does the author mean when they write the UN resolutions were “rubber stamped and back-dated?”

### Source 7: President Truman's Press Release

Source Information: Excerpt from a speech given by Harry S Truman over the radio on September 1st, 1950 addressing the situation in Korea.

First: We believe in the United Nations. When we ratified its Charter, we pledged ourselves to seek peace and security through this world organization. We kept our word when we went to the support of the United Nations in Korea two months ago. We shall never go back on that pledge.

Second: We believe the Koreans have a right to be free, independent, and united -- as they want to be. Under the direction and guidance of the United Nations, we, with others, will do our part to help them enjoy that right. The United States has no other aim in Korea.

Third: We do not want the fighting in Korea to expand into a general war. It will not spread unless communist imperialism draws other armies and governments into the fight of the aggressors against the United Nations.

#### Using Source 7

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	Who is the author of this document? What type of biases could this author have?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	What was the purpose of this document? How might the purpose of the document affect what is said?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	Which of the other sources you have analysed, support the information presented in Source 6.
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	According to this document, what is the United States purpose in Korea and what is the role of the United Nations in Korea?

Source 8: UN Aid Report

Report, "Status of United Nations Offers of Assistance for Korea", October 6, 1950. President's Secretary's Files, Truman Papers. (pg 1 of 4)

~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
Washington 25, D. C.

CLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Dec. 500 and 505 or 51  
CSD Form, May 3, 1972  
By \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

6 October 1950

STATUS OF UN OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FOR KOREA

The following tabulation shows the status of the various offers of assistance as of 6 October (tabulation is revised weekly at noon on Friday). Although certain individual offers are unclassified, this tabulation may not be used as background for, or the basis of, public information releases. Corrections, additions, etc., should be communicated either to Lt. Colonel Swan or Mrs. Carlson, OSD, Office of Foreign Military Affairs, telephone 77232.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Offer</u>	<u>Status</u>
1. ARGENTINA	Canned and frozen beef.	Offered to UN. Army handling arrangements.
2. AUSTRALIA	2 destroyers RAAF squadron (24 F-51's and 300 men).	In action.
	1 infantry battalion (1,000 men).	In Korea.
	1 infantry battalion.	Being formed. Not yet formally offered to UN. Department of State requested to obtain total of 3 battalions for Korea.
3. BELGIUM	2 C-54's with 4 crews; third C-54 arrived U.S. mid-September.	Participating in Pacific airlift. Eight round trips per month.
	Infantry battalion (1,000 men).	Accepted by UN. Starts 2-month training program in October.
4. BOLIVIA	30 officers.	Acceptance deferred by JCS. Criteria for military aid furnished Bolivian representatives.
5. BRAZIL		Criteria for military aid furnished Brazilian representatives.
6. CANADA	3 destroyers.	In action.
	1 RCAF squadron of 6 C-54 planes.	Based on McChord Field. Making more than 1 round trip per day to Japan.
	Infantry brigade (6,775 men and 3,000 replace- ments)(Canadian Army Special Force).	Complete preliminary training 1 November. Three months additional training in Okinawa area to be conducted. Departure for Okinawa from Seattle tentatively 25 November. Accepted by UN.
7. CHILE	Canadian-Pacific Airline facilities (commercial).	Accepted by UN. Planes are lifting two loads west and one east per week.
	F-51 squadron.	Under consideration by Canadian Government.
8. CHINA	Strategic materials.	Under consideration by UN. Criteria for military aid furnished Chilean representatives.
	3 divisions and 20 C-47's.	Rejected.

~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Dec. 500 and 505 or 51  
CSD Form, May 3, 1972  
By \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 3-21-77

### Using Source 8

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	Who is the author of this document? When was it written? What is the documents message?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	What do the choices say about the role of the United States and the United Nations resources?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	How does supporting documents support or complicate this document?
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	What conclusions can the reader draw from this document? What do these details indicate about the size and scope of the United Nation resources?



### Source 9: Wake Island Conference

Source Information: An excerpt from the minutes of the Wake Island Conference in October, 1950. General MacArthur was the Commander of the United Nations Forces in Korea. General Bradley was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. President Truman was also in attendance. (2 pages)

[GENERAL BRADLEY: With regard to the offers of additional troops from the United Nations, are not some of them more trouble than they are worth militarily? Politically they are fine. Some of the offers are still in nebulous form. Some are due to arrive in Korea in February or March. In most cases it will be necessary for us to pay for their transportation, maintenance and training and inasmuch as General MacArthur expects to have concluded military operations by November, is it worthwhile to continue working on them or should we ask only for token forces?

GENERAL MacARTHUR: They are useless from the military point of view and probably would never see action. From the political point of view, they give a United Nations flavor. I think that the balance between these two considerations should be struck in Washington. I cannot do it.

Source 9: Wake Island Conference (Cont.)

~~TOP SECRET~~

**GENERAL BRADLEY:** Perhaps the United Nations flavor could be retained but the cost reduced by having only token units as, for example, from Canada, which had proposed to send a brigade to Okinawa for further training.

**AMBASSADOR JESSUP:** Mr. Pearson, the Canadian Minister of External Affairs, has said that the Canadians would prefer not to send troops to Korea but were willing to put them into international service, possibly to earmark them for Europe.

**ADMIRAL RADFORD:** The Canadians have some representation. They have three destroyers in Korea.

**GENERAL MacARTHUR:** Their services have been excellent.

Using Source 9

<b>Sourcing Questions</b>	What type of document is this? Whose words are being recorded?
<b>Contextualization Questions</b>	Explain how General MacArthur's occupation might affect what he said at this Conference?
<b>Corroboration Tasks</b>	How does Source 8 support or refute the information presented in this source?
<b>Close Reading Questions</b>	What do the speakers in this document believe is the role of the UN in Korea? What might General Bradley mean by "United Nations flavor?"

## Timeline

### Korean Conflict-1950

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<b>June 25</b>	→	North Korean Army invades South Korea.
<b>June 25</b>	→	<input type="text"/>
<b>June 26</b>	→	<input type="text"/>
<b>June 26</b>	→	<input type="text"/>
<b>June 27</b>	→	<input type="text"/>
<b>July 3</b>	→	United States forces clash with North Korean forces.
<b>July 4</b>	→	<input type="text"/>
<b>July 7</b>	→	UN Res. 84 request U.S. designate a commander of UN forces in Korea.
<b>July 8</b>	→	Gen. Douglas MacArthur named commander of UN forces in Korea.
<b>September 1</b>	→	North Korean divisions open assault on UN lines.
<b>September 1</b>	→	<input type="text"/>
<b>October 1</b>	→	South Korean troops cross 38 <sup>th</sup> parallel to North Korea.
<b>October 6</b>	→	<input type="text"/>
<b>October 7</b>	→	United States forces cross 38 <sup>th</sup> parallel to North Korea.
<b>October 15</b>	→	<input type="text"/>
<b>October 19</b>	→	UN forces enter the capital Pyongyang, North Korea.
<b>November 4</b>	→	United States troops vacate Pyongyang, North Korea.
<b>December 28</b>	→	Chinese troops cross 38 <sup>th</sup> parallel into South Korea.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Korean Conflict-1950

Who was really in charge of the Korean War; United Nations or the United States?

	Description of Source (Author, Date & Title)	What evidence supports the United States?	What evidence supports the United Nations?	Why is this evidence significant?
Source 3				
Source 4				
Source 5				

Based on the evidence, who was really in charge of the Korean conflict?

	Description of Source (Author, Date & Title)	What evidence supports the United States?	What evidence supports the United Nations?	Why is this evidence significant?
Source 6				
Source 7				

Based on the evidence, who was really in charge of the Korean conflict?

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Description of Source (Author, Date & Title)	What evidence supports the United States?	What evidence supports the United Nations?	Why is this evidence significant?
Source 8				
Source 9				

Based on the evidence, who was really in charge of the Korean conflict?

### Final Assessment: Student Editorial

An editorial is a form of persuasive writing that is meant to provide the writer an opportunity to express to the reader their position over a specific topic. Editorials take a look at issues that may be of concern to the public, both locally and abroad.

Most editorial include a title, topic sentence, evidence to support the topic sentence, and a conclusion. Use the graphic organizers to answer the following: "Who was really in charge of the Korean War; the United Nations or the United States?"

On a separate sheet of paper, write your own editorial using specific details from the graphic organizers and group discussions.