

CIMUN 2021: Crisis Committee

South Korea Research Report

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Introduction

Greetings Delegates,

My name is Ella Hedberg, and this year I will be acting as Chair of the South Korean side of this Joint Crisis Committee. This will be my second year serving as a Student Officer with CIMUN, and I am greatly looking forward to collaborating with you Delegates to make this conference enjoyable and filled with fruitful discussions and negotiations! During Committee sessions, I will be acting as Syngman Rhee, the President of South Korea.

The Korean War, of June 25th 1950 - July 27th 1953, is a conflict which had far-reaching implications on a global scale. An important development in the Cold War, the Korean War was a proxy war fought between the United States and the Soviet Union. A product of a multitude of factors, the origins of the Korean War are interdimensional and complex. The following research report will focus on the ways in which South Korea was influenced by Japanese colonialism and post-WWII factors to eventually lead to conflict with North Korea. **The start date for this Crisis Committee will be the 8th of June, 1950.**

Background information

The following background information, or research, provided is intended to act as a source of information by which Delegates can gain contextual information about the Korean war. It is however, as will be emphasized additionally within 'research tips', not a step-by-step

instructional guide which Delegates should follow during committee sessions, in order to protect the integrity of the creative aspect of Crisis.

A factor which influenced the commencement of the war was the Japanese annexation of Korea in 1910 following Japanese victory in the Russo-Japanese war. During the timeframe for which Japan possessed control over Korea, Japan made efforts to suppress Korean culture and implement a series of political policies which favored Japanese interests. In 1912, following the Government-General's formulation of laws which allowed Japan near full access to Korean land, a resettlement program was instigated by the Japanese, in which 98,000 Japanese owners settled into Korean land prior to 1918¹. An additional estimated 724,727 Korean workers were ordered to work in mainland Japan to be a part of the mining, constructions, and shipbuilding workforces.² Moreover, Japanese control of Korean industry expanded into lumbering when in May of 1918, the Korean Forestry Ordinance was publicized, forcing forestry owners to register with the colonial office. With a newfound control over which companies would be permitted to forest, 1,090,000 hectares of village forests in addition to 3,090,000 hectares of grave forests were transferred from Korean lumbering companies to Japanese lumbering companies³. An additional noteworthy series of policies implemented by the Japanese fell under The Regulations for Fisheries Associations of 1912. The enactment of these regulations placed Korean fisheries under Japanese control, devastating the livelihoods of thousands of Koreans who relied on fishing profits as a means of livelihood.

The loss of lumbering and fishing alike as a means of livelihood for many Koreans implicated mass job shortages and accompanied economic and domestic instability. All of the aforementioned policies and laws enacted by the Japanese, in addition to watching fellow nations such as Poland and Romania receive their freedoms following the end of the War, had the effect of building resentment among the Korean population towards their Japanese occupants and instilling a desire for freedom. Anti-Japanese sentiment amongst Koreans eventually manifested itself as the March First Movement, a movement originating in the capital Seoul which spread

¹ Stanford University. Accessed July 30, 2021.

<https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297a/Japan.%20Korea%20and%20Colonialism.doc>.

² Stanford University. Accessed July 30, 2021.

<https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297a/Japan.%20Korea%20and%20Colonialism.doc>.

³ Stanford University. Accessed July 30, 2021.

<https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297a/Japan.%20Korea%20and%20Colonialism.doc>.

quickly across the nation in protest to Japanese rule. Within the ensuing months, an estimated 2 million Koreans joined the demonstrations. Over the course of the remainder of the year, an estimated 46,948 demonstrators were arrested, 7,509 killed, and 15,961 were injured; in addition to the destruction of many churches and schools.⁴ Despite Japanese attempts to diminish Korean nationalism, this oppression led to a continued hatred against the Japanese, as well as a widespread condemnation of Japanese collaborators and associates.

On September 2nd, 1945 when Japan surrendered to the Allies during WWII, power over Korea was passed to the Soviet Union and the United States. It was decided by the United States and the Soviet Union that the Peninsula would be divided into Northern and Southern territories at the 38th parallel. In 1948, the United States initiated a push for the United Nations to host a vote for the Korean people to determine their future government. Upon the North's refusal to engage in a vote, the South formed an independent government under known anti-communist Syngman Rhee. In response, Kim Il-sung was pronounced Premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Later on in 1949 and 1950, Kim Il-Sung would go on to seek support from the Soviet Union to invade South Korea⁵.

The factual happenings of the war can be summarized by the following timeline⁶:

- June 25, 1950: North Korea invades the South
- June 27, 1950: The UNSC adopts Resolution 83 declaring the Northern invasion to be a breach of peace, and thus authorized member states to provide military assistance to the South.
- September 12, 1950: North Korean troops reach their farthest advancement, to the 'Pusan Perimeter'
- September 15, 1950: Edward M. Almond leads the X Corps to stage a landing an approximate 150 miles behind enemy lines in an attempt to liberate Seoul

⁴ Ki-baik Lee, A New History of Korea (Harvard University Press, 1984), p. 344; more or less the same figures (except for the number of wounded) are given in Kokushi daijiten (Yoshikawa Kobunkan, 1979-1996), vol. 6, p. 494. Lower figures are found in Takashi Hatada, A History of Korea (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1969), p. 115. The general situation is treated by Frank P. Baldwin in "Korean Challenge and Japanese Response" (doctoral dissertation, Columbia University, 1969).

⁵ Rotondi, Jessica P. "What Caused the Korean War and Why Did the US Get Involved?" HISTORY. Last modified May 7, 2021. <https://www.history.com/news/korean-war-causes-us-involvement>.

⁶ "Korean War Timeline." Encyclopedia Britannica. Accessed July 25, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/list/korean-war-timeline>.

- September 25, 1950: Seoul is liberated from North Korean control
- October 25, 1950: UN troops advance into North Korea, to be met with Chinese People's Volunteers Force troops, inflicting significant losses unto the North Korean forces
- January 4, 1951: Chinese and North Korean troops regain control of Seoul
- March 14, 1951: UN forces liberate Seoul once again
- July 10, 1951: Peace talks between the UN and the Northern communists begin
- July 27, 1953: Mark W. Clark (UN Commander), Peng Dehuai (China), Kim Il-Sung (North Korea) develop an armistice to end the war

Characters and Crisis Powers

Sohn Won-yil (Chief of Naval Operations)

- Born May 5, 1909, Sohn Won-yil served as South Korea's Chief of Naval Operations, and prior to this, worked as a merchant mariner. Sohn Won-yil is regarded as the founder of the South Korean Navy as he was extremely active and present in the founding of the navy. He led the Maritime Affairs Association, which later progressed into the Marine Defense Group on November 11, 1945, which is now recognized as Navy Foundation Day. Furthermore, the Marine Defense Group evolved into the Korean Coast Guard, which, upon the establishment of the government of the Republic of Korea, was renamed the Republic of Korea Navy. Sohn Won-yil was the country's first holder of the title: Chief of Naval Operations, and his legacy and work for the South Korean Navy is still recognised in South Korea.
- The crisis power for this specific role is the ability to control the navy. This, according to the decisions of the delegate assigned this role, will include complete power over the directions and actions that the navy proceeds to take during the conference. This role also has a joint crisis power with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (Kim Chung-yul), the Commander of marines (Shin Hyun-joon), Chief of Staff for Army (Chae Byong-dok). This power refers to the occasion that, if all delegates are in agreement, they may move the military at their shared will.

Kim Chung-yul (Chief of Staff of the Air Force)

- Previously a pilot in the Imperial Japanese Navy prior to its dissolution following World War II, Kim Chung-yul had an extensive and successful career within the Air Force of South Korea. Appointed as a Second Lieutenant in 1940, quickly promoted to a First Lieutenant in 1943, and not soon afterwards appointed the status of a Captain in 1944, Kim Chung-yul served as the Air

Force's Chief of Staff during the Korean War. Following the Korean War, Kim Chung-yul was also involved in politics. Between 1963-1966, Kim was South Korea's Ambassador to the United States, and in 1987, became the 19th Prime Minister of South Korea.

- The delegate with this role has the crisis power to control the air force and its activities and actions. The delegate may also take action through their joint crisis power with the Chief of Naval Operation (Sohn Won-yil), Commander of marines (Shin Hyun-joon), and Chief of Staff for Army (Chae Byong-dok) in order to move the military at their shared will if all parties are in agreement regarding which action to take.

Shin Sung-mo (Acting Prime Minister, Minister of National Defense)

- Shin Sung-mo held the position of Minister of defense during the Korean War. He was also a member of the Provisional Government Military Committee, however, he had limited to no experience/knowledge on direct combat with the army. This is because he was new to a position such as this, as he was used to working with maritime vessels, in addition to communications and interpretations, compared to what this new role entailed, stating in a meeting with the State Council upon the start of the war that he had little to no knowledge of the situation. Prior to his position and duties during the Korean War, Shin Sung-mo was a part of the anti-Japanese independence movement. Shin Sung-mo resigned as the Minister of National Defense as a result of the Geochang massacre of 1951, carried out by the South Korean Army and leaving 719 civilians dead. Shin Sung-mo was also appointed as Prime Minister, following the resignation of his predecessor.
- The crisis power for this delegate will be the ability to oversee the military, as well as all military action. This delegate can also veto the commands of the individual chiefs of staff in order to pursue their own motives. It's important to note that this veto cannot be used against a joint decision by all the chiefs of staff.

Kim Chang-ryong (Head of Korean Counter Intelligence Corps)

- Kim Chang-ryong served as the Head of Korean Counter Intelligence Corps. He was regarded as Syngman Rhee's most trusted right-hand man, as it was believed he could bring a lot of value and discipline to the army. Kim was always strongly opposed to communism, and stated that he would do everything to avoid South Korea adopting communism. One of the reasons why he was trusted so much by Syngman Rhee was because of his past. Kim had served the Japanese, thereby ensuring that he was disliked by the people, and meaning that Kim was not a threat to Rhee

regarding the possibility of threatening his position of power. During his time in the role of Head of Korean Counter Intelligence Corps, Kim made great strides in his investigations and arrests, which made him many enemies, as he arrested and interrogated almost 5000 soldiers/officers of the army in 1949 alone. He was assassinated in early 1956 by his fellow army colleagues as he was strongly disliked.

- This delegate's assigned crisis power is the ability to investigate any government official for espionage, at their own will.

Shin Hyun-joon (Commander of marines)

- Known as "The Father of the Marine Corps", Shin Hyun-joon is extremely decorated with numerous awards such as a Silver Star Medal and multiple Order of Military Merit decorations. Before the existence of the Republic of Korea Navy, Shin joined the Korean Coast Guard in 1946 as a lieutenant and later founded the Republic of Korea Marine Corps in 1949. He played an important role as the Commander of the Marines during the Incheon landing, and would serve as Commander for the rest of the war.
- The crisis power assigned to this role is direct control over the marines of South Korea. The delegate will have full control over the course that the marines take throughout the conference. A joint crisis power is also assigned to this role: when in agreement with the other chiefs of staff, including Chief of Naval Operation (Sohn Won-yil), Chief of Staff of the Air Force (Kim Chung-yul), and Chief of Staff for Army (Chae Byong-dok), the delegate can move the military at will.

Yi Si-yeong (Vice President)

- Yi Si-yeong held the title of Vice President during the Korean War, and was the first to hold this title, up until his resignation following the events of the National Defense Corps incident in 1951. The incident was a result of the fact that the National Defense Corps Commander had embezzled funds for food for the soldiers who had been ordered to march to their deployed training units. The embezzled money, and thereby lack of food and resources needed to survive, resulted in the deaths of 300,000 soldiers and was used by Syngman Rhee for political funds.
- As Vice President, the delegate representing Yi Si-yeong has the crisis power to block the committee from entering voting procedure. The delegate also has the power of their vote being weighed as two separate votes in the case of a tie during a vote.

Lee Beom-seok (Founder of Korean National Youth Association, Ambassador to China)

- Upon returning to Korea from his exile in China in 1946 due to independence activities, Lee Beom-seok contributed to the Korean War through his role as founder of the Korean National Youth Association (in collaboration with Ahn Ho-sang - Minister of Education). Lee was opposed to the negotiations between North and South Korea, and instead established a unity government in South Korea, serving as the country's first Prime Minister.
- The appointed crisis power for this role is the ability to mobilize the Korean National Youth Association, at the will of the delegate and to use this resource as they please for their own motives.

Yun Chi-young (Syngman Rhee's Secretary)

- Yun Chi-young was extremely anti-Japanese in his activism, and worked as Syngman Rhee's secretary during the Korean War. This role would entail knowing and planning, in extreme detail, of higher positions of power. With access to these resources, Yun Chi-young had extremely personal insight into the life of the South Korean President as well as every single detail of Rhee's plans.
- The crisis power of this specific character is the ability to set the discussion agenda as they please, as well as to choose if they would like to be called on first/last during a discussion.

Chang Taek-sang (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (established this role))

- Chang Taek-sang was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade during the Korean War, being the first to hold this position, establishing this role. It should be noted that this role held huge importance during this time period, as he was the front of South Korean diplomacy, trade, and overseas Korean nationals during the war. Chang was a Korean independence activist, and had vast experience with being involved in politics, and was later appointed the role of Prime Minister.
- The crisis power for this specific role within the committee is that the delegate will have control over trade as well as relations with foreign powers, and they can utilise this position in any way to support their individual character motives.

Chang Myon (Ambassador to the US, Leader of Korean UN Delegation)

- With an extensive career spanning from teacher, principal, journalist and journalist prior to the Korean War, Chang Myon was a very respected and experienced political figure, part of the

Democratic Party himself. During the war, Chang led the delegation of the republic of Korea to the UN General Assembly. Chang was also the country's first ambassador to the United States, with some notable diplomatic victories to note.

- This delegate, during the conference, shall have an individual crisis power as well as a joint crisis power. The individual power will be the delegates ability to provide the American perspective on matters being debated/the path the committee is taking during the conference, as well as communication with the United Nations as they are the leader of the Korean UN Delegation. The latter, the joint crisis power of this delegate will be to communicate with and call meetings with Ho Hon to discuss the reunification of the Koreas.

Chae Byeong-deok (Chief of Staff for Army)

- Chae Byong-deok was a South Korean officer and served as the Chief of Staff for the Army. Educated at the Imperial Japanese Army Academy, Chae had an extensive skill set/experiences which suited him well for this role.
- The power designated to this delegate is the ability to control the army in any way to support their personal endeavours throughout the conference. This delegate will also have a joint crisis power with the other Chiefs of Staff, in which they may, on the occasion of their agreement, move the military as a whole entity at will, in comparison to their individual parts.

Yun Posun (Minister of commerce and industry)

- Following the National Liberation Day of Korea in 1945, Yun Posun became involved in politics, and soon, Syngman Rhee was his mentor. It was therefore Rhee who appointed Yun Posun to the role of mayor of Seoul, and a year later, he became the Minister of Commerce and Industry, which is the role of this delegate. Yun Posun also later served as President of South Korea until he was replaced following the May 16 coup in 1961.
- During the conference, the crisis power assigned to this delegate will be the responsibility of the production as well as the distribution of military supplies. This also means that he can control these aspects as he pleases.

Ahn Ho-sang (Minister of Education)

- During Ahn Ho-sang's time in this position during the Korean War, he was known to combine his role of education with the political endeavors to root out leftists through the process of investigations of such ideologies in students. Ahn Ho-sang had limited experience with education,

as he was a one-time professor at a university in Germany, and it is noted that, during his stay in Germany (Nazi Germany at the time), his views were influenced as a result and can be reflected by his efforts to limit the leftist ideologies of students.

- The delegate representing Ahn Ho-sang will have the crisis power of direct control over the educational system, as well as, through this, monitoring for communist activity.

Cho Bong-am (Minister of Agriculture)

- Cho Bong-am was a founding member of the Communist Party of Korea, but left the party in 1946 due to his belief that they were too subservient to the Soviet Union. He then went on to become a founding member of the Progressive Party, which reflected the values of socialism and democracy, thereby making him an exception to the conservative make-up of the cabinet. He was appointed to the role of Minister of Agriculture in 1948, and later became a political rival of President Syngman Rhee as they held differing perspectives and views on political/social issues, as Cho Bong-am promoted the reunification of South Korea with North Korea, even running against each other for President at a later date.
- The crisis power of this delegate will be that fact that they have direct control over the supply, and thereby distribution, of food of South Korea.

Lee Ki-poong (Mayor of Seoul)

- Lee Ki-poong held the title of Mayor of Seoul during the time period of the Korean War. He supported Syngman Rhee in his presidency, and was even Rhee's Vice President at one point. He was the leader of the Liberal Party within South Korea, which held power for the entire duration of the war. However, he resigned from this role in 1960 following accusations of fraud during the elections, which later led to the April Revolution.
- Throughout the conference, the delegate representing Lee Ki-poong will have the assigned crisis power of direct control over the Seoul Police Force. The delegate is also able to mobilize the force for government activity, of their choosing.

Research Tips

In order to maximise the 'creative' aspect of participating in a Crisis Committee, the Chair strongly recommends that research focus be placed on understanding assigned character roles and Crisis powers accompanying one's character role when applicable, as opposed to attempting to recreate the happenings of the war in a highly accurate and historically-accurate manner.

Nonetheless, the Chair does recognise the value held in understanding the root causes and relationships of a historical conflict to other events throughout history, and thus recommends that in addition to understanding their character roles and powers - that delegates explore the bibliography provided in this research report to formulate a foundational understanding of the Korean War and its key causes.

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