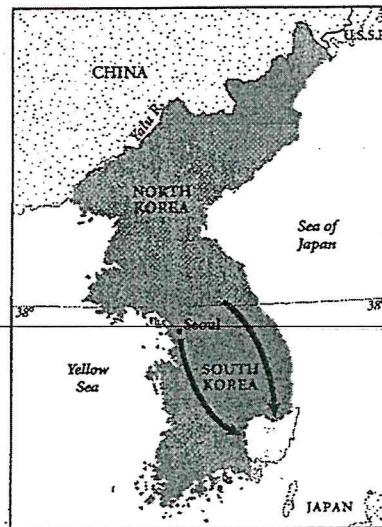


June 25, 1950

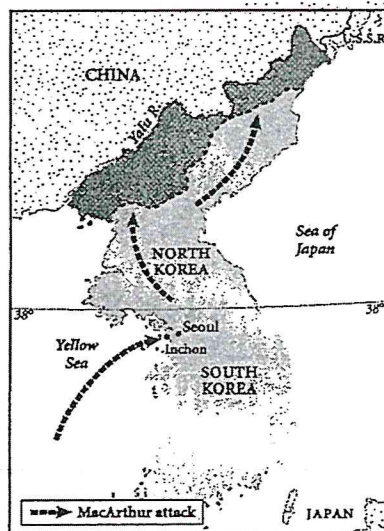
1 Communist North Korea (supported by the Soviet Union) invades US-supported South Korea. The attack comes without warning and President Harry Truman, with the help of the United Nations, vows to defend democratic South Korea.



September 14, 1950

2 American forces occupying Japan after WWII are sent to defend South Korea. The US and United Nations forces are nearly pushed off the Korean peninsula. The American commander is General Douglass MacArthur.

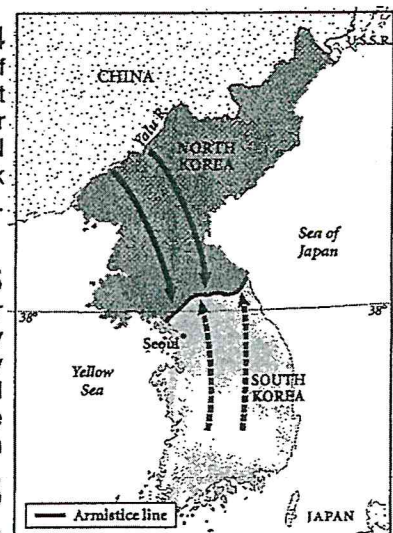
3 MacArthur stages a risky, yet successful counterattack at the port of Inchon. North Korean forces are routed and pushed back all the way to the Yalu River, the border of North Korea and communist China.



November 25, 1950

4 In November of 1950, communist China enters the war and pushes the UN and US forces back into South Korea.

5 The war drags on for several years, finally ending in 1953 very close to the original 1950 borders. The war caused more than two million deaths, including over 50,000 Americans.



July 27, 1953

Document Analysis

1. On what date did North Korea first invade South Korea?
2. Who supported North Korea? Who supported South Korea?
3. North Korea only invaded when the Russian leader Stalin gave his approval. From what you know about Stalin, what was his motive?
4. Why might Communist China have decided to help North Korea?
5. How does this document demonstrate the American policy of containment?