



# FIRM FOUNDATION COUNTRY SCHOOL

Plot 8 Southwood, Chegutu, Zimbabwe

CONTACT: +263 77 643 4036/ +263 78 114 7858

**HISTORY 0470**

**END OF TERM 1 2026**

**FORM 2**

**HOLIDAY WORK**

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Answer **ALL** questions.
- Use your Exercise book to answer the question on page 6.
- Research findings to be written on a separate answer sheet.
- Notes to be written in the History notebook.

## **INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is 50
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ]

**Write notes in your notebook.**

## **HOW EFFECTIVELY DID THE UNITED STATES CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM?**

### **Influence of China on International Relations and the Cold War**

#### 1. China in the Cold War

-After the Communist victory in 1949, China became the People's Republic of China (PRC) under Mao Zedong. This had a major impact on the Cold War.

##### (a) Strengthened Communism (1949)

-The Communist victory in the Chinese Civil War was seen as a huge success for world communism.

-The USA feared the spread of communism in Asia.

-China allied with the USSR through the 1950 Sino-Soviet Treaty.

NB. This increased Cold War tensions, especially in Asia.

#### 2. China and the Korean War (1950–53)

China played a major role in the Korean War.

When UN forces (led by the USA) pushed North Korean troops back towards China's border, China sent troops to help North Korea.

This prevented a complete US victory.

#### **The war:**

Increased hostility between China and the USA.

Strengthened US policy of containment.

Led to permanent division of Korea.

#### 3. Taiwan Crisis

After losing the civil war, Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan and set up the Republic of China.

The USA supported Taiwan.

China wanted to take control of Taiwan.

This led to tension between China and the USA.

NB. Taiwan became a Cold War flashpoint.

#### 4. The Sino-Soviet Split (1960s)

Although China and the USSR were both communist, they fell out.

Disagreements between Mao Zedong and Nikita Khrushchev.

Border clashes in 1969.

China accused the USSR of being too weak toward the West.

#### Impact:

Divided the communist world.

Weakened Soviet power.

Allowed the USA to improve relations with China.

#### 5. US-China Rapprochement (1970s)

In 1972, US President Richard Nixon visited China.

Improved US-China relations.

China gained a seat at the United Nations (1971).

Isolated the USSR further.

NB. This changed the balance of power in the Cold War.

#### Timeline of events in China

1927–1949 → Civil War

1949 → Communist China established

1958–62 → Great Leap Forward

1966–76 → Cultural Revolution

1972 → USA–China rapprochement

1978 onwards → Economic reforms

1989 → Tiananmen Square

**Watch Documentary on China and the Cold War:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YUGfPWWd2k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YUGfPWWd2k)

**QN : write a detailed timeline of events in China from the documentary. [20]**

## **CASE STUDY**

### **1.The United States and events in Korea 19-50-53**

#### **Why did North Korea invade South Korea?**

##### Background of the invasion

-After World War II, Korea was liberated from Japan but divided at the 38th parallel(an imaginary line that divided Korea into two zones after World War II).

-The **north** was controlled by the Soviet Union and became communist, while the **south** was controlled by the United States and became capitalist.

-This division became permanent due to the Cold War, where both superpowers wanted to spread their ideologies.

-In 1948, two separate governments were set up: Kim Il Sung in the North and Syngman Rhee in the South. Both claimed to be the rightful ruler of all Korea.

-Tensions increased along the border, with frequent clashes.

- Kim Il Sung believed South Korea was weak and that the USA might not defend it.

-He gained support from Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong.

As a result, North Korea invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950, starting the Korean War.

Timeline of Events from 1904-1950

- **1904–1905** – Russo-Japanese War
  - Japan gains control over Korea
- **1910** – Japan officially annexes Korea
  - Korea becomes a Japanese colony
- **1939–1945** – World War II
  - Korea remains under Japanese control
- **August 1945** – Japan defeated
  - Korea is freed and divided at the **38th parallel**
- **1945** – Division of Korea
  - North: Soviet Union
  - South: United States
- **1947** – United Nations tries to organise elections
  - Fails due to Cold War tensions
- **1948** – Two separate states created
  - North Korea (leader: Kim Il Sung)
  - South Korea (leader: Syngman Rhee)
- **1949** – US and Soviet troops withdraw
  - Korea left divided and unstable
- **25 June 1950** – North Korea invades South Korea
  - Start of Korean War.

## Reasons for the invasion

### Political reasons (main cause)

-Korea was divided into two opposing systems after WW2.

- In the North, Kim Il Sung led a communist government, while in the South, Syngman Rhee led an anti-communist government.

-Both claimed to be the rightful ruler of all Korea, which created constant tension. The division was part of the wider Cold War, so the Soviet Union and United States supported opposite sides.

-This made conflict more likely because North Korea felt confident enough, with support from allies, to invade and reunify Korea by force.

### Economic reasons

-Korea's division left the North with most of the industry and the South with most of the farmland.

-This meant neither side was economically complete.

-North Korea wanted to take over the South to gain full control of resources and create a stronger, self-sufficient economy.

-This encouraged invasion because war was seen as a way to solve economic weaknesses and strengthen the state.

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### **Cultural and Social reasons**

-Korea had been one united country, with shared culture, language, and history.

-The division separated families and communities.

-Many Koreans wanted reunification, and North Korean propaganda promoted the idea of uniting the country under communism.

-This helped justify the invasion, as it was presented as a way to reunite the Korean people.

### **Military Reasons**

**-Strength of North Korean army:** By 1950, North Korea had a well-trained, Soviet-equipped army, making an invasion seem achievable.

**-Belief in weakness of South Korea:** North Korea believed South Korea's army was weak and disorganized.

**-US troop withdrawal:** By 1949, most American troops had left South Korea, giving the North confidence that the USA would not intervene immediately.

**-Support from allies:** North Korea received tanks, weapons, and training from the Soviet Union, increasing military capability.

**QN: Explain why North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950? (Use your exercise book)**

**[15]**

**Research on the following:**

**Why did the United States and other nations get involved in the Korean War? [15]**

**Use a separate answer sheet.**

**Findings to be presented in class on opening.**