

## **Intro Question** –

If you were drafted to go to a war, which was very unpopular in your country, is it justified to dodge the draft?

# Chapter 17-3

- War in Korea and Vietnam
  - I) War in Korea
  - II) War in Vietnam

# I) War in Korea

- After World War II Korea became a divided nation.
- North of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, Japanese troops surrendered to the Soviets, south they surrendered to the Americans.
- Communist North Korea invades South Korea in a surprise attack in June of 1950, penetrating deep into the south.

**Each government claimed the  
sole right to rule Korea**



**Syngman Rhee**



**Kim Sung**

Korea, Democratic People's Republic of  
NORTH KOREA



38<sup>TH</sup> PARALLEL DIVIDING  
LINE BETWEEN NORTH  
AND SOUTH KOREA

Korea, Republic of  
SOUTH KOREA

On June 25,  
1950, North  
Korea invades  
South Korea

# I) War in Korea

- The Chinese felt threatened by U.S. actions and sent 300,000 troops to help North Korea.
- As the Chinese troops drove the UN troops south, MacArthur called for a nuclear attack against Chinese cities, but President Truman disagreed.
- After 3 years of fighting, a cease fire agreement is signed, setting up the border between North and South Korea back on the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, but approximately 5,000,000 people had died.

# I) War in Korea

- The Communist north, under dictator **Kim Il Sung** established **collective farms**, built up heavy industry, and military arms.
- Under **his son Kim Jong Il**, North Korea **developed nuclear weapons**, but continued to struggle with shortages of energy and food.
- **South Korea free market economy prospered.**
- After a succession of dictators, **South Korea adopted a democratic constitution in 1987** and had free elections.

## II) War in Vietnam

- Ho Chi Minh leads Vietnam in a revolt against France to gain their independence.
- President Eisenhower backs the French because of his **Domino Theory**, which said if one Southeast Asian nation fell to the communists, others would follow.

# II) War in Vietnam

- An international peace conference divided Vietnam at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel, with Minh's communists in the north and the US backed anti-communist dictator Ngo Dinh Diem in the south.
- Diem was an unpopular leader. Communist guerillas called Vietcong rallied against him and gained strength in the south.
- Despite the most advanced army in the world, the United States face two major problems
  - 1. They were fighting a guerilla war in unfamiliar territory.
  - 2. The South Vietnamese government was unpopular.

**On Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1964, a North Vietnamese Patrol Boat Fires On The USS Maddox & misses.**



**2 Days later, another attack by Vietnamese**

**On Aug 7, Congress adopts the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, granting Johnson broad military powers in Vietnam.**

**In Feb. 1965, Johnson unleashes Operation Rolling Thunder. The first sustained bombing of North Vietnam**



**In March, U.S. combat troops began arriving in South Vietnam. By June, 50,000 troops were battling the VC**

## II) War in Vietnam

- During the 1960's the war became increasingly unpopular in the United States, and by 1969 President Nixon decided to begin withdrawing troops.
- His plan called for **Vietnamization, or gradually pulling out US troops and replacing them with South Vietnamese troops.**
- **The last US troops left in 1973 and two short years later the North Vietnamese communists overran the South.**