

# Historical Points – Korea

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Up to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century – Korea was a protectorate of China

**1894** – Japan went to war with China and China could not help Korea. Russia intervened and became the protectorate. With the protection came exploitation.

**1904** – Japan attacked and defeated the Russians at Incheon and Port Arthur. Korea then came under the influence of Japan. Britain and the US were aligned with Japan at the time and allowed Japan's occupation of Korea for reassurances of non-aggression against other Asian countries like the Philippines.

**1945** – Yalta Conference, the US proposed a trusteeship of Korea between the US and the Soviet Union. Two US Colonels presented the line of demarcation at the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel without any consideration of the terrain, villages or the impact on the Korean People.

**1945-1948** – the Soviet Union and the US Armies oversaw the operation of the two governments. Each side appointing their own leaders (Kim Il-sung and DPRK for the North, Syngman Rhee and ROK for the South). Soviet Union had pushed and stopped at the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. US Troops under General Hodge arrived in September 1945.

At the end of 1948, both sides had put in place their respective Korean governments and pulled a majority of their troops from North and South Korea.

## **1949**

Russian exploded a nuclear weapon

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) expelled the Chinese Nationalist from mainland China.

Sino-Soviet Alliance signed between Chinese and Russia.

## **1950**

April – Stalin gives Kim Il-sung the green light for the invasion on three conditions. 1) Short War 2) Take over the entire county 3) US not intervene

June 27<sup>th</sup> – DPRK invades South Korea (for the moment, it's a Civil War in Korea)

Truman gets the UN to declare war against North Korea.

War rages from 1950-1953.

## **A lot of what-ifs**