



National Security Policy: 1950-1952



Review: 1945-1949

- Dominant Threat
 - Economy
- National Security Strategy
 - Military demobilization
 - Economic aid to threatened interests
 - Truman Doctrine
 - Political-economic containment of communism



Entering the 1950s

- Berlin Crisis
 - first serious Military Confrontation between US & USSR Military Forces
- Soviet A Bomb
- Communism in China
- Eastern Europe Solidifying in Communism
- Colonial Empires Continue to Crumble
- New technology of A-Bomb/H Bomb better appreciated



National Security Issues

- Hardening of the 2 blocs
 - West v. East
- Avoiding war while defending vital interests
- Rebuilding American military power in wake of public apathy



NSC-68

Militarizing U.S. National Security Policy



Origins of NSC-68

- Why was NSC-68 commissioned?
 - Need for a comprehensive assessment of national security policy
 - Belief that US was not doing enough to counter Soviet threat
 - Belief that economic constraints on US national security were too great



Origins of NSC-68

- Where did NSC-68 come from?
- What would the bureaucratic model of policy making predict in this case?
 - What actually happened?
 - Why?



How Did NSC-68 Portray the US National Security Environment?

- Threat to US VITAL INTERESTS In EUROPE
 - Secondarily Mediterranean and Middle East
 - No mention of Asia
- Soviet Communism expanding via military power
 - Soviets: 50-60 divisions (~12,000 men each)
 - could be doubled in a few months
 - NATO: 7 divisions
- Soviet nuclear capability
 - H-bomb program (test in 1953)
 - US INTELL Forecasts 1954 as Year of Maximum Danger of USSR attack
- Risk of surprise attack



How Did NSC-68 Portray the US National Security Environment?

- Military Capabilities matter & Military power disparities matter
 - US needs to stay more powerful than USSR
- “Psychological insecurity”
 - → countries falling under Soviet control like dominoes if everything is not defended
- Perceptions of balance of power as important as actual balance of power



What did NSC-68 Prescribe?

- Remilitarization of U.S. National Security Policy
 - \$40 billion/year for 10 years
 - Mix of offensive forces, air defense forces, civil defense
- Internal security
- US government spending on defense would stimulate economy and pay for itself

How did National Security Thinking Differ from the Proceeding Period?

- Military power replaces economic and political power as basis for U.S. national security policy
- *Kennan's "strong point" defense replaced by total perimeter defense concept*

How did National Security Thinking Differ from the Proceeding Period?

- *US Interests are Whatever Soviets Threaten*
 - EVERYTHING, therefore, becomes a manifestation of a VITAL interest that the Soviets Challenge!
 - Cedes control of US Nat Sec policy to USSR
 - JCS oppose perimeter defense – believe US does not have strength to fight everywhere; State Dept./NSC-68 push for perimeter defense → Opposite bureaucratic model?

Korean War



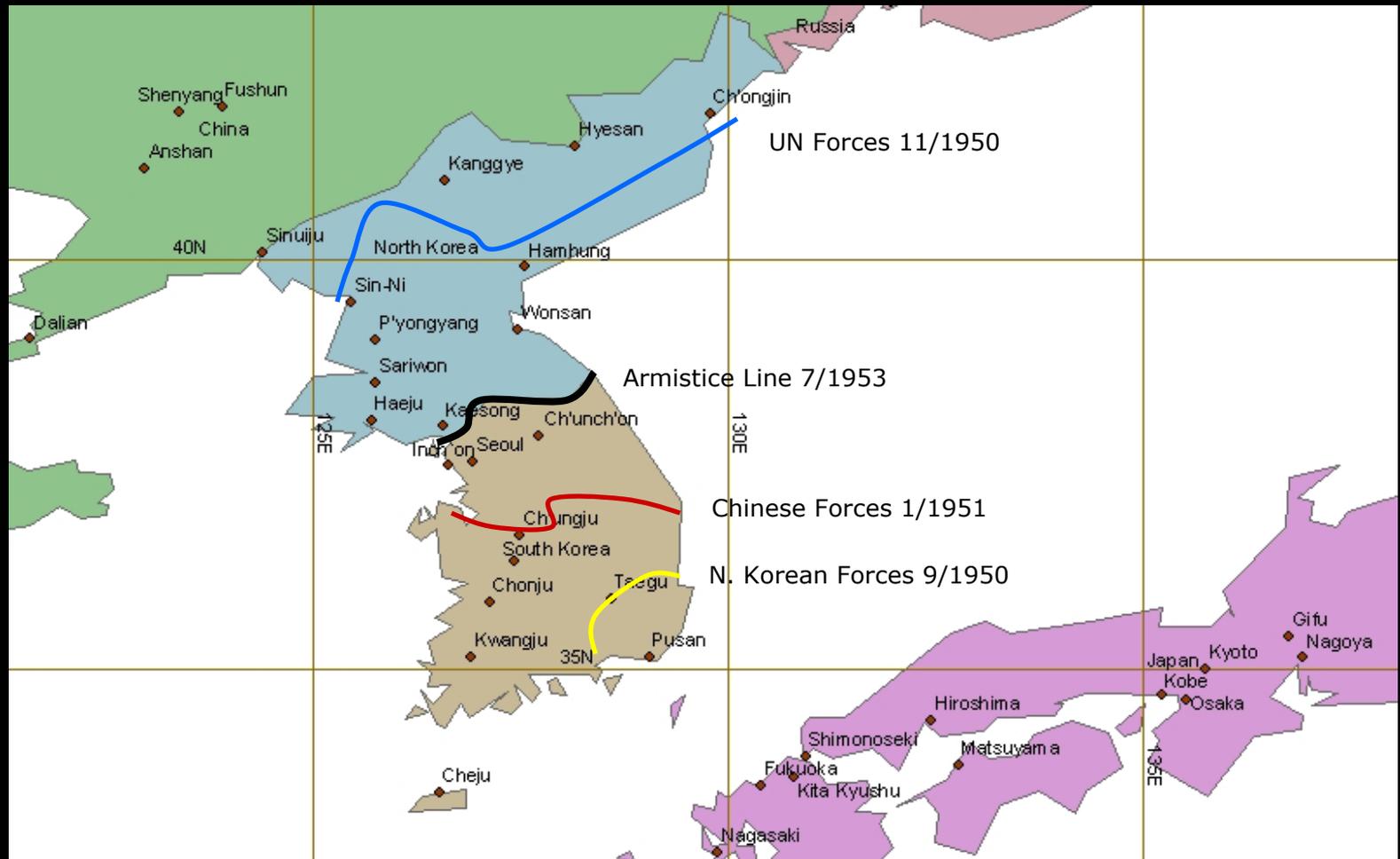
17.471 American National Security Policy



Korean War

- US providing \$60-\$100 million for S. Korea defense
 - To protect Japan (vital interest)
- June 25, 1950 N. Korean troops cross 38th Parallel
 - Is this the Real War?
- US assumes Soviet Union initiated “proxy” war
 - Is it a trap to lure US forces from Europe?
 - Is it to push US to waste nuclear weapons?
- Soviet Security Council walkout → UN (US) Intervention

Korean War





China Enters the Korean War

- Initial US Goal: restore 38th Parallel
 - Following Military Success Changes to Freeing Korea
- Provoking China's Entry: Why did we fail to Deter China?
 - Deterrence failure
 - 1 million Chinese troops cross the Yalu River
- US mobilization in first year of war
 - 650,000 reservists & national guard
 - 585,000 drafted
- Deployment: ~250,000 -300,000 by 1953



Korean War Issues

- Deterrence in national security policy
- limiting war & crisis control
- civil military relations



Events 1950-1952

- 1950: NSC-68
- 1950: U.S. H-bomb program
- 1950: USSR-PRC Friendship Treaty
- 1950: Korean War
- 1951: ANZUS Treaty
- 1951: Project Charles