

THE KOREAN WAR

1950–1953

Military Opposition to Communist Aggression

Before the Outbreak of War

For most of the first half of the 20th century (1905–1945), the Korean Peninsula was part of the Japanese empire, initially as a protectorate.

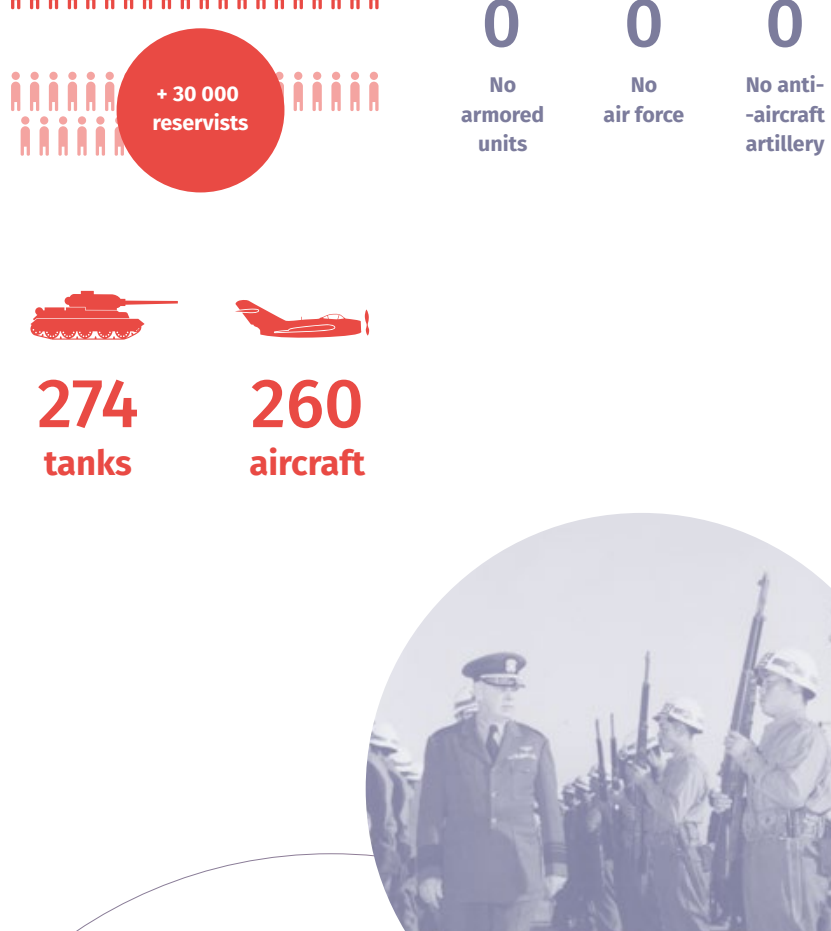
At the end of World War II, the Soviet Union (from the north) and American troops (from the south) entered Korea.

As early as 1943, during an Allied Conference in Cairo, it was assumed that Japan would be driven out of the territories it had illegally seized and that Korea would become a democratic and independent state.

In the current changing international situation, I support the desire of Korean people to unify.

— Stalin in a letter to the Chinese leader Mao

Forces



June 25th, 1950

Outbreak of War on the Korean Peninsula

North Korea attacks South Korea, crossing the 38th parallel. The Korean War begins.

UN Security Council resolution 82 condemns the attack and calls for the withdrawal of the communist state's troops from South Korea.

June 27th, 1950

UN Security Council Resolution 83 calls on member states to assist South Korea, and Resolution 84 (July 7th, 1950) authorizes the US to lead the military operation in Korea under the UN flag. At first, American troops are sent to the peninsula, joined then by troops from other allied countries.

UN (United Nations)

An international organization founded in 1945 on the initiative of the anti-Nazi coalition led by the USA and Great Britain. Its goal was, among others, to maintain peace and security in the world.

In the Korean war, South Korea was supported by a total of 15 countries. Apart from the USA, the largest number of forces were sent by: Great Britain, Turkey, Canada and Australia. Most of the countries supporting South Korea sent symbolic support to the Korean Peninsula, most often not exceeding 1 thousand soldiers. These were: Belgium, Ethiopia, France, the Philippines, Greece, the Netherlands, Colombia, New Zealand, Thailand, and the Union of South Africa. Luxembourg sent 44 soldiers to fight.

Soviet Union and UN

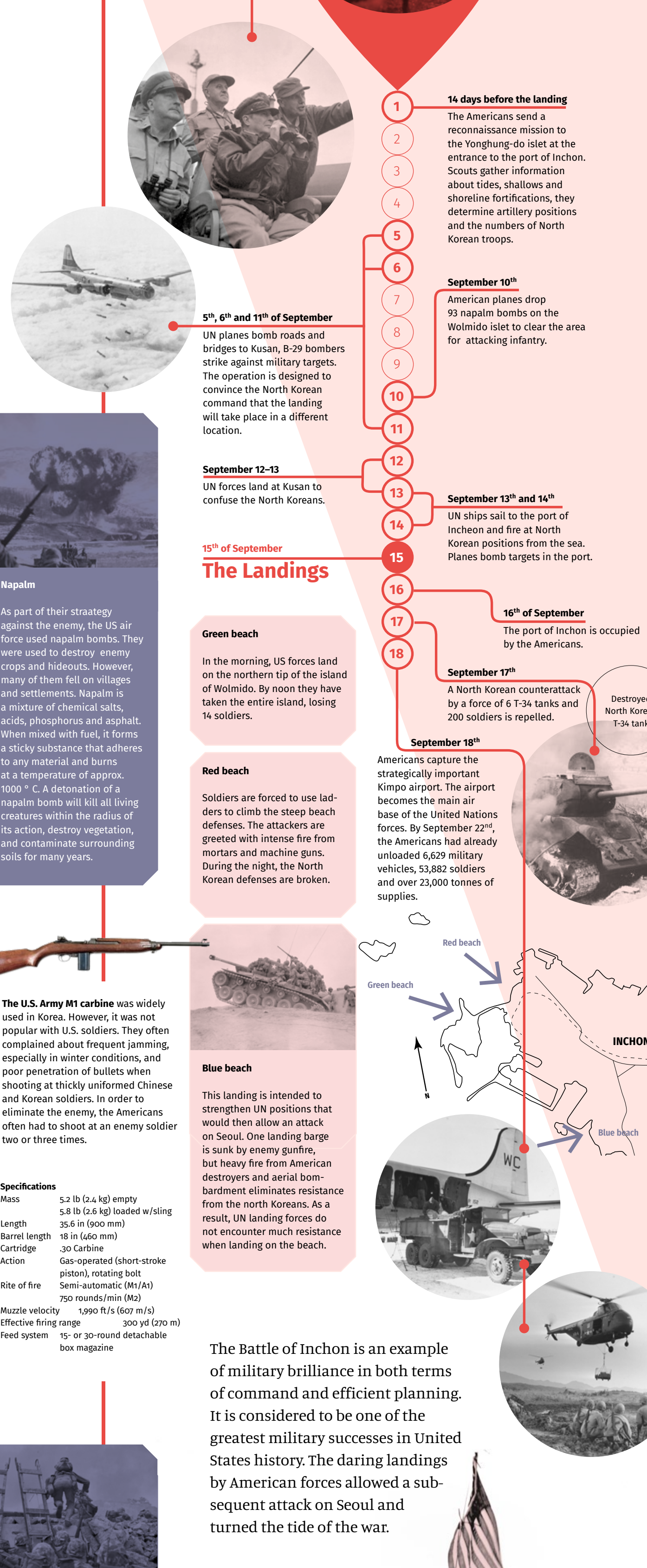
The Soviet Union belonged to the United Nations from its inception. However, the Soviet Union UN representative boycotted the deliberations, during which it was decided to provide international support to South Korea.

The Armed Conflict

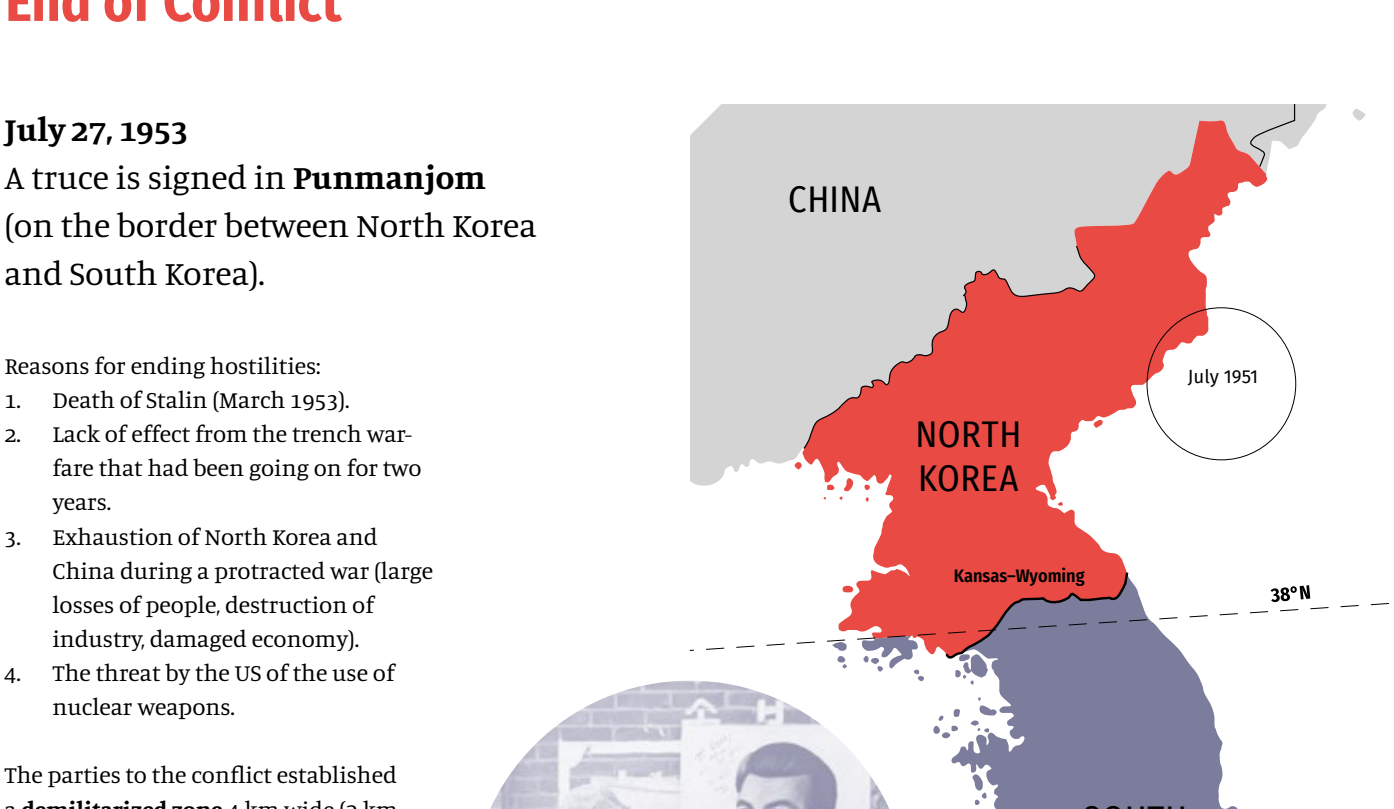
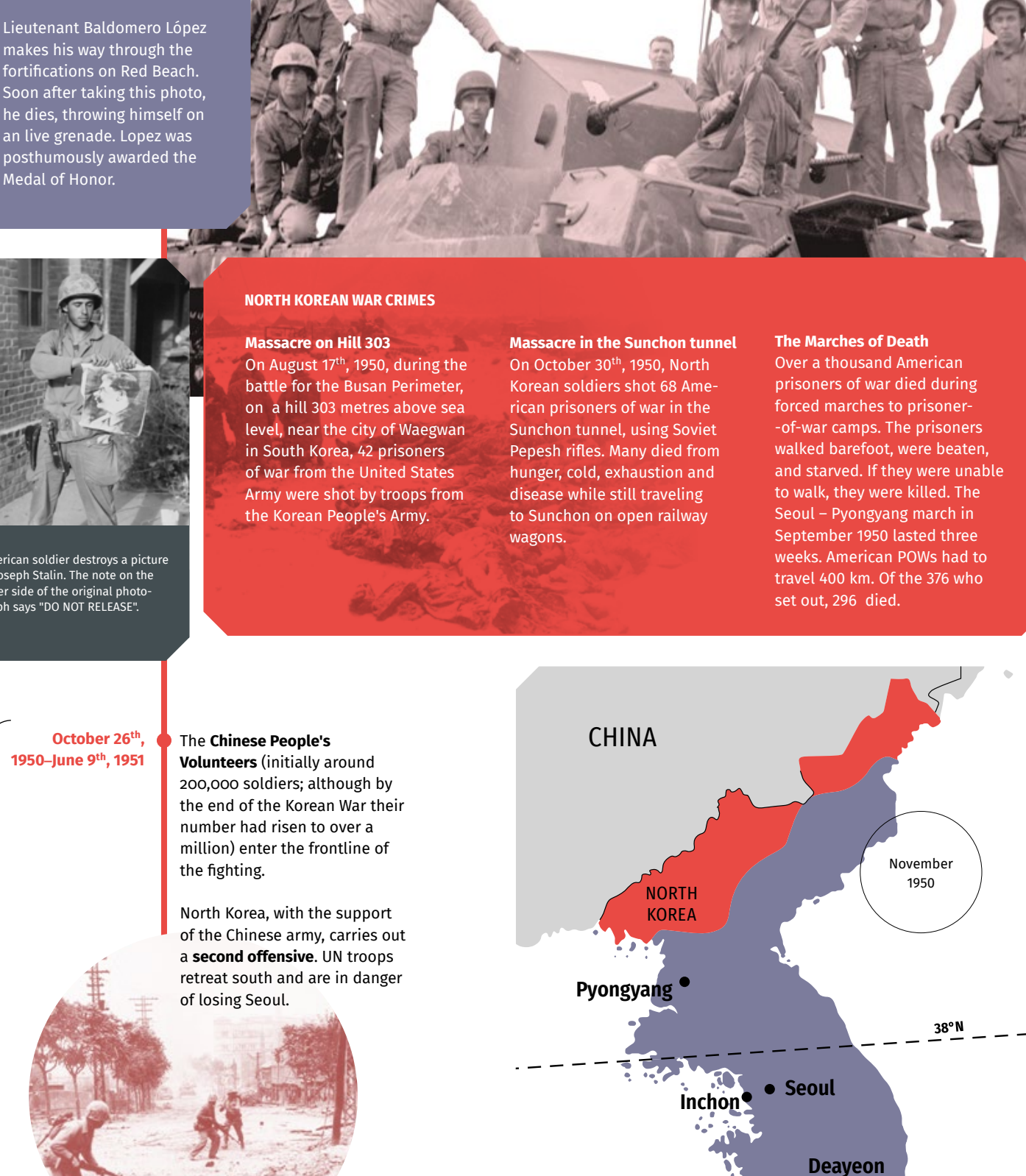
Military operations on the Korean Peninsula: two stages.



Stage 1 / War Maneuvers



The Battle of Inchon is an example of military brilliance in both terms of command and efficient planning. It is considered to be one of the greatest military successes in United States history. The daring landings by American forces allowed a subsequent attack on Seoul and turned the tide of the war.



End of Conflict

July 1953

A truce is signed in **Punmanjom** (on the border between North Korea and South Korea).

Reasons for ending hostilities:

1. Death of Stalin (March 1953).
2. Lack of effect from the trench warfare that had been going on for two years.
3. Exhaustion of North Korea and China during the protracted war (large losses of people, destruction of industry, damaged economy).
4. The threat by the US of the use of nuclear weapons.

The parties to the conflict established a **demilitarized zone** 4 km wide (2 km north and 2 km south) of the so-called **Kansas - Wyoming** demarcation line.

The Price of War

The Korean War remains the bloodiest conflict of the Cold War period. The totalitarian and genocidal actions of the communists brought huge losses to all sides both material and in human terms.

Losses

