

Aim: How did the United States attempt to contain communism in Asia during the Cold War?



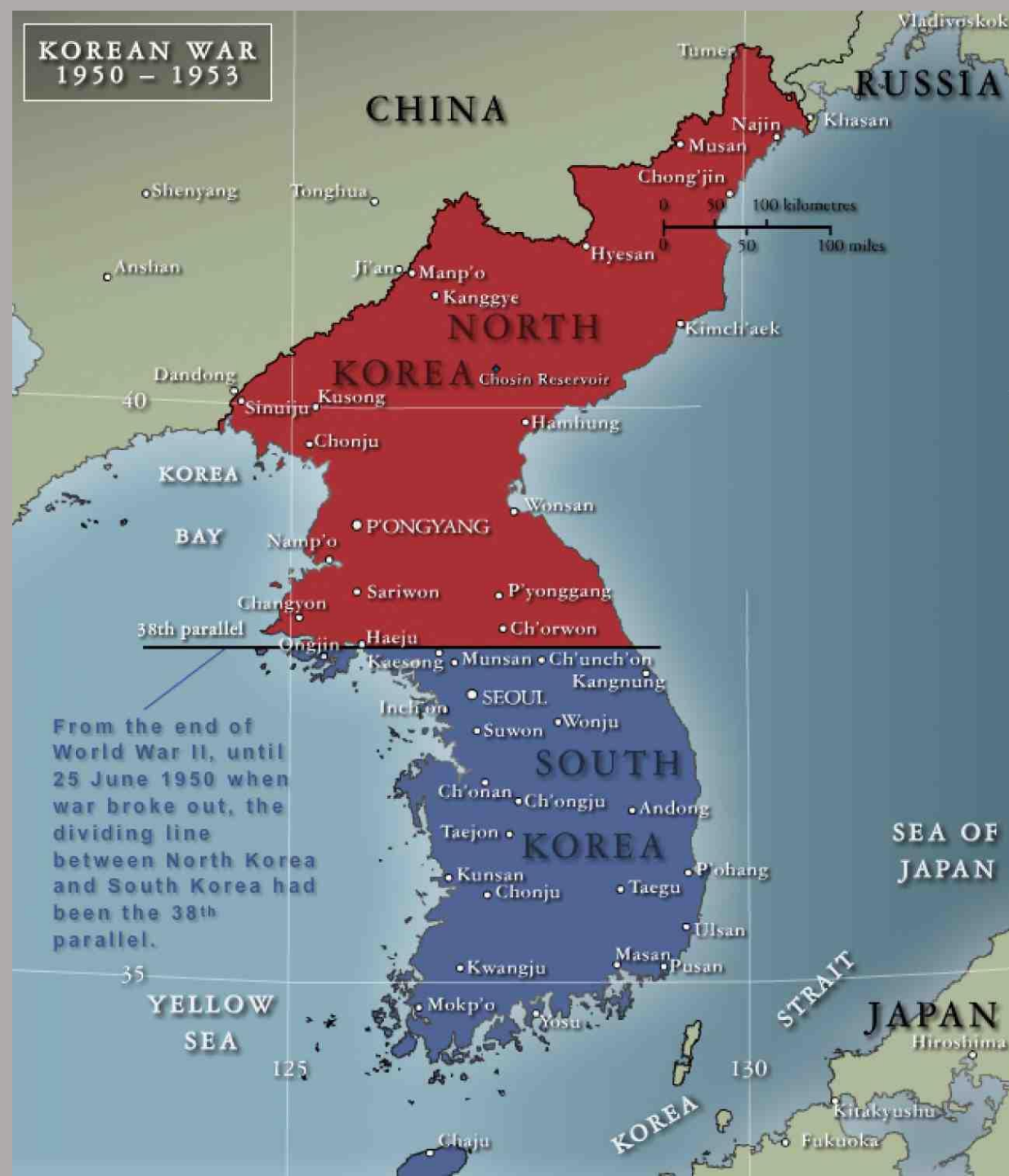


Korea

- Japanese Colony 1910-1945
- Following World War II: Divided at the #38th Parallel
- North – Russia established a Communist Government under the rule of Kim Il-Sung (1948-1994), Kim Jong-Il (1994-2011), Kim Jong-un (2011-present)
- South – UN/American supported non-communist government led by Syngman Rhee



**KOREAN WAR
1950 - 1953**



From the end of World War II, until 25 June 1950 when war broke out, the dividing line between North Korea and South Korea had been the 38th parallel.

KOREAN War (1950-1953)

- 1950: North Korea invaded South Korea
- UN/American forces help South Korea push Communist forces behind the 38th Parallel and deep into North Korea and close to the Manchurian border.
- Chinese forces attacked UN forces and pushed them back to the 38th Parallel
- **Cease-Fire 1953:** Korea divided at the 38th Parallel

Korea

- 1945 – divided at the 38th Parallel
 - North – occupied by Russian troops
 - South – occupied by American troops
- 1950 - North Invaded South
- U.S. went through U.N. to stop aggression
- 1953 - Cease Fire – 38th Parallel – DMZ to this day

Vietnam War (1954-1975)



What happened to Vietnam before World War II?

- What happened to Vietnam during World War II
- What happened to Vietnam following World War II?



Southeast Asia



20th Century Vietnam Timeline

- **1850s -1940** – colony of France (French Indochina: Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia)
- **1930s** – Ho Chi Minh a Vietnamese Nationalist led revolts against the French and created the Viet Minh (independence) league
- **1940** – Japan seized control of Vietnam

20th Century Vietnam Timeline

- **1945** – Japanese forced out of Vietnam after their defeat in World War II
 - Ho Chi Minh declares himself president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam
 - France returns – reclaims South Vietnam
 - Vietnamese Nationalists and Communists unite to fight French

Origins of Conflict



1954 – Geneva Accords

- Vietnam gains independence from France, divided at 17th Parallel. (communist North, non-communist south)
- Elections to be held to unite country in 1956.
- Laos and Cambodia independent and must observe neutrality in Cold War

Origins Continued

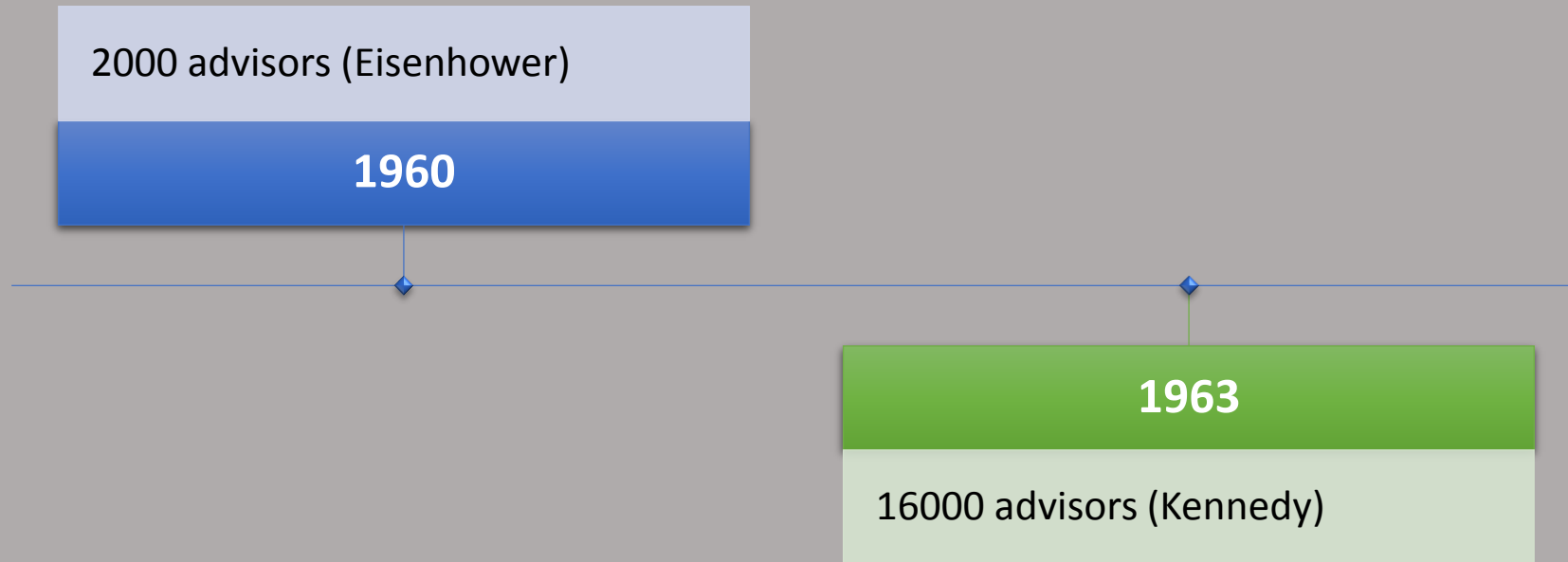
1956 –

- South Vietnam, with U.S. backing, blocks elections
- **Viet Cong (S.V. communists)**, with North Vietnamese support seeks to overthrow South Vietnamese Gov't
- U.S. sends “advisors” to support repressive South Vietnamese “President”

Ngo Dinh Diem



U.S. Involvement



Reasons for U.S. Escalation?



Domino Theory

What is the idea of a domino theory?

US



Communism

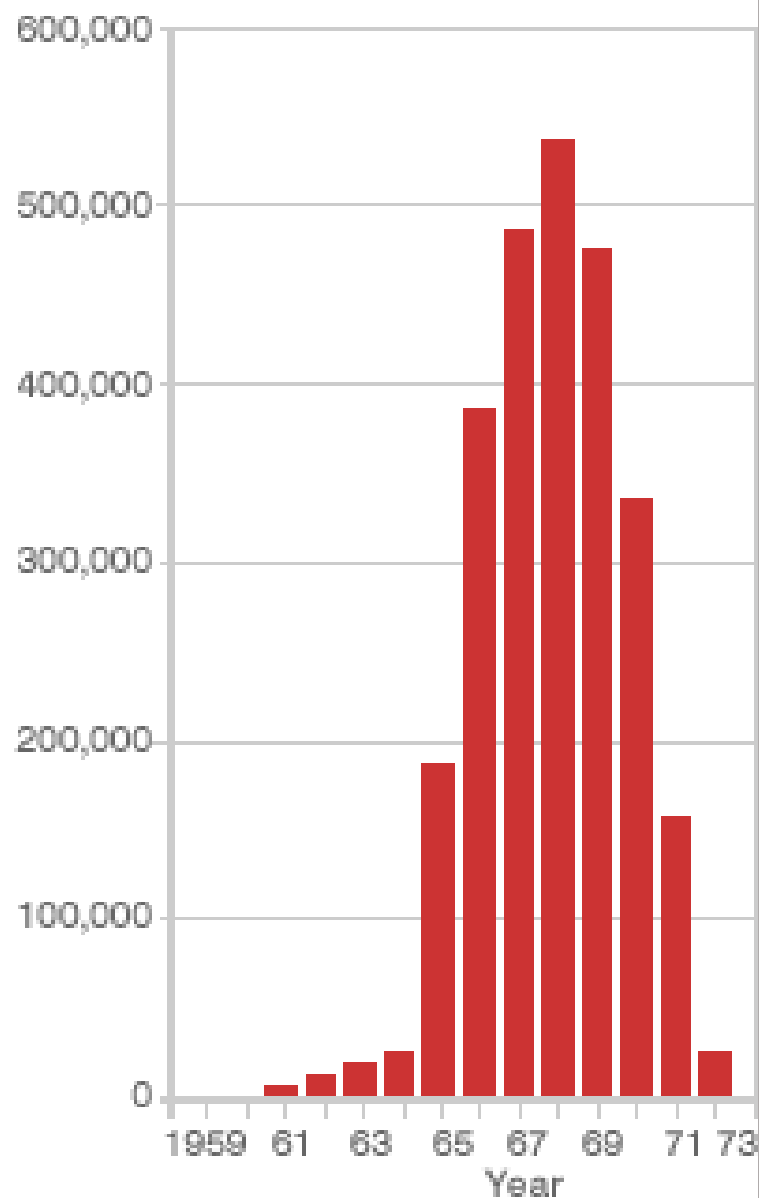
The domino theory was a 20th Century foreign policy theory that speculated if one land in a region came under the influence of Communists, then more would follow in a domino effect.

Reasons for U.S. Involvement

- Domino Theory – fall of one country to communism will cause others to fall



US TROOPS IN VIETNAM



Figures as of 31 Dec of year concerned

SOURCE: U.S. Army War College

What sort of Government was the U.S. supporting?

President Ngo Dinh Diem – Anti-Communist, limits on free speech, cracked down on buddhists



Changing Public Opinion

- **TET Offensive** -1968, Vietcong launched surprise attacks on the major cities - Guerillas Stormed the American Embassy in Saigon (Capital of S. Vietnam)
- Vietcong – Poor farmers (guerillas) - wanted Communism
- **My Lai Massacre** -1968, Violence against civilians during the Vietnam War. American soldiers brutally killed the majority of the population in My Lai. 200-500 unarmed civilian

My Lai Massacre



Fall of Saigon

1973 -Paris Peace Accords - U.S. withdraws from Vietnam

1974 – North Vietnam Invades South Vietnam

April 1975 – Saigon Falls, Vietnam united under communist government



U.S. Leaves Vietnam

- 1973 – Paris Peace Accords