

Korean war - IB style.

Why did the US get involved?

- US responded to Stalin and Soviet aggression. They thought this was Stalin's ideas.

What was the role of Kim Il Sung?

- Wanted to unify Korean.
- Civil War as a mean.
- Did he see the Cold War angle?
- Kim Il Sung wanted the the war and went to Stalin for permission.
 - So it was not initiated by Stalin.

What was the role of Stalin?

- Changed mind was initially against it.
 - Why?
 - More hopeful about the global spread of communism after China.
 - He had now the nuclear bomb.
 - The west was facing economic problems in Europe.
 - He wanted to use Korea as a counterweight to US influence over Japan.
 - Stalin was acting on a hunch after Secretary of State Acheson made his "Perimeter speech".
 - 1950/01/12 - "perimeter" speech to National Press Club
 - Japan, Okinawa, Philippines, Aleutians were inside the perimeter to be defended.
 - Formosa and South Korea were outside the perimeter.

What was the Role of Mao Zedong?

- Lukewarm supporter but didn't want to look weak in front of the Soviets.
- Had own plans to invade Taiwan.

Results of the Korean war:

- US feared further Soviet aggressions and:
 - NSC-68 recommended a tripling of the defense budget. This was carried out.
 - NATO was strengthened, Greece and Turkey were brought in.
 - West Germany was rearmed, and the integration of W Germany in NATO got top priority.
 - The War speeded up the process.
- In Asia:
 - US signed the Treaty of San Fransisco with Japan 1952
 - US Economic aid for militarybases.
 - Taiwan was defended by the US.
 - US committed to support other non-communist regimes in Asia.
 - Isolated China.
- It meant a globalization of the Cold War, it had left Europe...

Why didn't the Korean war evolve into a Third world war?

- Intentions of the different parts in the conflict.
- Both sides had access to nuclear bombs.
- The risk of an escalation with the China - Japan connection.

How close was it?