



GENEVA CONVENTION

AFTERMATH OF THE KOREAN WAR

1954

GMUNC

Conference Information

This year, GMUNC will be held in person on **October 19th, 2024** at Gunn High School. Please visit our website which can be found [here](#) for more general conference information, including position paper guidelines.

The deadline for position papers is **October 12th, at 11:59 PM**. All delegates who wish to be considered for awards should submit their position paper by this date, and, as a result, are eligible for *all* awards. **October 16th, at 11:59 PM**, is the final deadline for position papers to be considered for all awards *except research awards*. Please keep these deadlines in mind when working on position papers. Furthermore, when submitting position papers, please title your email as *[Delegate Name] Position Paper Submission*. If titled differently, position papers may be disregarded and not considered for awards.

Should you need an extension, please send us an email with your character name, how many days you need, and your reason (if applicable). Extension requests should be filed promptly and at least one week before the deadline to be considered. Please direct all questions, position paper submissions, and extension requests to historical.gmunc@gmail.com.

Chair Bios



Head Chair: Anaya Rana

Anaya is a sophomore at Gunn High School and is looking forward to serving as Head Chair for GMUNC. Previously, she attended GMUNC as a delegate. Anaya has been an active part of Gunn Model UN serving as the USG of Outreach and Membership, and has been involved in Model UN since seventh grade. She enjoys volunteering at the middle school outreach programs, and collaborating with fellow delegates when she attends conferences (some of her favorites include SCVMUN and NHSMUN!). Aside from MUN, you can find Anaya running for the track and cross-country teams at Gunn, practicing clarinet, and interning with the California Department of Public Health! She looks forward to meeting all delegates at GMUNC soon!



Co-Chair: Alessia Ilari

Alessia is currently a senior who embarked on her Model United Nations journey in her junior year of high school after discovering a profound passion for politics and history. Her fascination with global affairs was deepened by her multilingual abilities. She has participated in multiple conferences such as NHSMUN and is excited to transmit what she has learned through her position as co-chair. Alessia's curiosity and ambition have pushed her to channel her enthusiasm for cultural exchange and empowerment into co-founding a nonprofit organization. Additionally, Alessia loves swimming in the ocean and collecting the trash in it.

Letter from Chairs

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to GMUNC XI! We're excited to introduce you to the 1954 Geneva Conference committee, specifically focusing on the Korean War. Keep in mind that GMUNC is a novice conference, and a review of parliamentary procedure will be held at the start of the committee. As such, do your best to include all delegates throughout the duration of our committee.

In 1954, The Korean War reached a stalemate but tensions were still simmering across the peninsula. Although the armistice effectively put an end to most major fighting, clashes between the two countries were high. The Geneva Conference was set to take place in April of 1954 and major world powers were expected to be present, tasked with solving the Indochina conflicts and resolving the aftermath of the Korean War. As it later turned out, a lasting solution proved to be elusive. The US, China, and USSR, to name a few, disputed on communism, security, and how reunification should take place. And, although both North and South Korea agreed that reunification should take place, they each wanted to see it done on their own terms. The end result? A divided Korean peninsula with no future plans to unify.

This brings us to our committee session. You will be tasked with settling the outcomes of the Korean War and considering future paths for reunification. Although multifaceted, this committee promises fruitful discussions, compromises, and results, and we can't wait to hear your ideas.

Warm regards,

Anaya Rana

Alessia Ilari

Map of the conflict:

Please note that the 38th parallel marks the division of North and South Korea, and currently acts as the border of the two respective countries. All delegates should consider security interests regarding the various borders of North and South Korea and how political stances during World War II relate to this.



Committee Background:

Historical Context:

Following the end of World War II, Korea faced several tensions largely exacerbated by their division along the 38th parallel. This division represented more than just a physical border, but two different governments with largely varying ideas. The leaders of North and South Korea at the time wanted unification, yet they both wanted it to be done on their own terms, and under their respective rules. On the one hand, Syngman Rhee –Korea’s president at the time– was anti-communist, and believed that South Korea was the rightful government of Korea as a whole. Throughout his presidency, he strongly championed this belief, which was a contributing factor to the start of World War II. North Korea’s leader, Kim II-Sung, on the other hand, wanted Korea to reunify by force, and, as such, invaded South Korea in 1950.



The invasion of South Korea in 1950

marked the start of the Korean War, one that would end up being unresolved.

Although both sides exerted military force on the other, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 83 stated North Korea’s actions were a breach of peace, and supported South Korea in their endeavors

to bring about peace. The US also publicly showed their support, and helped establish the Pusan Perimeter, which prevented any future invasions from North Korea. It’s estimated that an average of 2.5 million people died (3), as a result of fighting between the two governments. Shortly after President Eisenhower’s inauguration in 1953, an armistice was signed effectively stopping the

Korean War. Although this stalemate resulted in fighting coming to an end, hostility is still present today.

In April 1954, the Geneva Conference began in Switzerland. It was intended to resolve any remaining issues from both the Korean War and the First Indochina War. Representatives from the US, Great Britain, and China amongst others, came together to form solutions (5). As the Geneva Conventions were written in 1949, the Korean War proved to be a worthy test of the new rules of war.

As major powers such as the US, China, and the Soviet Union gathered to discuss future plans for reunification in Korea, they failed to reach an agreement (6). The US largely



supported South Korea and, as such, was anti-communist. China, who was newly communist at the time, wanted to be on good terms with North Korea, due to their shared border. For China, a good relationship with North Korea was imperative for their own security. The ideologies of communism were also present in both countries, which was another reason China publicly showed its support. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, also supported North Korea (6) due to shared communist ideologies. While the 1954 Geneva Conference did provide space for all representatives to discuss the impacts of the Korean War, it largely failed due to conflicting beliefs. In other words, China and the USSR were allied, yet the US had different ideas for how both sides of Korea should approach reunification.

Current situation:

The Korean Peninsula remains divided currently. The demilitarized zone, also referred to as the DMZ, marks the separation of the two countries (and roughly follows the 38th parallel). The areas further north and south of the DMZ remain heavily controlled (7) with both countries stationing troops there.

Efforts to reconcile and negotiate peace between the two Koreas have occurred sporadically over the decades, with varying degrees of success. Historic summits have been held, such as the inter-Korean summits of 2000, 2007, and 2018, where leaders from both sides met to discuss peace and cooperation. However, tensions often flare up due to North Korea's nuclear weapons program and military provocations, leading to a cyclical pattern of thawing and freezing relations.

In recent years, there have been notable, albeit



limited, steps toward reducing tensions. For instance, in 2018, both Koreas agreed to begin dismantling some guard posts within the DMZ and to conduct joint searches for remains of soldiers from the Korean War. Despite these efforts, the fundamental issues underlying the division remain unresolved, and the Korean Peninsula continues to be a flashpoint in regional and global geopolitics.

Past International Action

The Korean War had a profound impact on the interpretation, application, and development of the Geneva Conventions. It highlighted the need for more comprehensive protections for prisoners of war and civilians, better implementation of medical care standards, and the importance of robust compliance mechanisms. The war served as a catalyst for subsequent international humanitarian law advancements, including the Additional Protocols of 1977, aimed at enhancing the protection of individuals during armed conflicts. Therefore the Korean War served as a test for

the new laws that were put into place. In other words, the Korean War tested the application of these conventions, especially concerning the treatment of prisoners of war (POWs) and civilians. Issues of compliance, enforcement, and interpretation arose, highlighting the need for



clearer guidelines and more robust enforcement mechanisms.

The United Nations has played a significant role in supporting the endeavors of the South Korean government. On June 25, 1950, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 82, condemning North Korean aggression and calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and withdrawal of North Korean forces. Subsequently, Resolution 83 on June 27 authorized member states to provide military assistance to South Korea. The UN Command (UNC) was also

established to coordinate the military response. This command was led primarily by the United States, with contributions from several other UN member nations, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Turkey, Australia, and others.

Possible Solutions

As this is a crisis committee, we encourage all delegates to be creative and thoughtful with their solutions. Expect for the story to change at any time, and be prepared to think up new solutions quickly. The Dias highly smiles upon diplomacy and international cooperation in this committee. However, we recognize individual character's personal goals for the conference, and encourage all delegates to preserve their original interests.

The goal of our committee is not necessarily to unify the Koreas, but to approach all sides of the conflict to see what can be done. This means starting with discussions to gauge the general perspectives each character has, and then going on from there. As this is a crisis committee, all delegates should expect for the outcome to be unpredictable, however, they should take actions to promote diplomacy and reunification. Furthermore, we strongly emphasize that all delegates should, at all times, stay true to their character. Accurate representation is critical in this committee, and we hope to see all delegates thoroughly embracing their roles!

Character Background:

The following characters were all important figures at the time of the Geneva Conference in 1954. Should you have any questions about your specific character that you are unable to find answers to on the internet, it is acceptable to make a guess. Please email your chairs if you have any questions regarding this. Lastly, please be creative when it comes to your characters!

Anthony Eden: Served as the Foreign Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom from 1951-1955, and was a key individual in the Geneva Conference of 1954. Paved the way for negotiations between North and South Korea, and held office as Prime Minister shortly following the conference. He was a critical figure in the conference, and played a large role ensuring diplomacy, and representing Britain.

John G. Tahourdin: Acted as the Head of the Southeast Asia Department, British Foreign Office. He was a key figure in resolving conflict, and was a critical decision maker in the conference regarding Korea's efforts for reunification. Although not much is known about him, we can assume he played an important role in Britain's delegation.

Harold Macmillan: Was the UK Prime Minister from 1957 to 1963, and was a British statesman and Conservative politician before assuming his role of Prime Minister. He was a key figure in negotiations, both regarding the Korean War and Indochina Conflicts. He was seen as a powerful and influential leader of the UK, and was remembered as a thoughtful, diplomacy-centered member of the United Kingdom Delegation.

Harold Caccia: A prominent British Diplomat, Caccia played a large role in advising the British Delegation at the 1954 Geneva Conference. At the time of the conference, he served as the Ambassador to Austria, and shortly following this, the Ambassador to the United States. He then adopted the role of Permanent Under-Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs, from 1962 to 1965. He is also referred to as Sir Caccia, or The Lord Caccia, because of his commitment to Britain's prosperity.

James Cable: Also referred to as Sir James Cable, he served as a diplomat and a member of the British Foreign Office's Southeast Asia Department. As such, he likely played a role in negotiations and the potential reunification of the Koreas. Later in life, he served as the British Ambassador to Finland, from 1975 to 1980. Because he was not a top official, he likely looked up to Macmillan and Caccia at the time of the Geneva Conference.

Zhang Wentian: Served as a politician and a leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Was well known for his involvement in international conflicts, including the Korean War, and World War II. In 1951, Wentian drafted a list of proposals regarding the Korean War, and presented these to the Central Government. It's worth noting that his analysis and continued investment in international affairs is largely what helped him advance in the CCP and gain more power.

Zhou Enlai: Served as the Premier of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Held the most power in the Chinese Delegation, and was a key decision maker at the conference. Keep in mind that Enlai assumed his rule as Premier shortly after the conference ended, yet was the Chinese

Foreign Minister during the Geneva Conference. He was a highly trained, strategic diplomat who focused on conflicts in Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea, and the Soviet Union.

Deng Xiaoping: Acted as the Vice Premier of the PRC, and assisted Enlai with all foreign matters. Expect for his point of view to be very similar, if not identical, to that of Enlai's, as they held similar positions. Xiaoping was later the head of the CCP's Organization Department, and was a member of the Central Military Commission, both of which led to him working for Mao Zedong's anti-rightist movement in 1957.

Chen Yi: Served as a Chinese communist military commander, and was the Mayor of Shanghai at the time of the Geneva Conference. Through his negotiations, diplomacy, and commitment to China's prosperity, he ascended to the role of Vice Premier, although, at the time of the conference he did not have this title. As such, he was supervised by both Xiaoping and Enlai.

Kim Il-Sung: North Korean politician, and the founder of North Korea, Kim Il-Sung was a highly respected leader in North Korea. He led the country as the Supreme Leader from 1948 until his death, decades later. His legacy continues on today, and he is widely celebrated across the country. He advocated for reunification, however, he wanted it done on his own terms, and this led to forceful military action.

Kim Yong-ju: Was Kim Il-Sung's younger brother, and we can likely infer that he played a large role in decision making. Kim Yong-ju was a politician, and rose in power in the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, also known as the WPK Central Committee. This

functioned as the bridge between the Workers Party and government. Except for his stance to be nearly identical to that of his older brother's.

Nam II: Originally rose to power as a military officer, and co-signer of the Korean Armistice Agreement. Later served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Korea. He worked closely with Kim II-Sung, although did not have nearly as much power. We can assume that he was largely in favor of reunification through force based on his military position, and close ties with top leaders.

Pak Hon-yong: Acted as the Vice Chairman of the WPK Central Committee, and was closely tied with Kim Yong-ju. Pak Hon-yong was also one of the main leaders of the Korean Communist movement during Japan's rule in the early twentieth century. He worked directly with Kim II-Sung, however, was arrested in 1953 shortly before the Geneva Conference, and was later sentenced to death in 1955.

V. M. Molotov: Served as the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was also the Premier of the Soviet Union at the time of the conference. He was one of Stalin's closest allies, yet it's worth noting that Molotov was publicly criticized by Stalin in 1952. After the death of Stalin in 1953, he struggled to fight against Khrushchev's de-Stalinization policies, and eventually joined a coup a few years later. His perspectives were largely shaped by Stalin, and he supported North Korea's forceful approach.

S.P. Suzdalev: Served as the Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, yet not much else is known. He was, however, directly tied to Molotov, and worked with the KWP Central Committee during the Korean War.

Andrei Gromyko: Served as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs during the time of the Geneva Conference. He was supervised directly by Stalin, and, as such, maintained little power, yet he did play a crucial role in the Geneva Conference. Because of his various roles that had him stationed around the world, he maintained a relatively diplomatic stance regarding international affairs, unlike Stalin.

Nikita Khrushchev: Acted as the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and played a large role in negotiations at the time of the Geneva Conference. His role was directly preceded by Stalin himself, however, Khrushchev shocked the communist world when he led policies aimed at de-Stalinization and restoring peace. Expect his point of view to be somewhat consistent with that of Molotov, however please note that he will have varying ideas about Stalinism (since the Geneva Conference was after the death of Stalin).

Syngman Rhee: Was the First President of South Korea, and led the country through the entirety of the Korean War, including the armistice itself. He had the most responsibility when it came to South Korea's stance in the Geneva Conference, and can be described as somewhat authoritative. The period in which Rhee was president saw limited economic development, and later, public opposition. It's worth noting that Rhee maintained a strong sense of commitment to South Korea throughout his life, even past the end of his presidency.

Paik Sun-yup: Served as a General and Military leader during the Korean War, and also maintained some political power. He is best known for his commendable service to South Korea during the war, and for his work as a diplomat and statesman. He worked directly with Rhee, however, maintained less power than most other political leaders at the time.

Chung II-Kwon: Held a variety of roles including Prime Minister, Foreign Minister of South Korea, and Ambassador to France, the United States, and Turkey. At the time of the Geneva Conference, General Chung II-Kwon was in a lower divisional command, yet still had a large influence being a military commander. He worked with Paik Sun-yup during his time in the military.

Pyon Yong-Tae Served as the Prime Minister of South Korea from 1952 to 1954, while the Geneva Conference was underway. Most notably, he signed the Mutual Defense Treaty between South Korea and the United States in 1953, marking a turning point in the Korean War. Note that his position was abolished shortly after, as South Korea switched to the second Republic of Korea.

James A. Van Fleet: Commander of the 8th US Army, Fleet was a US Army officer who oversaw service during the Korean War, and helped command United Nations forces that aided South Korea. He maintained unwavering support to South Korea, and ensured that all boots on the ground support was consistent. He is best remembered for his leadership, strategy, and consistent support.

Douglas MacArthur: Held the position of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in the Pacific, and served as a military leader. General MacArthur was widely remembered for his role in the Pacific Theater in World War II. Expect for his point of view to be nearly identical to that of Fleet.

John Foster Dulles: Served as the United States Secretary of State from 1953 to 1959, and was one of the most influential US leaders at the time. Though Dulles was not present at the Geneva Conference, his input was highly valued, and he agreed with supporting South Korea.

Guiding Questions:

Please use these questions to aid your writing process, and plan to refer to them during committee. These are general goals our committee could adopt, which does not mean we will necessarily discuss each of the following questions. Chairs will be looking for aspects of the following questions in your position papers.

- Should the committee embrace communist ideas that largely prevented the reunification of North and South Korea during the 1954 Geneva Conference?
- Should the committee pursue a unified Korea, and, if so, what steps can be taken to ensure the long-term success of this?
- How can the committee approach the varying ideologies the US, China, and the USSR have regarding Korea's division?

Bibliography:

1. “Historical Documents - Office of the Historian.” *State.gov*, 2024, history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1955-57v05/persons. Accessed 31 Aug. 2024.
2. History.com Editors. “Geneva Conference .” *HISTORY*, 21 Feb. 2019, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/geneva-conference-begins.
3. Millett, Allan R. “Korean War.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Britannica, 29 May 2019, www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War.
4. The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. “Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) | Definition, Facts, & Pictures.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 3 May 2017, www.britannica.com/place/demilitarized-zone-Korean-peninsula.
5. ---. “Kim Il-Sung | Biography & Facts.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 4 Mar. 2019, www.britannica.com/biography/Kim-Il-Sung.
6. United Nations Command. “History of the Korean War.” *Unc.mil*, 2020, www.unc.mil/History/1950-1953-Korean-War-Active-Conflict/.
7. National Archives. “Korean War | Eisenhower Presidential Library.” *Www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov*, 2024, www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/research/online-documents/korean-war#:~:text=After%20five%20years%20of%20simmering.
8. TIME. “Soviet Union: The Hard-Liner.” *TIME*, nextgen, 8 Feb. 1982, time.com/archive/6699018/soviet-union-the-hard-liner/. Accessed 10 Sept. 2024.
9. van Dijk, Boyd. “Revisiting the History of the Geneva Conventions.” *Humanitarian Law & Policy Blog*, 17 Feb. 2022, blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2022/02/17/history-geneva-conventions/.

10. PBS. "The Korean War | American Experience | PBS." *Www.pbs.org*,
www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/bomb-korean-war/.
11. "The Inter-Korean Summit, in Summary." *Stratfor*, 2018,
worldview.stratfor.com/article/inter-korean-summit-north-korea-south-us. Accessed 10
Sept. 2024.
12. National Army Museum. "Korean War | National Army Museum." *Nam.ac.uk*, 2017,
www.nam.ac.uk/explore/korean-war .