The Korean War

1. Introduction
   4 factors
   --role of the third party actors
   --role of ideology
   --misperceptions
   --nuclear diplomacy

2. The Partition of Korea, 1945
   --pre-history (Korea in the Sino-Japanese War; Russo-Japanese War, Theodore Roosevelt, Wilson and the Paris Peace Conference)
   --38th Parallel/Kim Il-sun and Syngman Rhee
   --Could a unified Korea have been created?

3. Outbreak of the Korean War: June 25, 1950
   Who started the war? Orthodox vs Revisionism
   Kim Il-sung’s plea to Stalin for invasion, 1949, Stalin’s rejection
   Importance of the Chinese Revolution
   Acheson’s speech in January 1950
   Stalin’s final consent and his conditions
   Mao’s position
   North Koreans’ military preparations, and invasion

4. US Reaction
   Truman’s reaction
   UN Security Council Resolution: Why did Stalin decide to be absent without excersizing a veto?
   US deployment of troops in Korea (initial defeat)
   Atomic diplomacy: dispatch of bombers to the Pacific
   Douglas MacArthur’s Inchon landing
   From containment to roll back: US decision to cross the 38th Parallel

5. Chinese Intervention
   China’s warning to US not to cross the 38th Parallel
   Kim Il-sung’s plea to Stalin; Stalin’s plea to Mao to intervene
   CCP Politburo split, but Mao’s decision to send volunteers
   Stalin’s promise to have the air-cover for the Chinese, but reneged
   China’s tactics, and MacArthur’s mistake
   Mao’s decision to cross the 38th Parallel
   Acheson’s “Strategy for Freedom” speech
   Truman’s decision to deploy atomic weapons in Guam
   MacArthur’s decision to employ atomic weapons in Chinese targets
   Truman fires MacArthur
   Stalemate

6. Impact of the Korean War
   German rearmament
   Japanese independence (San Francisco Peace Treaty)
   NSC-68 implemented