Comparing Historical Accounts of the Korean War

South Korean Text

The South Korean text claimed that North Korea launched the war on June 25, 1950, after a failed peaceful negotiation.

The South Korean text gave background information about the secret alliances among North Korea, the Soviet Union, and China and about how the Soviet Union and China supported North Korean forces.

The South Korean text revealed that South Korea was undergoing economic and political crises before the war. As a result, it needed UN assistance in its fight against North Korea.

Similarities

Both texts noted that the Korean War was fought at the 38th parallel.

Seoul, South Korea, was lost to Chinese and North Korean forces during the war but was retaken later by UN forces.

Both texts noted their own troops' courageous fighting and the heavy losses sustained on the enemy side.

Both texts made their own countries the center of the account and cast them in a positive light.

U.S. Text

The U.S. text claimed that the UN intervened on June 27, 1950.

The U.S. text highlighted the U.S. control over the war: General McArthur and four-fifths of the UN troops were Americans.

The U.S. text revealed how the Chinese threatened World War III if UN troops did not withdraw from Seoul.

The U.S. text noted that the Chinese sent in a large number of troops to fight for North Korea and, as a result, UN forces restricted their fight to the 38th parallel.

Created by Yu Ren Dong to accompany "Linking to Prior Learning," *Educational Leadership, 66*(7), 26–31.