**II. Cold War Heats Up**

* World War III was prevented during the Cold War
* However, around 20 million people around the world lost their lives because of Cold War aggression

A. Korean War (1950-1953)

* **June 1950 –** Communist North Korea attacked South Korea
* Supplied with Soviet and Chinese tanks, guns, and airplanes
* President Truman and the United Nations decided to help South Korea resist communism
* **Douglas MacArthur -**
* **September 1950** – MacArthur launched a surprise attack on North Korea
* American forces were able to takeover most of North Korea
* **1951 –** Communist China send 300,000 troops into North Korea
* Push the Americans back
* MacArthur called for a nuclear attack against China
* President Truman rejects his idea
* Truman fired MacArthur, after MacArthur tried to take his case to the press

B. War Ends

* **1952 –** UN forces were able to regain South Korea
* **July 1953 –** A cease-fire agreement was signed
* **38th Parallel –**
* Created a demilitarized zone that still exists today

C. Vietnam War

* **French Indochina –**
* France wanted to regain these colonies after WWII
* Vietnamese nationalist and communist joined forces to defeat the French in 1954
* **Domino Theory –**

* Major justification for U.S. involvement in Vietnam

D. U.S. Gets Involved

* **North Vietnam –**
* **South Vietnam –**
* **Ho Chi Minh –**
* **1964 –** President Lyndon Johnson told Congress that North Vietnam attack U.S. in Gulf of Tokin
* **1968 –** ½ million U.S. troops were in Vietnam
* American forces were the best equipped in the world
* **Vietcong –**
* U.S. forces were not able to win decisive battles or gain land

E. War’s End

* War became very unpopular in the U.S.
* Many people protested to bring American troops home
* **Richard Nixon –**
* **1973 –** North Vietnam overran South Vietnam and the entire country fell to Communism
* Domino theory was proven invalid because no other nations succumbed to communism