Korea

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At the Cairo Conference in December, 1943, between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Generalissimo Chiang, the famous Cairo Declaration was issued. It stated that the three powers, "in virtue of the enslavement of the people of Korea, are determined that in no event Korea shall become free and independent.

This premise was reaffirmed at the Potsdam Conference attended by President Truman, Prime Minister Attlee, and Marshall Stalin when the three agreed that "the terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out.

Following this the Russians stated in their declaration of war against Japan, 8 August 1945, that, "Due to the obligations as an Ally, the Soviet Government has accepted the proposal of the Allies and has joined in the declaration of the Allied Powers of July 26 (the Potsdam Declaration)."

This was another way of saying that the Soviet was committed to favoring independence for Korea.

Japan's collapse now proved acute. Her offer of surrender came two days later on 10 August making it imperative that the United States, which had borne the brunt of the Pacific fighting and its Allies make speedy arrangements to accept the surrender of Japanese forces in the Pacific and Asiatic theatres, including Korea. As regards the latter inquiry, the surrender arrangements embodied in the celebrated General No. 1 provided that Japanese forces north of 36 degrees north latitude should surrender to the Russians whereas those to the south of this line were to capitulate to the Americans. It should be noted that the first Russian forces entered Korea on 15 August at a time when the Asian American available Koreans were on Okinawa, 600 miles away, and in the Philippines, over 1,000 miles distant.

With this in mind as well as the fact that the Korean capital, Seoul, would fall into the American zone of receiving surrendered Japanese, General MacArthur on 2 September, however, requested General Douglas MacArthur to remove the American occupation of Korea. This was based on the American occupation of Japan. This was based on the American occupation of Japan.