CNN: “Korea 1949-1953” Viewing Questions

Link to Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0gNnUMgV84

1. Why and how was Korea divided at the 38th parallel after WWII?

2. According to the eyewitnesses, how did the North’s Kim Il Sung plan to unify the two Koreas?

3. Why did Stalin reject Kim’s requests in March of 1949? How did the changes by the end of 1949 affect Stalin’s decisions? Why did Stalin decide to support the North Korean invasion?

4. How does North Korean soldier Yan Von Sik describe North Korea’s war goals?

5. According to the video, why did the United States take the North Korean invasion to the UN instead of acting on its own?

6. Using the comment by Han Pyo Wook, what did the South Koreans hope would happen as a result of the UN resolution? Compare this statement with that of Kim Ren Ok of North Korea, how do their goals compare?

7. According to Niles Bond, what were the US assumptions about the Soviet Union’s role in the invasion of South Korea?
8. What can you infer about what might have been Western European concerns at the outset of the invasion of South Korea?

9. Based on eyewitness accounts, describe America’s readiness for the Korean War.

10. Describe General MacArthur’s gamble to turn the tide of the war.

11. How do eyewitnesses describe the South Korean president, Syngman Rhee?

12. Compare the reaction of the US soldier and the South Korean as they describe moving north across the 38th parallel. What can you infer from this comparison?

13. Why do you think the Chinese became concerned about American and UN forces in North Korea?

14. Why do you think that the Soviet Union did not enter the Korean War but that Stalin urged Mao to enter the war?

15. What was America’s reaction to Chinese intervention?