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Korean War Almanac (Almanacs of American Wars)

By Paul M. Edwards



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The Korean War was the first "hot war" of the Cold War, the first "police action" undertaken by the United States under the aegis of the United Nations, and the first war to be overshadowed by the menace of nuclear conflagration. It has been called America's "forgotten war," but it had a profound impact on East-West relations and America's foreign and military policies. Offering a wealth of information, "Korean War Almanac" contains a day-by-day chronology of the events and the people involved in this important war. Alphabetically arranged entries bring the period to life by vividly describing the people, types of weaponry employed, and many other interesting details relevant to this study. Nearly 70 photographs and maps illustrate the engaging text, and an extensive bibliography aids further research.



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Editorial Review

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The Korean War was definitely an unpopular and unwanted war. Author Edwards, who has written numerous books on the Korean War and is the executive director of the Center for the Study of the Korean War at Graceland University, has brought together in one place information on an undeclared war that began and ended more than 50 years ago with only a cease-fire and no declaration of peace.

Chronology entries actually begin with events from 2333 B.C. (founding of the Kingdom of Old Choson) up to the start of hostilities (June 25, 1950). At that point, the chronology becomes day-to-day through July 26, 1953, the date of the cease-fire. Postwar events are then listed through 2005. Brief entries for each day are organized under six subheadings: "Political/Administrative," "Eighth Army," "X Corps," "Sea War," "Air War," and "Partisans." Both Korean and Japanese names are used in cases where the Japanese name is the most common one.

Following the chronology are brief biographies of 128 leaders who had an influence on and role in the war. Further sections offer information on weaponry and participating countries as well as a glossary of terms. Appendixes provide interesting statistical information for both the casual and serious researcher on subjects such as Medal of Honor winners, troop commitments by nation, and aces of the Korean War. The bibliography lists individual works as well as primary collections and Web sites. Black-and-white photographs and maps give the reader a visual reference. The index is extensive, although two terms the reviewer expected to find, *MASH* and *DMZ*, are not included. Both are listed in the glossary, but the only way to find them in the main text is by reading entries.

Intended for grades 9 and up, this volume would certainly be an excellent purchase for a high-school or public library. Although it is not an in-depth work, academic libraries might also consider its purchase because of its low cost. *kaye talley*

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About the Author

PAUL M. EDWARDS is Professor Emeritus and the Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Korean War on Graceland University's Independence, Missouri, campus. Among his publications are *The Hill Wars of the Korean Conflict* (2006); *A to Z of the Korean War* (2005); *The Korean War: A Historical Dictionary* (2003); *The Korean War: A Documentary History* (1999); *A Guide to Films of the Korean War* (1997); and *The Inchon Landing, Korea* (1994). Dr. Edwards is a veteran of the Korean War.

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