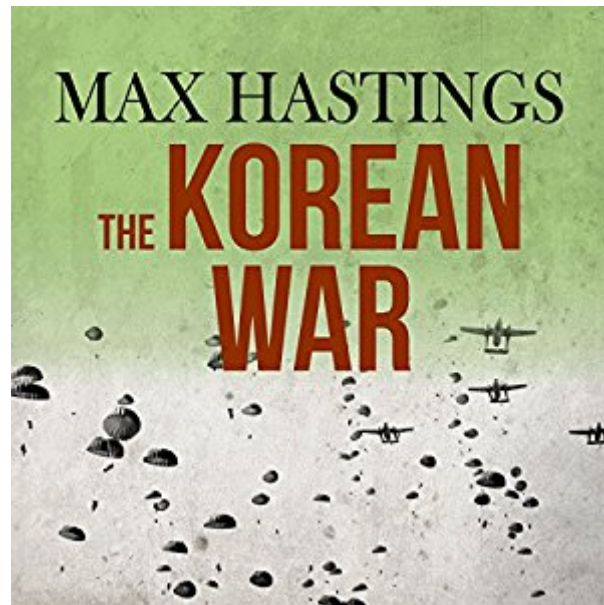


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# The Korean War



## Synopsis

On 25 June, 1950, the invasion of South Korea by the Communist North launched one of the bloodiest conflicts of the last century. The seemingly limitless power of the Chinese-backed North was thrown against the ferocious firepower of the UN-backed South in a war that can be seen today as the stark prelude to Vietnam. Max Hastings drew on first-hand accounts of those who fought on both sides to produce this vivid and incisive reassessment of the Korean War, bringing the military and human dimensions into sharp focus. Critically acclaimed on publication, *The Korean War* remains the best narrative history of this conflict.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It was quite a sad story but, vividly told and expertly written by Hastings. It would have to be THE reference for anyone researching or just wanting to know more about the Korean war. It totalled 476 pages in length with sections on the origins of the dating way back as far as the turn of the century with plenty of references to the Japanese and the march into Manchuria during the thirties. It showed, even in the 'early days' before WW2 that Korea was a very torn country indeed. It had the story of significant individuals that saved the country from becoming completely Chinese communism by describing some of the heroics of General 'Bulldog' Walker, Paul Freeman and 'Iron Mike' Colonel John Michealis that should never be forgotten. Hastings, rightly pointed out that if wasn't for a few quite heroic US officers, the outcome of the Korean war would have been quite different indeed. It also discussed MacArthur persistence to not only reach to reach Seoul but, then to the go on and cross way over to the "38th parallel" with the intent to push all the way back to China! There's the predicted and underestimated response by the US when the Chinese retaliated

and the eventual dismissal of MacArthur in 1950. Hastings gave good credence to the Intelligence service, the air force, the prisoners taken on both sides and also to many civilians that were involved in the war. He gave amazing surreal narrative accounts of the poor civilians during that time. It was so realistic that it felt that you were walking side by side next to that person on the road behind the front line. But, his descriptions of MacArthur were very disturbing indeed. Not because Hastings was trying to castigate MacArthur, but because MacArthur himself became obsessive, delusional and out of touch.

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