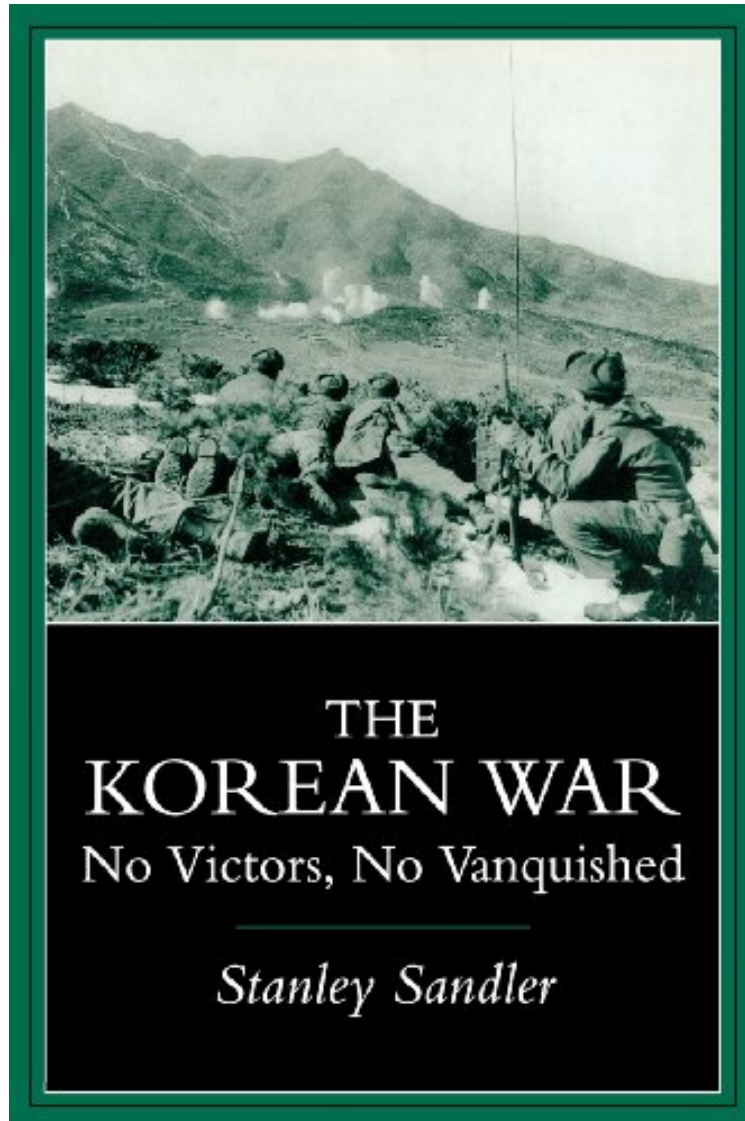


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## The Korean War: No Victors, No Vanquished

*Stanley Sandler*

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**Stanley Sandler : The Korean War: No Victors, No Vanquished** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Korean War: No Victors, No Vanquished:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. like every other book on the Korean War By norsk This book, like every other book on the Korean War, implies that the conflict fizzled out in Jul 1953. While the author highlights the Battle of Pork Chop Hill and indicates the Chinese conducted a series of offensives in Jun, Sandler makes no mention of the Battle of Kumsong in July 1953, which was the fiercest of the Chinese offensives since 1951. This book,

supposedly about the "Forgotten War," helps keep the memory of the most "Forgotten Battle" of the War, forgotten by history. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A very good survey book on the Korean War By Joel R. Stanley Sandler provides the reader with an in-depth look at a very broad range of topics on the Korean War in his work "The Korean War: No Victors, No Vanquished." Sandler covers some new topics I had not seen before, but for what he offers in breadth, he sacrificed the depth of coverage. For a 270-page book, it was a very effective trade-off. Sandler offers insight into the modern history of Korea through the end of World War II, and the series of strategic miscalculations that led to Kim Il Sung's invasion of South Korea. The discussion of the ebb and flow of battle was at the Corps level, with Sandler making examples of units of interest. There are far too many to mention, but two of these examples are the US Marines' 'attack in a different direction' to leave the Chosin Reservoir, and one of the allied contributions, "The Immortal Glousters", whose exploits are highlighted in the outstanding book "The Edge of the Sword", by Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley. From an airpower perspective, his brief discussions on the USAF are both accurate, but not all encompassing. Sandler mentioned that USAF budgetary position, pursued the acquisition of a strategic nuclear bomber force (i.e. the B-36) at the sacrifice of some of the fighter skills learned during World War II. Once the first MiGs were deployed to Korea, Sandler briefly mentions the deployment of the 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing and the latter approval to send 75 more F-86 Sabres. What Sandler omitted from this discussion on Airpower was the overall worldwide strategic context at the time. The USA was still convinced Korea was a feint to draw American forces into Korea, leaving Western Europe without a major contributor to repel a Soviet invasion of Western Europe. With this mindset in place, the USAF was reserving the "front line" F-86 aircraft for service in Germany, not Korea. He mentions this strategy elsewhere, but he failed to include this analysis in his discussion on the aviation contributions. Sandler does provide a very comprehensive discussion on all the contributions of all the United Nations who deployed forces to Korea. He also provides insight into many other sociological issues such as racial integration of American forces, and the situation on the homefront. Sandler also discusses some of the technological innovations (helicopter, medical facilities) that took place during the war. It is by no means a comprehensive book, but overall it is a very good survey book providing the reader with a very broad introduction to the Korean War. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A good, well-rounded introduction to the Korean War By Michael T. Gibbons Stanley Sandler writes a concise and seemingly standard history of the Korean War. This is a well-rounded account, including perspectives on the political issues, negotiations, and reactions on the home fronts. Of course, full accounts of the progressive military campaigns fill out the rest of the book. Sandler does a good job of encapsulating this in 270 pages. He is at times supportive and at times critical of the U.S. and U.N. effort in Korea. The same can be said of the personalities involved on all sides, except for both Kim Il Sung and Syngman Rhee who were determined to pursue the war to disastrous ends. But, like the conflict itself, this book is not inspiring. Not that the author or his writing lack inspiration. The book does what it sets out to do. It provides a detailed account of the contentious and uncertain time. Yet, Sandler didn't seem to offer much new information in his text besides some perspective on Stalin's motivations from now-available Soviet documents. But, this was relatively minor. The opening of records in P'yongyang one day will provide much new information. In the mean time, Stanley Sandler's offering is a good place to start. And the impressive bibliography points to many good sources for future reference.

The Korean War has been termed "The Forgotten War" or the "Unknown War." It is a conflict which never assumed the mythic character of the American Civil War or World War II. However, this book asserts, it would be impossible to understand the Cold War and indeed post 1945 global history without knowledge of the Korean War. Providing a history of the Korean peninsula before the war and including a detailed analysis of the fighting itself, The Korean War goes beyond the battlefield to deal with the war in the air, ground attack, and air evacuation. The study also evaluates the contributions of the UN naval forces, the impact of the war on various homefronts and issues such as defectors, opposition to the war, racial segregation and integration, POWs and the media. Recently-released Soviet documents are used to assess the role of China, the Soviet Union, North and South Korea and the allied forces in the conflict. This fascinating work offers a unique analysis of the Korean War and will be invaluable to students of twentieth-century history, particularly those concerned with American and Pacific history.

From Library Journal The Korean War broke out almost 50 years ago, an unpleasant surprise to the American people and the occasion of a good deal of criticism of the American military. Chinese and Russian documents recently made public have shed new light on battlefield decisions. Benefiting from this newly declassified material as well as established sources, Sandler offers a timely new look at the war. A historian for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and the editor of *The Korean War: An Encyclopedia* (LJ 2/1/96) and *Segregated Skies: The All-Black USAF Units of World War II* (LJ 6/1/92), Sandler concentrates on a chronological narrative of the flow of events but rather confusingly intersperses several chapters on special facets such as the air war and the home fronts. Still, with its up-to-date information and extensive bibliography, this book is highly recommended as a supplement to subject collections. A Edwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army Combined Arms Research Lib., Fort Leavenworth, KS Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Sandler's provocative monograph throws new light on many aspects of

the Korean War and casts doubt on much conventional wisdom. His chronology may be stronger on the diplomatic background, including the history of Korea from the sixteenth century onward, than on military events--he scants such episodes as the rout of the U.S. 2d Infantry Division in late 1950. But, by using Communist documents recently made available, he demonstrates that the North Koreans unquestionably attacked first, that Stalin had serious reservations about aiding the Chinese, that the initial red MIG-15 pilots were Russians, and that the handling of POWs on both sides was disgraceful. Add to those items judicious assessments of all the UN troops (the Americans learned faster and the South Koreans fought better than tradition has it) and a comprehensive scholarly apparatus, and Sandler unquestionably and notably augments the literature on a conflict that decisively affected the ultimate outcome of the cold war and the fate of Korea. Roland Green "Provides a clear, concise, and well-balanced account of the Korean War."?Armor"Provocative. . . . Throws new light on many aspects of the Korean War and casts doubt on much conventional wisdom. . . . Unquestionably and notably augments the literature on a conflict that decisively affected the ultimate outcome of the cold war and the fate of Korea."?Booklist"A welcome addition, especially because of the inclusion of Soviet-era documents that clear up several questions concerning the war."?Bowling Green Daily News"Sandler's excellent book is a single-volume, concise history of the Korean War."?Choice"Brings the history of the war into a single handy volume."?Fayetteville (NC) Observer"Sander has improved on previous short histories of the war with his incorporation of the new archival material."?History"A first-class history of the war."?History Today"Sandler has produced a text that is a contender for the distinction of being the best work in this narrow field."?Indiana Magazine of History"Chinese and Russian documents recently made public have shed new light on battlefield decisions. Benefiting from this newly declassified material as well as established sources, Sandler offers a timely new look at the war."?Library Journal"Not only gives insight into the war that began in 1950, but points to its relevance in understanding the present situation in North and South Korea."?McCormick Messenger"The book reads smoothly, and the reader will find much that is both useful and . . . thought-provoking."?Parameters"Covers everything you ever wanted to know about the war-torn peninsula of Korea."?Proceedings"Argues that the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union can be traced to President Harry Truman's 1950 decision to send troops to the aid of South Korea."?U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings"A more expert and specialized attention to military detail than most other books on the subject, and it provides insight into many peripheral aspects of the fighting not hitherto explored."?Virginia Quarterly