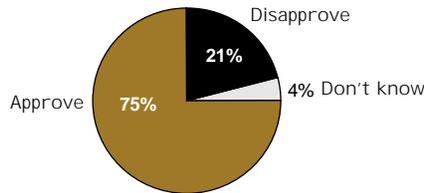


Surveying the Past

Conflicted About Korea

Question:

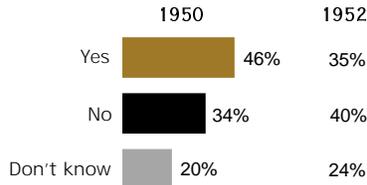
Do you approve or disapprove of the decision to send American troops to stop the communist invasion of South Korea?



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, July 1950.

Question:

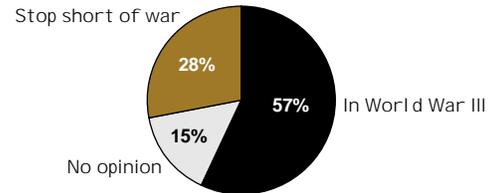
Are you satisfied that our government did all it should have done to keep the communists from invading Korea in the first place?



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, September 1950 and October 1952.

Question:

Do you think the United States is now actually in World War III, or do you think the present fighting in Korea will stop short of another world war?

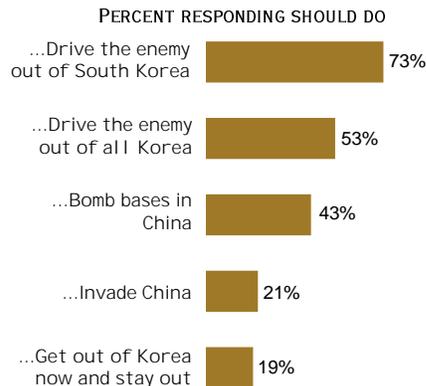


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, July 30-August 4, 1950.

Just five years after the end of World War II, the globe was again in conflict, although this time fighting was confined to the newly divided Korean peninsula. When communist-backed North Korean troops invaded the pro-American South in June 1950, the United Nations, at the behest of the US, voted to repel the attackers. Four months later, as US-led forces pushed into North Korea, the communist Chinese joined the North. After years of bloody attacks and counterattacks, the armistice of 1953 established a buffer zone separating the two Koreas. By that time, support for the war among the American public had become divided as well. Fifty years later, the peninsula is still a powder keg.

Questions:

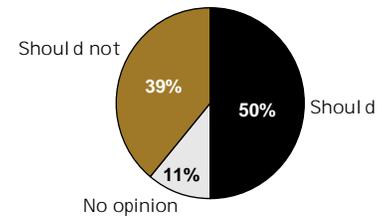
Here is a list of things that might be done in handling the Korean situation. Which of these things do you feel the US should do and which ones shouldn't we do?...



Source: Survey by Survey Research Center, University of Michigan, June 1951.

Question:

Do you think the United Nations forces should or should not use the atom bomb on enemy military targets in Korea?

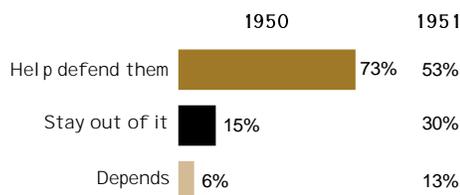


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, November 11-16, 1951.

Worth It?

Question:

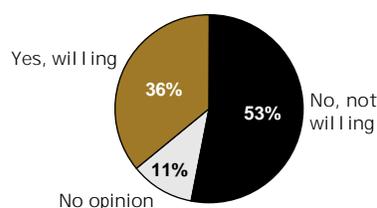
If communist armies attack any other countries in the world, do you think the United States should stay out of it, or should we help defend these countries, like we did in Korea?



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, September 1950 and December 1951.

Question:

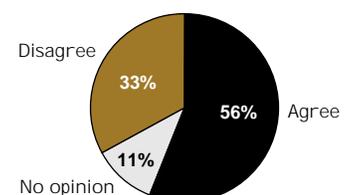
Would you, yourself, be willing to risk your life, or have some member of your family risk his life, to keep the Chinese communists from taking over Korea and other countries in Asia?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, February 4-9, 1951.

Question:

A United States Senator says that the Korean war is an "utterly useless war." Do you agree or disagree with this?

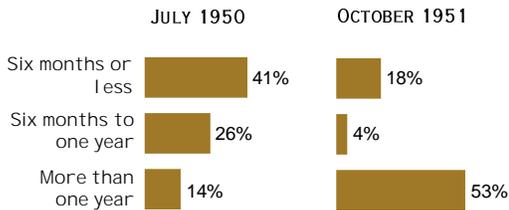


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 14-19, 1951.

Reality Sets In

Question:

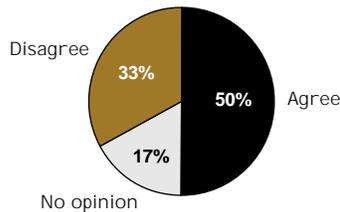
Just your best guess, about how much longer do you think the war in Korea will last?



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, July 9-14, 1950 and October 14-19, 1951.

Question:

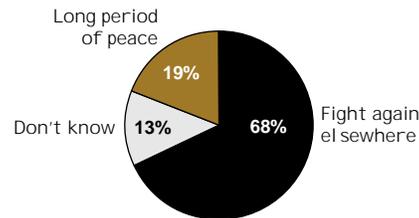
Some people say that under present conditions neither side can win a final military victory in Korea. Do you agree or disagree?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 26-31, 1951.

Question:

Suppose we were to win the war in Korea tomorrow. Do you think we would have a long period of peace then, or would we soon have to fight again somewhere else?

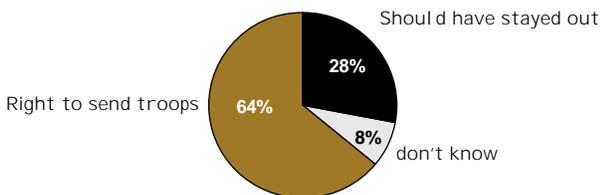


Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, May 1951.

When It Was Over

Question:

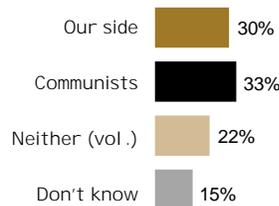
As you look back on the Korean war, do you think the United States did the right thing in sending troops to stop the communist invasion, or should we have stayed out of it entirely?



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, September 1953.

Question:

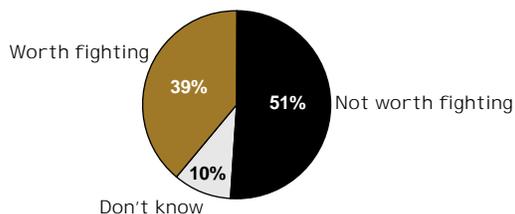
In general, do you feel that the Korean war was more of a success for our side or for the communists?



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, August 22-25, 1953.

Question:

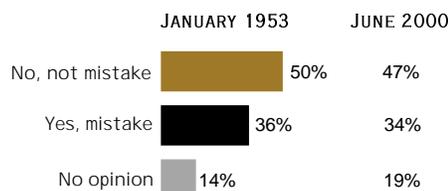
As things stand now, do you feel that the war in Korea was worth fighting, or not?



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, November 1954.

Question:

Do you think the United States made a mistake in going into the war in Korea, or not?



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, January 11-16, 1953 and Gallup/CNN/*USA Today*, June 6-7, 2000.