Reason: Dislike/fear of Communism; protect Japan; military confidence (US virtually destroyed NK resistance below 38th P/followed this up with Seoul recapture/Inchon and other military successes increased US confidence); success heightened McA popularity and his agg viewpoint; thought China and Stalin wouldn’t enter; Truman wanted popularity; “Containment was the chief policy causality of Inchon” - Rees

Aim 3: Chinese intervention and initial success forced Truman to revert to original aim of establishing status quo
Reason: Response to Chinese counter-offensive in late Nov; Chinese strength; UNC weak highlighted as UNC driven back south of 38th P; US troops lacked commitment to war; US worried that if they continued rollback, would provoke Stalin (USSR nuclear in 1949)

General MacArthur

Background:
- Attack on Inchon; Commander of Korea; crossed 38th parallel and wanted to invade China; successful at containment but not rollback.

Did he deserve the sack?

No:
He was a brilliant military strategist = Inchon, clever use of superior airpower technology (50% enemy killed by air-strikes), straightened out army, bad O.C. which was poor and ill trained, crucial WW2 pacific campaigner, numerous medals;
He was an expert in Far Eastern affairs = spent 14 years in US; honours and positions;
Popular patriot = celebrations in NY/SF for his return, ran for president (counter argument: he didn’t get it), anti-communist meant backed by China lobby, Joint Committee on armed forces/foreign relations of US Senate complained (“The circumstances were a shock to the national pride...reasons assigned...were utterly inadequate to justify the act.”)

Yes:
Contribution to Chinese intervention = US ‘think tank’ RAND decided Mao rationally motivated to enter war (not his fault), 24th Oct MacArthur ordered all UN-US troops to Yalu river, publicly demanded US bomb China with nuclear weapons;
Risked world peace = Stalin could have stood up for China, Omar Bradley (“It would have involved us [USA] in the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time against the wrong enemy”);
Made military misjudgements = thought Chinese troops massing behind river was a bluff (“the war is over...the Chinese are not coming”);
Criticised and undermined Truman = when meeting him he offered a handshake, not a salute, criticised limited war demands (stopping at 38th P), didn’t understand Truman’s containment policy (stated “war never before...had [never] been applied piecemeal...that you wage half war...is appeasement” and appeasement, he thought, would lead to WW3);
Misinterpreted/violated orders = 26th June meant to refrain from invading NK but interpreted as not direct prohibition, ordered troops to Yalu river, 1951 Truman trying peace talks, whilst in the background MacA said he would bomb China, Robert Smith, historian, said “[he] crudely, deliberately, with no complete understanding of what would ensue...no one not blinded by hero worship could overlook the arrogance.”;
Truman needed to reinforced civilian superiority in matters of foreign policy = his position as Commander in Chief was violated, MacA insubordination compromised this, decision of Joint Committee on Armed Forces/Foreign Relations of US Senate to overall agreement.
“Long after the last shot is fired, the weeds of hatred will be flourishing in Korea, nourished by blood and bitter memories.”

“Only weeks ago in the region around Seoul and Inchon, people were being killed, dispossessed of land and homes, left to starve, or driven away from all they held dear - because they were not Communists and refused to act like Communists.”

(3) Keyes Beech, *Chicago Daily News* (11th December, 1950)

“So far as the Marines themselves are concerned, they ask that two things be recorded:
1. They didn't break. They came out of Changjin Reservoir as an organized unit with most of their equipment.
2. They brought out all their wounded. They brought out many of their dead. And most of those they didn't bring out they buried.”

(4) Marguerite Higgins, *War in Korea* (1951)

I met the Eighth Army commander. Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker, for the first time when I returned to the front in mid-July after MacArthur had lifted the ban on women correspondents in Korea. General Walker was a short, stubby man of bulldog expression and defiant stance. I wondered if he were trying to imitate the late General George Patton, under whom he served in World War II as a corps commander.

General Walker was very correct and absolutely frank with me. He said he still felt that the front was no place for a woman, but that orders were orders and that from now on I could be assured of absolutely equal treatment.

“If something had happened to you, an American woman,” the general explained, “I would have gotten a terrible press. The American public might never have forgiven me. So please be careful and don't get yourself killed or captured.”

General Walker kept his promise of equal treatment, and from then on, so far as the United States Army was concerned, I went about my job with no more hindrance than the men.

(5) Adlai Stevenson, speech, Louisville (27th September, 1952)

Last Monday General Eisenhower spoke in Cincinnati about Korea. He said that this was a “solemn subject” and that he was going to state the truth as he knew it, “the truth - plain and unvarnished.”

“We are fighting in Korea, the General declares, because the American Government grossly underestimated the Soviet threat; because the Government allowed America to become weak; because American weakness compelled us to withdraw our forces from Korea; because we abandoned China to the communists; and, finally, because we announced to all the world that we had written off most of the. Far East.”

(6) Douglas MacArthur wrote about the arrival of General Matthew Ridgway in his autobiography, *Reminiscences* (1964)

On December 23rd, General Walker was killed in a freak jeep accident. It was a great personal loss to me. It had been "Johnny" Walker who had held the line, with
is surrounded by the Jessups, the Achesons, the old Hiss crowd. Most of the tragic things are done at 1.30 and 2 o’clock in the morning when they’ve had time to get the President cheerful.” While this conflict was taking place in the United States, the Chinese government sent 180,000 men to North Korea. This back-up enabled North Korean forces to take Seoul for a second time in January 1951. U.N. troops eventually managed to halt the invasion sixty miles south of the 38th parallel. A counter-offensive at the end of January gradually recovered lost ground. Once in control of South Korea, representatives of the United Nations began peace talks with the North Korean government on 8th July 1951. An armistice agreement, maintaining the divided Korea, was signed at Panmunjom on 27th July 1953. Over 25,600 American troops were killed during the war and other U.N. contingents lost 17,000 men. It is estimated that including civilians, the Korean War cost the lives of around 4 million people.

How successful was the Korean War for the US?

Successful:

**Contained Communism and Weakened Comm. Countries:** Containment in NK, limiting inhuman spread elsewhere; after armistice Dulles maintained US had made the world ‘infinitely safer’; NK, whilst retaining land, weakened and cities reduced to ‘hollow husks’, army depletion and population impoverished; 1953 armistice reinforced ‘status quo’ detailing Rhee would continue SK leadership and Kim II Sung continue NK; Sung’s aggression contained; Sino-Soviet relationship split as result of the war; USSR position had suffered a setback. US hadn’t supported NK, which led to fall in international credibility; war justified implementation of NSC 68; led to increased recognition of military and international credibility of Comm. China as a warning; Large NK and Chinese casualties= Several million, compared to 33k US and 50k UNC. **Showed US commitment to stand up against Comm., prevent WW3 and strengthened US allies:** US had sent message, after 3 year bloody fighting that it was prepared to make a stand against Communist aggression; Japan became militarily powerful to help reconstruct Japan through military aid through mutual security agreement which allowed US military bases in Japan and island of Okinawa; Japan transformed from enemy to allies in US East Asian Strategy- co operated with Western efforts and served as logistics base, so had economic and military capabilities enhanced= able to negotiate peace treaty with occupation forces and gain independence, experiencing an economic boom as result of need for military technology; Rhee able to set up foundations for Capitalist, Democratic SK; Taiwan's independence maintained; US avoided war with USSR and WW3; US allies in S/E Asia protected; US set up alliances with Australia and New Zealand= ANZUS pact mutually beneficial (US protect A&NZ from resurgent Japan, whilst A&NZ helped US defend Pacific against Comm. Incursions); US-UN prevented overthrow of Rhee’s SK regime and outcome was undoubted if US hadn't been involved in Pusan.

Unsuccessful:

**US didn’t achieve rollback and Korean war showed US weaknesses:** US weaknesses highlighted- quick disenchantment of US public gave confidence to Comm. Leaders that warfare annulling US military’s technological superiority could result in Comm victory; NK gained political strength from apparent surrender of great superpower; rollback had failed and didn’t liberate NK; the war cost Truman his presidency, armaments, military equipment and public support; effected international relations in Asia; highlighted dependence on military technology and unwillingness to see large casualty rates; 4th bloodiest US conflict with 33k casualties. **Increased confidence of Communists and led to increased Cold War tensions:** US liberation failure increased confidence of SE Asian communist movements; reluctance of US to use atomic bomb also did so; NK claimed victory- “in the Korean War, the US imperialists suffered an ignominious military defeat for the first time in the history of the US; this meant the beginning of a downward path for the US imperialism”\(^\text{3}\); war damaged US confidence and increased cold war fears within the US, such as McCarthyism; ascendance of the People's Republic of China on world