

# Military Police Actions



Those little conflicts were not called wars but were anyway.

# Background

**Police action** - In military/security studies and international relations, "police action" is a military action undertaken without a formal declaration of war.

This term was used as far back as 1883 in a conflict between the Netherlands and English according to Wikipedia. The Dutch term [\*politieonele acties\*](#) (police actions) was used for this.

Throughout our history before and after the Revolutionary War, there have been numerous skirmishes with opponents both internal and external to the Country.

# Background

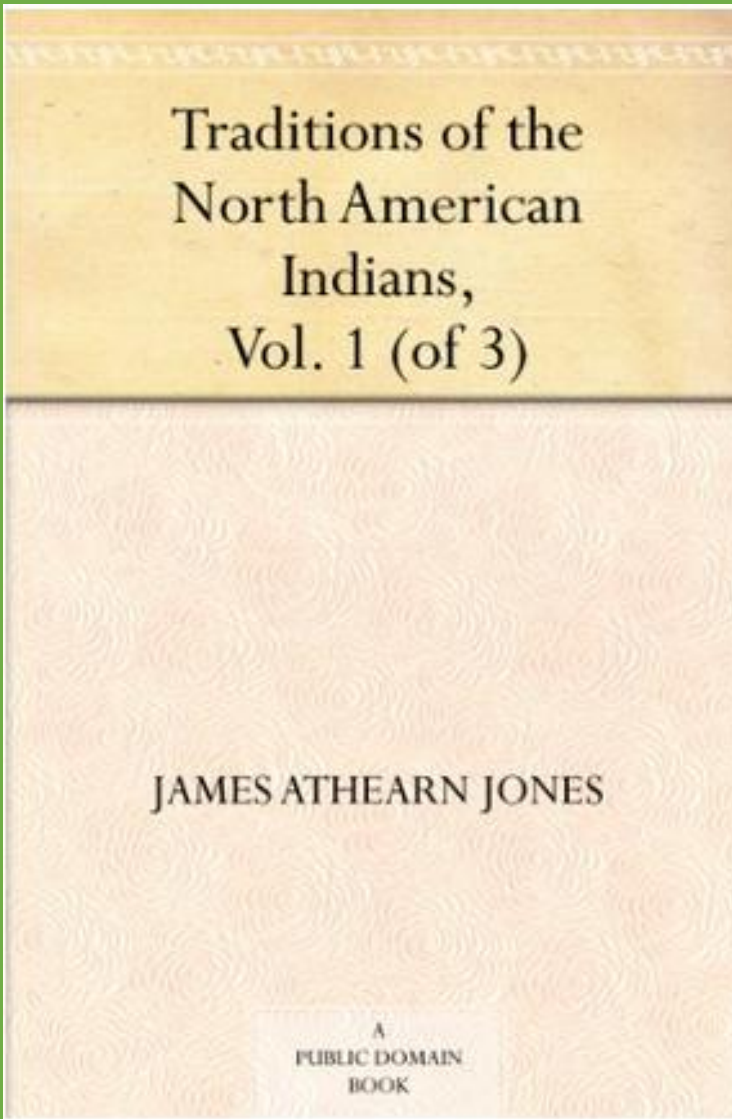
Prior to the Revolutionary Period, the Colonial Powers fought with both indigenous peoples and other Foreign powers as they competed with each other looking to expand influence and economic trade in the new world.

**We'll take a look at the Indigenous people first.**

It is estimated the population in North America before Columbus could have been anywhere from 3.8 Million to 18 Million.

It is also estimated 80% to 95% of the Indigenous People were depopulated by old-world diseases after colonization began.

# Indigenous and First Nations



Native Tribes were not cohesive, and their traditions differed from the arriving Colonists

This book was written around 1820 plus the other two volumes describe various Tribal traditions and religious beliefs. (author, not an Indigenous person either)

North America was not like the Aztec, Myan empires found in Mexico or South America.

**Why is that important?**

It allowed Colonial Powers to grab a toe-hold in the new world and expand.



# Indian Wars 1609-1924



# Colonial periods (1609–1774)

The colonization of North America by English, Spanish, French, Dutch, and Swedish was resisted by some Native American tribes and assisted by other tribes.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Wars and other armed conflicts in the 17th and 18th centuries included:

At least 12 notable conflicts from 1609 to 1774. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Indian\\_Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Indian_Wars))

The original Pilgrim colonists had the best working situation with the Wampanoag tribe until the arrival of the Massachusetts Bay Company in 1628.

Various conflicts erupted over territory displacements by colonists as more arrived at the new world and payments needed by the colonists back to their respective countries for their investments.

In several instances, the conflicts reflected European rivalries, with Indian tribes splitting their alliances among the powers, generally siding with their trading partners. Various tribes fought on each side in [King William's War](#), [Queen Anne's War](#), [Dummer's War](#), [King George's War](#), and the [French and Indian War](#), allying with British or French colonists according to their own self-interests.<sup>[4]</sup>

Wikipedia:

1. Saint Junipero Serra, ND Faith, July 2020. University of Notre Dame
2. Leyes de Burgos: 500 años. Antonio Pizarro Zelaya, August 2013. Diálogos Revista Electrónica de Historia, On-line version ISSN 1409-469X
4. Merrell, James H. (2012). "Second Thoughts on Colonial Historians and American Indians". *William and Mary Quarterly*. **69** (3): 451–512.

# Revolutionary War and Conflicts East of the Mississippi

The revolutionary war saw tribes allying with either British or the Patriots. Inter-tribal schisms also erupted causing fractional splits.

Britain had conceded western lands to the Patriots as a result of the Treaty of Paris.

After the Treaty of Paris, the newly formed United States considered those tribal lands that allied with the British forfeit.

Cherokee-American War

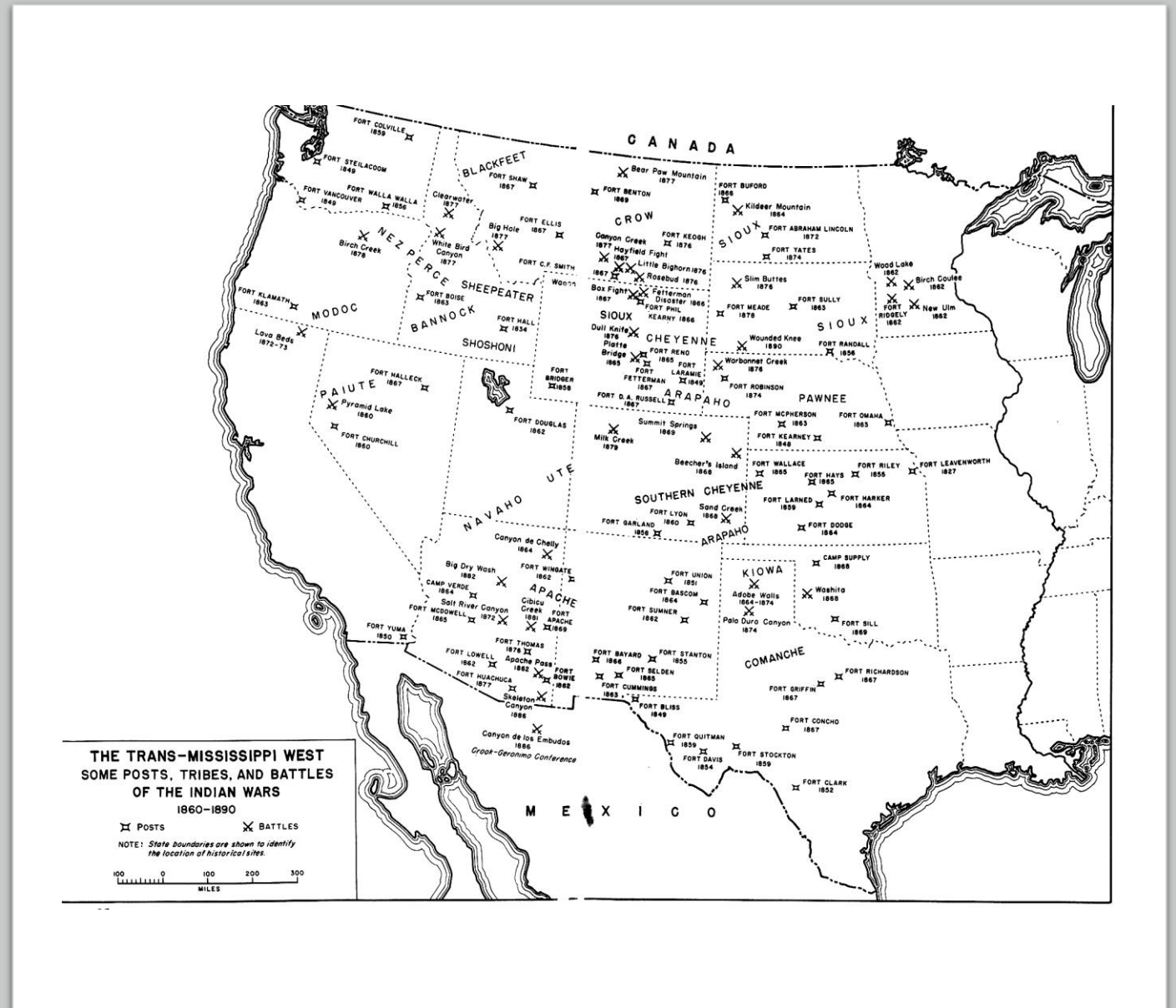
Northwest Indian War

Tecumseh, the Creek War, and the War of 1812

Second Seminole War

# The Western Conflicts 1811-1924

- At first, things went well as fur trappers and settlers move west
- However, with the Gold Rush (Rockies & California) more people moved west causing friction between the Native American Tribes and Ranchers/Farmers/Miners
- After the Civil War, the US Army moved to reestablish forts west that had been temporarily abandoned.





# Spanish American War and the Philippines

The Spanish-American war was a short war in 1898 between ill-prepared Spain and the United States. To Victor go the spoils of war.

The [Treaty of Paris](#) ending the Spanish-American War was signed on December 10, 1898. In it, Spain renounced all claims to Cuba, ceded [Guam](#) and [Puerto Rico](#) to the United States, and transferred sovereignty over the Philippines to the United States for \$20 million.

The Philippines would be another matter for the United States. The Filipinos thought they were finally shedding their yolk under Spain but would be under another with the US. The US, failing to recognize the First Philippine Republic, would find itself embroiled in a conflict with natives when the Philippine-American war broke out.

Between 250,000 to 1 Million Filipinos would die due to famine and disease.

By 1935, The Philippines would be granted commonwealth status and Independence by 1946.

# Korea

After the Sino-Japanese War, Korea became a Japanese protectorate in 1905 and was annexed in 1910. Japan ruled over Korea until 1945.

During the Malta Conference by Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States, a decision was made to

Partition Korea along the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel with no consideration for the terrain.

After 1945, North Korea partition was occupied by the Soviet Union, and the South Korean partition was occupied by the United States.

The philosophical differences between the Soviet Union and the United State resulted in the creation of the two countries of North Korea and South Korea in 1948.

# Korea

Kim Jong-Un convinced Stalin of South Korean's weakness, North Korea could win a short war.

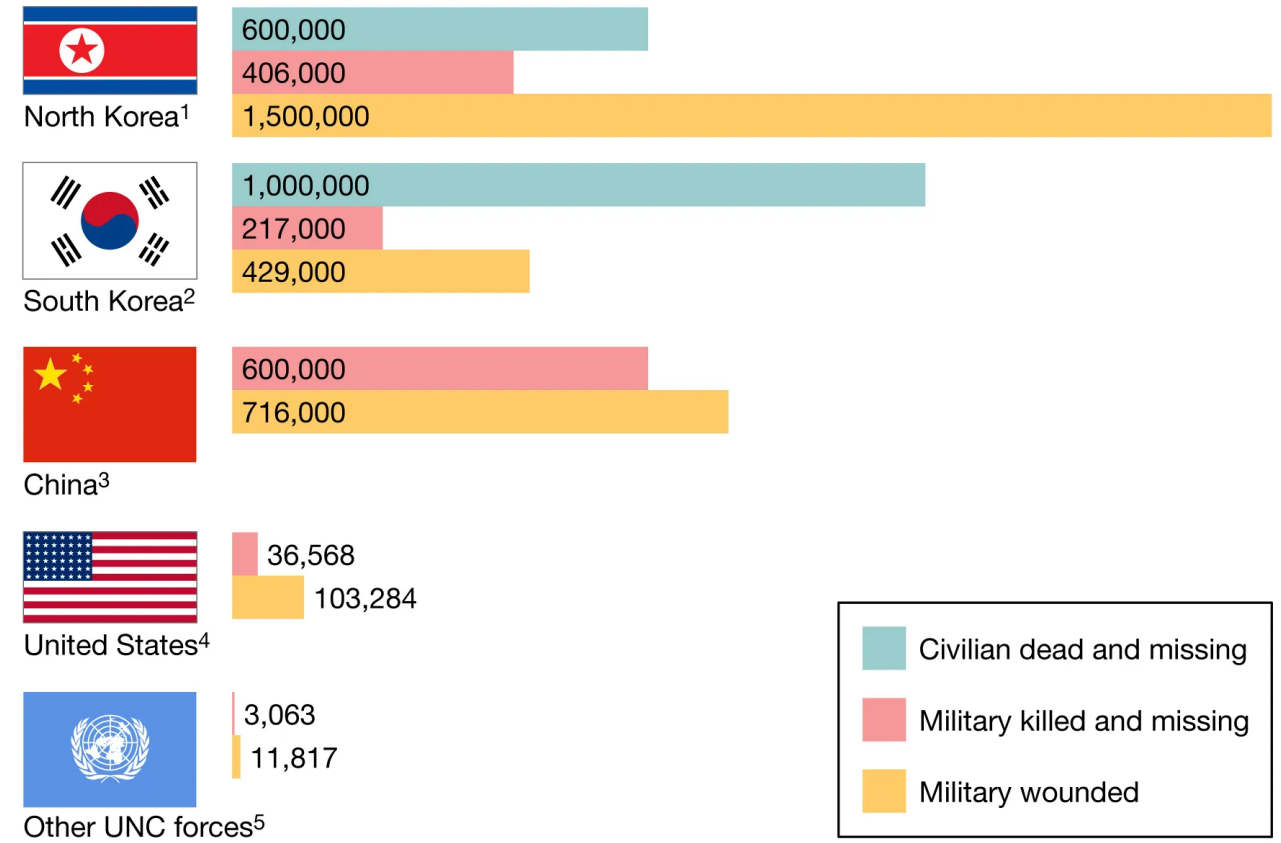
Stalin was initially unconvinced, but reluctantly decided to support North Korea's effort with military aid.

South Korea was denied heavy weapons by the United State because of the same reasons as Syngman Rhee's comments about invading the North. Neither dictator was content with the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. Border skirmishes was the norm with estimated 10,000 casualties on both sides prior to North Korea's invasion in June 1950.

June 25, 1950 – North Korea invades South Korea and achieves early victories almost driving the United State's armies out of South Korea.

United Nation's armies with the United States as the primary participate fought back with success at Inchon and North Korea's stretched supply routes.

# Battle casualties of the Korean War (1950–53)



<sup>1</sup> Figures reflect the higher end of U.S. and South Korean estimates, which range from 500,000 to 600,000 civilian dead and missing, from 294,000 to 406,000 military killed and missing, and from 226,000 to 1,500,000 military wounded.

<sup>2</sup> South Korean estimates of civilian dead and missing range from 500,000 to 1,000,000. Official figure of military killed in action is 187,712.

<sup>3</sup> Figures are U.S. and South Korean estimates. Official Chinese figures acknowledge 152,400 military killed and missing, 238,000 military wounded.

<sup>4</sup> Figures reflect official U.S. tally, which counts 33,741 battlefield killed and missing and 2,827 dead and missing in war zone from other causes. U.S. military deaths outside the war zone were 17,678, bringing the total military dead and missing during the Korean War to 54,246.

<sup>5</sup> No UNC member had more than 700 battlefield deaths except Turkey (721).

- Civilian dead and missing
- Military killed and missing
- Military wounded

United Nation’s forces successfully pushed North Korean armies back into North Korea.

Communist China was worried about the possibility of North Korea’s defeat and armed aggression against Chinese territory.

China deployed troops and drove the United Nation’s armies back to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel creating a stalemate with neither side gaining an advantage.

However, the loss of men and materials was staggering. Peace talks were initiated in 1951 by both the United States at Panmunjom.

July 23, 1953 – An armistice was agreed to by China and the United States.

# Vietnam

After World War II, the colonial powers of Germany, France, Netherlands were gradually being replaced by internal War and civil unrest in Southeast Asia. The Japanese defeat left Southeast Asia without viable governments and the Colonial Powers were looking to reassert their influence in the area.

Communism was making inroads inspired by China or the Soviet Union interests too.

Vietnam was controlled by France after the Japanese defeat in WW2. Local political leaders like Ho Chi Minh saw a possibility to displace French-educated Emperor Bao Dai. France backed Emperor Bao.

Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh forces overran the North and established North Vietnam with its capital at Hanoi. The French with Bao Dai established South Vietnam with its capital at Saigon.



# Vietnam

With the French Military withdrawal in 1954, the US assumed financial and military support for South Vietnam

US Involvement increased under President Kennedy from 1000 advisors to 23,000 by 1964.

Gulf of Tonkin Incident – Congress gave authority to President Johnson to increase military presence in South Vietnam with 184000 troop levels.

Tet Offensive – 1968

North Vietnam and Viet Cong strike South Vietnam target in a coordinated offensive that caught the US military off guard

While it ended in a military defeat for the North Vietnamese, Politically it was a win.

US Support for the war diminished.

# Vietnam

Paris Peace Accords in 1973 saw the withdrawal of US troops from South Vietnam

South Vietnam would be defeated two years later and both Vietnams were united by the Hanoi government.

US Casualties:

58,281 dead<sup>[39]</sup>

(47,434 from combat)<sup>[40][41]</sup>

303,644 wounded

(including 150,341 not requiring hospital care)<sup>[A 8]</sup>

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War)

## Other Recent Conflicts

Yugoslavia Wars 1991-1997 – Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Kosovo

NATO Involvement

Gulf War (First Persian Gulf War)

Operation Desert Shield (2 August 1990 – 17 January 1991)

Operation Desert Storm (17 January 1991 – 28 February 1991)

Afghanistan 2001-2021

Sept 11, 2001 – Terrorists strike the US.

Oct 2001 – Operation Enduring Freedom

Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom • Second Persian Gulf War)

2003 – 2011 – Overthrow of Saddam Hussien

Ukraine

2022 – While the US is not directly engaging troops in the war, the US and other allies are providing arms and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Complete List of US Wars and Conflicts: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_wars\\_involving\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_involving_the_United_States)