

bour government, and the British military, in undercutting a war-winning policy in Korea. The view of the British Chiefs of Staff, he writes, is that there is "no question of using the atomic bomb in Korea. . . . [There] we want, with the minimum loss of life and expense on either side, to restore the *status quo* and the integrity of South Korea."

The result was that Gen. Matthew Ridgway took command, to carry out the U.N. forces policies to a T. "The United Nations' objectives from the spring of 1951 to the end in 1953 were plainly limited," Hastings writes. "At an acceptable cost in casualties to Eighth Army, Ridgway's forces sought to kill sufficient communists and defend sufficient real estate to secure peace." It was Ridgway whose method of stemming the Chinese onslaught in February 1951 is chilling, when one thinks of Robert McNamara's "bodycounts": Ridgway initiated Operation KILLER, with the public intention of killing communists—not defeating them. But MacArthur thought, according to his close associate Courtney Whitney, "that Red Chinese aggression in Asia could not be stopped by killing Chinese, no matter how many, in Korea, so long as her power to make war remained inviolate."

Limited war policy led to the day, April 22, 1951, when U.S. Gen. James Van Fleet, asked what was the goal in Korea, said, "I don't know." Ironically, Hastings has to acknowledge that, through a series of bloody holding actions, the U.N. troops broke the attack of the Chinese army in Korea, so primitively equipped it could not fight a sustained campaign. In May 1951, he writes, "had the political will existed, the communist front now lay open. The morale of the Chinese armies in Korea was shattered." Instead, came the negotiations, giving the communist forces four vital months to dig in, exactly along the line where they remain dug in today.

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