

Frank Bua

Two-Day Lesson Plan: The No Gun Ri Massacre

Day 1: Understanding the No Gun Ri Massacre

Duration: 45 minutes

Resources: Internet for research, handouts with excerpts from key documents, SmartBoard

Objective: Students will learn about the No Gun Ri Massacre, including its historical context, events, and immediate aftermath. The focus will be on understanding the event and America's

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Brief reference to the Korean War and its context.
- Explain the No Gun Ri Massacre in the larger scope of the Korean War.
- Show a short [PBS Documentary clip](#) about the No Gun Ri Massacre

Reading and Document Analysis (25 minutes)

Hand out excerpts from and assign groups of three students one of each of the readings below:

- Naval College Review: [No Gun Ri](#)
- NYT article: [No Gun Ri](#)
- [U.S. military documents related to the incident](#)

After the reading, students will read and discuss the documents, focusing on:

- What happened at No Gun Ri?
- What was the role of American soldiers.
- Immediate responses from the U.S. military and government.

Group Discussion (10 minutes)

Reconvene as a class and discuss:

- Initial reactions to the readings.
- How the documents portray the events and American responsibility.
- Any discrepancies or biases observed in the documents.

Homework

Read the full introduction of "[The Bridge at No Gun Ri](#)" and come prepared with questions or reflections for the next lesson.

Day 2: Analyzing America's Role and Culpability
Time: 45 minutes
Resources: Internet for research, handouts with excerpts from key documents, SmartBoard
Objective: Students will delve deeper into the analysis of America's role and culpability in the No Gun Ri Massacre, examining the long-term impact and responses from both American and Korean perspectives.

Introduction (10 minutes)

Do Now: Have students answer the following question based on their homework reading:

In the introduction, the author discusses the broader implications of the No Gun Ri Massacre within the context of military ethics and the rules of engagement. How does the incident at No Gun Ri challenge our understanding of the principles of just war theory, particularly in terms of discrimination and proportionality? Reflect on how this historical event might inform current military practices and policies to prevent similar occurrences in future conflicts.

Lecture and Presentation (10 minutes)

Present a brief lecture on the aftermath of the No Gun Ri Massacre. A sample text of this is below:

Lecture: The No Gun Ri Massacre

Today, we will discuss the No Gun Ri Massacre, a tragic and significant event during the Korean War that raises important questions about military ethics and accountability.

The No Gun Ri Massacre took place in the early stages of the Korean War, from July 26 to 29, 1950. As North Korean forces invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, the United States quickly deployed troops to assist South Korea. Amidst the chaos and confusion of the war, U.S. troops were instructed to be wary of refugee groups due to fears of North Korean infiltrators.

On July 26, 1950, a group of South Korean refugees, including many women, children, and elderly people, was ordered to evacuate their village by U.S. soldiers. Seeking safety, the refugees gathered under a railway bridge at No Gun Ri. Over the next three days, U.S. troops opened fire on these civilians, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 200 to 400 people.

In the immediate aftermath, the U.S. military and government denied that such a massacre had occurred. There was no formal investigation, and the survivors' accounts were largely ignored. Evidence was suppressed, and the U.S. maintained that its forces acted in accordance with military protocols.

However, the survivors of No Gun Ri described horrific scenes of death and desperation. Many carried physical and emotional scars for the rest of their lives. Despite the initial lack of recognition, these survivors persistently sought to bring their stories to light. Their accounts,

though ignored at first, began to gain attention through the efforts of dedicated journalists and researchers.

In the late 1990s, a significant breakthrough occurred when the Associated Press published a detailed investigation into the No Gun Ri Massacre in 1999. This investigation brought international attention to the incident, highlighting the U.S. military's actions and the plight of the survivors. Survivors formed the No Gun Ri International Peace Foundation to seek justice and recognition for the atrocities they endured.

The U.S. government's official response came in 2001, following an investigation by the U.S. Army. The investigation acknowledged that the massacre had occurred but stopped short of accepting full responsibility. President Bill Clinton issued a statement expressing regret but did not offer a formal apology. Compensation was offered to survivors, but many felt it was inadequate and did not constitute true justice.

The No Gun Ri Massacre has had a lasting impact on both the survivors and the broader discourse on military ethics and accountability. It serves as a poignant example of the horrors of war and the importance of adhering to ethical standards in conflict. The massacre highlights the need for transparency, accountability, and the protection of civilians in war zones.

This tragic event continues to influence military policies and human rights discussions globally. Understanding and acknowledging such incidents are crucial for learning from the past and preventing future atrocities. The No Gun Ri Massacre remains a somber reminder of the consequences of war and the importance of striving for peace and justice.

As we reflect on the No Gun Ri Massacre, we must consider the ethical implications and historical significance of this event. How does this massacre challenge our understanding of military ethics? What measures can be taken to prevent similar incidents in future conflicts? How can governments ensure accountability and justice for victims of war atrocities?

By engaging with these questions, we can deepen our understanding of the complexities of war and the importance of ethical conduct in military operations. Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to our discussion on this important topic.

Document Analysis and Group Work (15 minutes)

Hand out excerpts from and assign groups of three students one of each of the readings below:

- [Excerpts from the U.S. Army's official investigation report from 2001.](#)
- [Survivor testimonies from the Korean No Gun Ri Peace Foundation.](#)
- [Clinton Document acknowledging the massacre and the U.S. government's response](#)

In groups, students will analyze the documents, focusing on:

- How the U.S. Army's investigation report addresses the incident.
- Comparisons between U.S. official responses and survivor accounts.

- The implications of these findings on the perception of American culpability.

Class Discussion and Reflection (5 minutes)

Reconvene and discuss:

- Key findings from the document analysis.
- How American culpability is portrayed in both U.S. and Korean sources.
- The long-term impact on U.S.-Korea relations and historical memory.

Summative Assessment:

Write a one-page letter to a middle school Korean Student to share your thoughts and reflections on the No Gun Ri Massacre and its significance. Consider both historical facts and moral implications.

Resources and Links

- PBS NewsHour - [The No Gun Ri Massacre](#)
- Naval War College Review: [No Gun Ri](#)
- [The Bridge at No Gun Ri: A Hidden Nightmare from the Korean War](#) by Charles J. Hanley, Sang-Hun Choe, and Martha Mendoza.
- New York Times article: [No Gun Ri](#)
- [U.S. military documents on No Gun Ri](#)
- [U.S. Army's official investigation report \(2001\)](#).
- [Document from the Clinton Administration acknowledging the massacre and the U.S. government's response](#)
- [Clinton Administration Statement](#)
- [Korean No Gun Ri Peace Foundation survivor testimonies](#)
- [Albany Archives](#)
- [Asia Society](#)

By the end of these lessons, students should have a comprehensive understanding of the No Gun Ri Massacre, the complexities of America's role, and the lasting implications of the event.