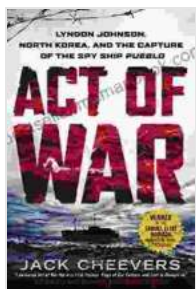


# Lyndon Johnson, North Korea, and the Capture of the Spy Ship Pueblo: A Tense International Crisis

On January 23, 1968, the USS Pueblo, a United States Navy intelligence-gathering ship, was seized by North Korean forces in international waters. The capture of the Pueblo and its crew of 83 sparked a major international crisis between the United States and North Korea, and brought the two countries to the brink of war.

The Pueblo was one of a number of American spy ships that regularly patrolled the waters off North Korea, collecting intelligence on the country's military and nuclear program. The ships were often harassed by North Korean patrol boats, but until the capture of the Pueblo, no such incident had resulted in the loss of life or the capture of a ship or its crew.



## Act of War: Lyndon Johnson, North Korea, and the Capture of the Spy Ship Pueblo by Jack Cheevers

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 14921 KB  
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Print length : 449 pages

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The capture of the Pueblo took place in the Sea of Japan, about 15 miles off the coast of North Korea. According to the North Koreans, the Pueblo was in their territorial waters and was engaged in espionage activities. The Americans, however, claimed that the Pueblo was in international waters and was simply collecting electronic intelligence.

The North Koreans held the Pueblo and its crew for more than a year, during which time they were subjected to harsh treatment and interrogation. The United States government demanded the immediate release of the crew, but the North Koreans refused, accusing the Americans of spying and threatening to put the crew on trial for espionage.

The capture of the Pueblo sparked a major crisis between the United States and North Korea. The United States threatened to use military force if the crew was not released, while the North Koreans threatened to retaliate if the United States did so. The two countries came to the brink of war, but ultimately a diplomatic solution was reached.

In December 1968, the United States and North Korea signed an agreement that called for the release of the Pueblo crew and the return of the ship. The crew was released on December 23, 1968, and the ship was returned to the United States in February 1969.

The capture of the Pueblo was a major embarrassment for the United States, and it raised serious questions about the effectiveness of the country's intelligence-gathering operations. The incident also highlighted the tensions between the United States and North Korea, and it showed the world that the two countries were on the brink of war.

## **Lyndon Johnson's Response**

The capture of the Pueblo took place during the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson. Johnson was a strong supporter of the Vietnam War, and he was determined to show the world that the United States would not tolerate aggression from its enemies.

In the wake of the Pueblo incident, Johnson ordered the United States Navy to conduct a show of force in the Sea of Japan. He also threatened to use military force if the crew was not released. The North Koreans, however, refused to back down, and the two countries came to the brink of war.

In the end, Johnson decided against using military force, and he instead pursued a diplomatic solution. He agreed to sign an agreement with the North Koreans that called for the release of the Pueblo crew and the return of the ship. The agreement was signed in December 1968, and the crew was released on December 23, 1968.

Johnson's handling of the Pueblo incident was criticized by some, who argued that he should have used military force to secure the release of the crew. However, Johnson believed that a diplomatic solution was the best way to avoid a war with North Korea.

### **The Legacy of the Pueblo Incident**

The capture of the Pueblo was a major event in the history of the United States-North Korea relationship. The incident showed the world that the two countries were on the brink of war, and it highlighted the tensions between the two countries.

The Pueblo incident also had a significant impact on the United States intelligence community. The incident led to a reevaluation of the country's intelligence-gathering operations, and it resulted in a number of changes to the way the United States collects intelligence.

The legacy of the Pueblo incident is still felt today. The incident is a reminder of the dangers of spying, and it shows the world that the United States is willing to go to great lengths to protect its national security.

## Image Gallery



# Pueblo Crew Freed After 11 Months; U.S. Disavows Apology, Then Signs It



11-Monk Crew  
To Get Home  
For Christmas



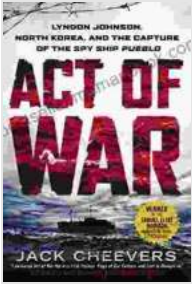
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## NLF Chief in Paris Rejects K's Proposal of Direct Talks

## Johnson Vindicated Crew's Release

## Pueblo's Master Says Men Fry in Captivity





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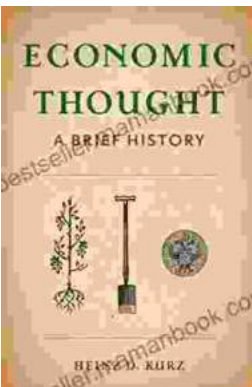
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