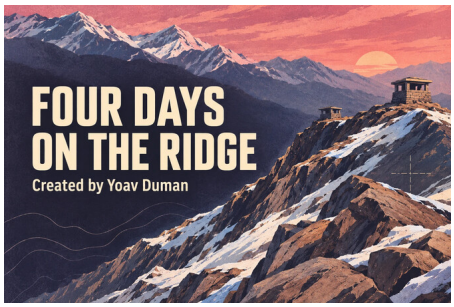
Created by Yoav Duman

Four Days on the Ridge

60–75 minutes / Asynchronous assignment



Advise a cabinet weighing a local truce. Compare how two briefings frame the same odds, investigate reports from Kargil, and decide what would count as evidence that a handover took place.

Learning goals

- Identify a change in reference point while the possible outcomes and odds stay fixed.
- Calculate expected posts and explain why two choices with the same average may carry different risks.
- Compare what the July 4 statement and July 11–12 accounts establish about the Kaksar withdrawal.
- Revise advice using a changed forecast and a field signal, then apply verification reasoning to Korea.

Assign and pace

Briefings, probability tools, maps, and source excerpts are in the game. No advance reading is required.

Two briefings and comparison · 14–18 min

Choose twice. Compare the reference points, outcomes, and original odds.

July statement and field accounts · 17–20 min

Read the short documents and separate Kaksar from Mushkoh. Record what each source can establish.

Forecast and cabinet advice · 17–22 min

Calculate with the revised odds, choose a check, then update the memo using the signal.

Korea and export · 12–15 min

Apply the 30-day line rule and verify the report. Allow up to 90 minutes for a first pass.

Set up Canvas

Choose For Class at the start. Enter your name and, if you wish, your class or section. Finish the responses and checks to open your report. Choose Download Class PDF in your finished report. If needed, use Print or save as PDF. Open the PDF to check your name and responses, then upload it to Canvas.

To pause or change devices, open Save & resume and download a JSON backup. Use the same activity and mode to restore it.

Read the class report

Read the calculations alongside the nine explanations. Look for an explicit reference point, careful source attribution, and advice that follows from the odds and the field signal.

What to look for

Same outcomes, different anchors

The briefings use two posts now versus six before as reference points. The truce delivers four. Fighting yields six or two with equal odds. Both average four. A student can prefer the guaranteed outcome or the chance of six with a reason grounded in the model.

July 4 and July 11–12

The July 4 Clinton–Sharif statement describes steps to restore the Line of Control. Later Indian and Pakistani accounts describe withdrawal and restraint in particular places. Credit careful attribution and a dated observation that could confirm control of a named post.

Two forecast updates

The lower fighting forecast makes six posts 25% likely and two posts 75% likely, averaging three. A handover yielding four or two posts averages 3.5 with the confirmed road plan or 2.5 with the unconfirmed plan. Ask how this changes the recommendation.

Korea transfer

The November 27, 1951 rule kept that day’s line if signed within 30 days. Signing later used the line at signing. Look for why holding the hill matters more at day 45 and for evidence of who controls it.

Suggested rubric · 20 points

Briefing and comparison · 4 points

Identify the different anchors, keep outcomes and odds fixed, and support the risk comparison.

July 4 and Kaksar · 4 points

Attribute both records accurately, distinguish the locations, and name evidence of implementation.

Revised forecast · 3 points

Show the updated calculation and explain how the result bears on the student’s priority.

Cabinet memo and desk check · 5 points

Use the actual field signal and conditional average. Give a checkable recommendation and a reason to revisit it.

Korea transfer · 4 points

Use the Korea record and propose an observation or rule that could clarify the status of the line.

Award full credit when the response meets the stated criteria, partial credit for incomplete reasoning, and zero for a missing or unsupported answer.

Debrief and extend

- What decision changed with the reference point? What else might explain the difference?
- When is a guaranteed four more attractive than a gamble that averages four? Whose losses do the post totals leave out?
- What would you want to see on July 12 to tell that a position was empty and that its control had changed?

A follow-up activity

Ask students to build a two-column evidence log for a new ceasefire. In one column record dated announcements. In the other record independently observable steps and who can verify them.

Scope of the case

The briefings, four-day truce, point values, and probabilities are teaching models. The case materials separately identify the dated Kargil and Korea records.

Sources for instructors

July 4, 1999 Clinton–Sharif joint statement

The diplomatic agreement on steps to restore the Line of Control.

Clinton Presidential Library, Kargil War records

An archival finding aid for the crisis and U.S. diplomacy.

Pakistan’s July 11 account, Rediff

Contemporary reporting used for the withdrawal and local pause.

U.S. Foreign Relations, Korea armistice negotiations

A diplomatic record for the comparison case.

1953 Korean Armistice Agreement, National Archives

The final agreement and the mechanism for demarcation.

Activity and downloads

Activity, student guide, and teaching pack on yoavduman.com

Activity, student guide, and teaching pack on Trouble in Common

For Fun allows you to explore with an optional name. The class report is available through For Class. To change modes, save a backup of any work you want to keep and start a new run.