

Vietnam War

The Vietnam War



Vietnam



Big Question

What were main causes and effects of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War?



Objects:

People:

Time/Title:

Inferences: Because I see _____, I can infer...

Conclusion: The most important thing in this image is _____ because it sends the message that...

Geography

Located in Southeast Asia, Vietnam is rich in resources such as coal, iron ore, petroleum, mercury and tin.





uprooffromoregon.com

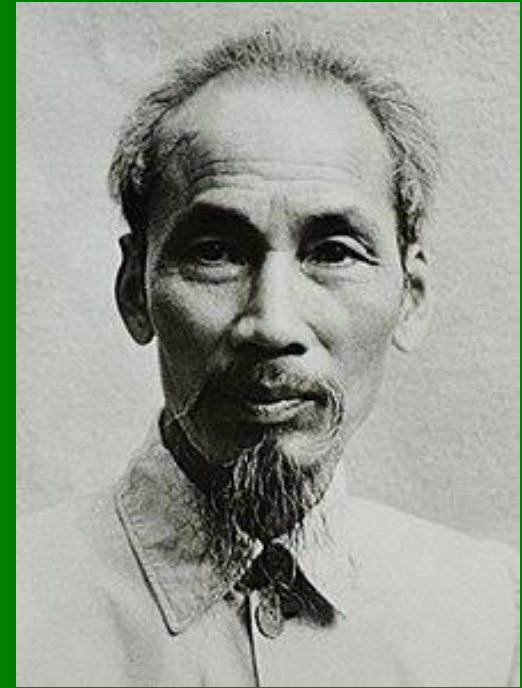
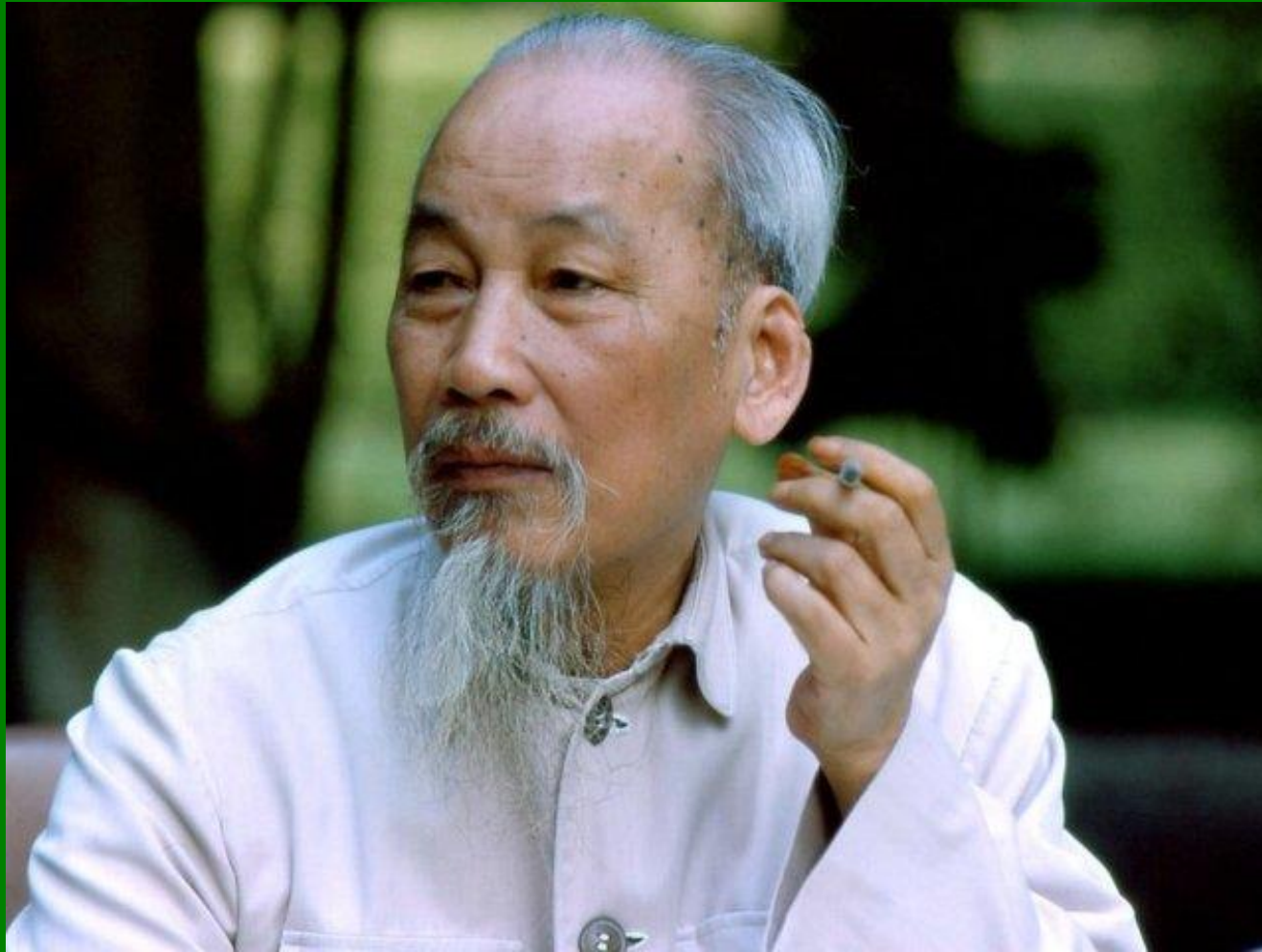




Cause: Starting in 1858, the French colonized and controlled most of **Southeast Asia** and began to utilize their valuable resources. The region became known as **French Indochina**.

Result: Ho Chi Minh's Indochinese Communist Party led strikes and revolts against the French.

Ho Chi Minh



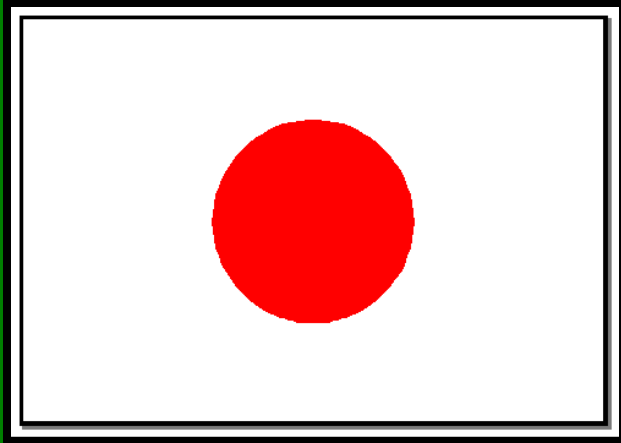
Ho Chi Minh



Ho Chi Minh



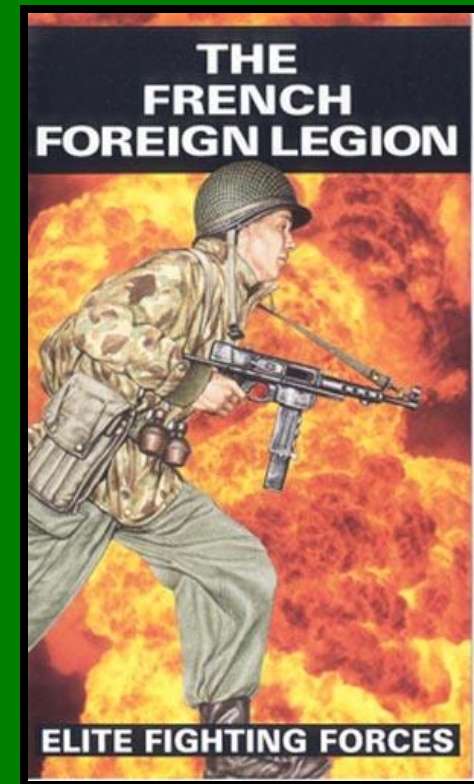
World War II



1940- During World War II, Japan seizes control of Vietnam.

1941- Happy to see the French gone, the Vietnamese still feared the Japanese. As a result, Ho Chi Minh and others found the Vietminh (Independence) league



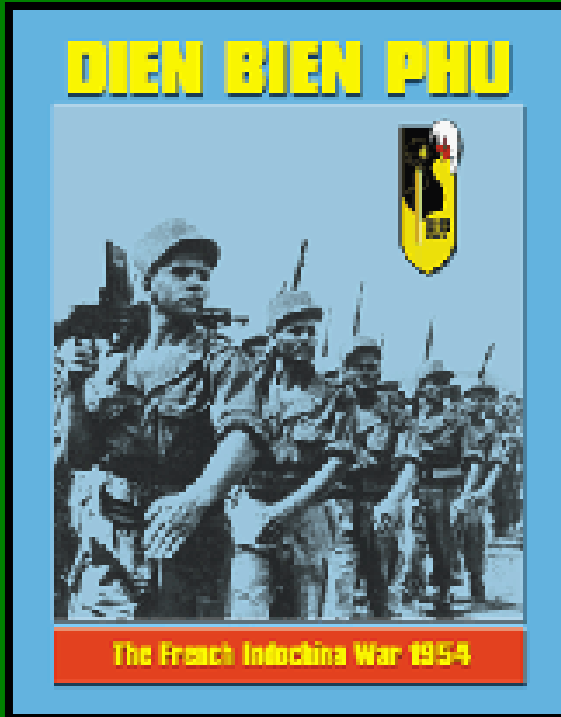


Cause: Japan leaves Vietnam in 1945 after its defeat in WWII.

Result: The French try to regain the former colony.

Independence Mover

At last, we are finally free of those pesky foreigners!!!



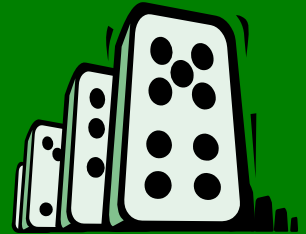
Cause: In 1954, the French are defeated at Dien Bien Phu.

Result: The French surrender to Ho Chi Minh.



Cause: Rising communist sentiment in Vietnam leads U.S. President Eisenhower to describe the situation as the “domino theory.” (The fall of one country to communism will lead to the fall of its neighbors)

Result: In 1954, An International Peace Conference divides Indochina at the 17th parallel.



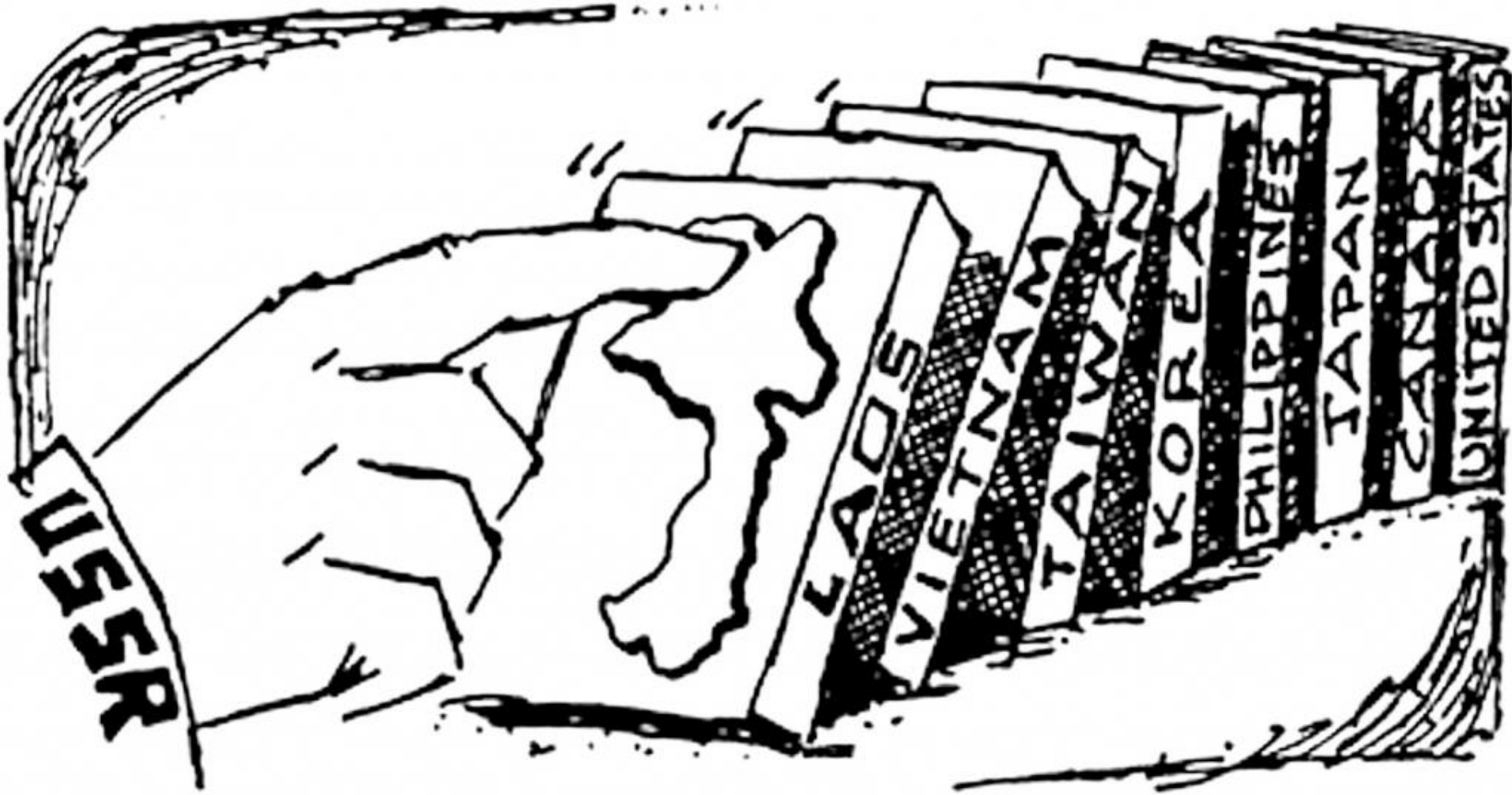
• **North Vietnam** –Led by Ho Chi Minh’s communist forces and supported by the USSR and China



• **South Vietnam** –Led by an anti-Communist government under the rule of Ngo Dinh Diem and supported by the U.S. and France.



Domino Theory

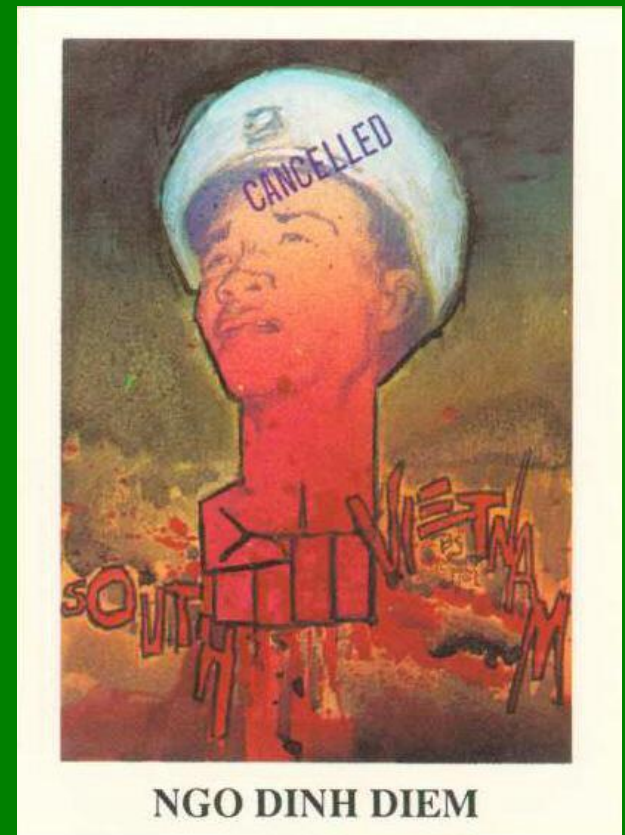


Ngo Dinh Diem





The Kennedy administration seemed split on how peaceful or democratic the Diem regime really was. Some Kennedy advisers believed Diem had not instituted enough social and economic reforms to remain a viable leader in South Vietnam. Others argued that Diem was the "best of a bad lot."



Should the United States support Ngo Dinh Diem?

President Diem maintained that South Vietnam was a peace-loving democracy and that the Communists were out to destroy his new country.



Cause: Diem and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, began raiding Buddhist pagodas in South Vietnam, claiming they were harboring Communists.

Result: Massive protests on the streets of Saigon took place including the self-immolation of many Buddhist monks.

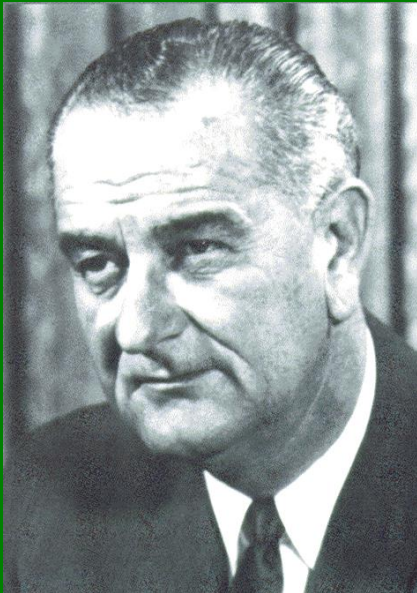




Why would these Buddhist monks perform such an act? The pictures of the monks engulfed in flames made world headlines, bringing attention to the corrupt government of Ngo Dinh Diem.

A Change in Leadership

Cause: Diem is an unpopular, corrupt, dictator and decides NOT hold scheduled elections that were promised to the people. (The U.S. supported his decision because they thought the Communists would be elected.)



Result: In 1963, a U.S. backed group of South Vietnamese generals plan a coup. They overthrow and assassinate Diem. Later that month, President Kennedy was also assassinated and Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) became President.

Cause: The U.S. feels that the new leaders were no more popular than Diem and they feared a Communist takeover.

The National Liberation Front:

Founded in 1960, this South Vietnamese group supported the unification of Vietnam and opposed Ngo Dinh Diem and the U.S. presence in Vietnam. The group came to be known as the **Viet Cong (VC)**.



Result: The U.S. increases the number of military advisors and aid to South Vietnam.



Soon, the number of planes, tanks and other military equipment sent to South Vietnam increases.

The Spark of the Vietnam War!

Cause: By August of 1964, the U.S. needed justification for its increasing presence in Vietnam.

Result: U.S. President LBJ told Congress that North Vietnamese patrol boats had attacked two American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. One of the attacks was never proven to have happened.

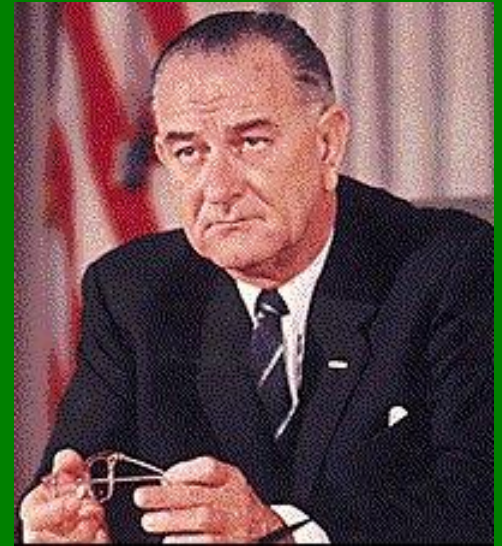


Gulf of Tonkin



President Johnson's Message to Congress August 5, 1964

“The North Vietnamese regime has conducted further deliberate attacks against U.S. naval vessels operating in international waters... These latest actions of the North Vietnamese regime has given a new and grave turn to the already serious situation in southeast Asia.”



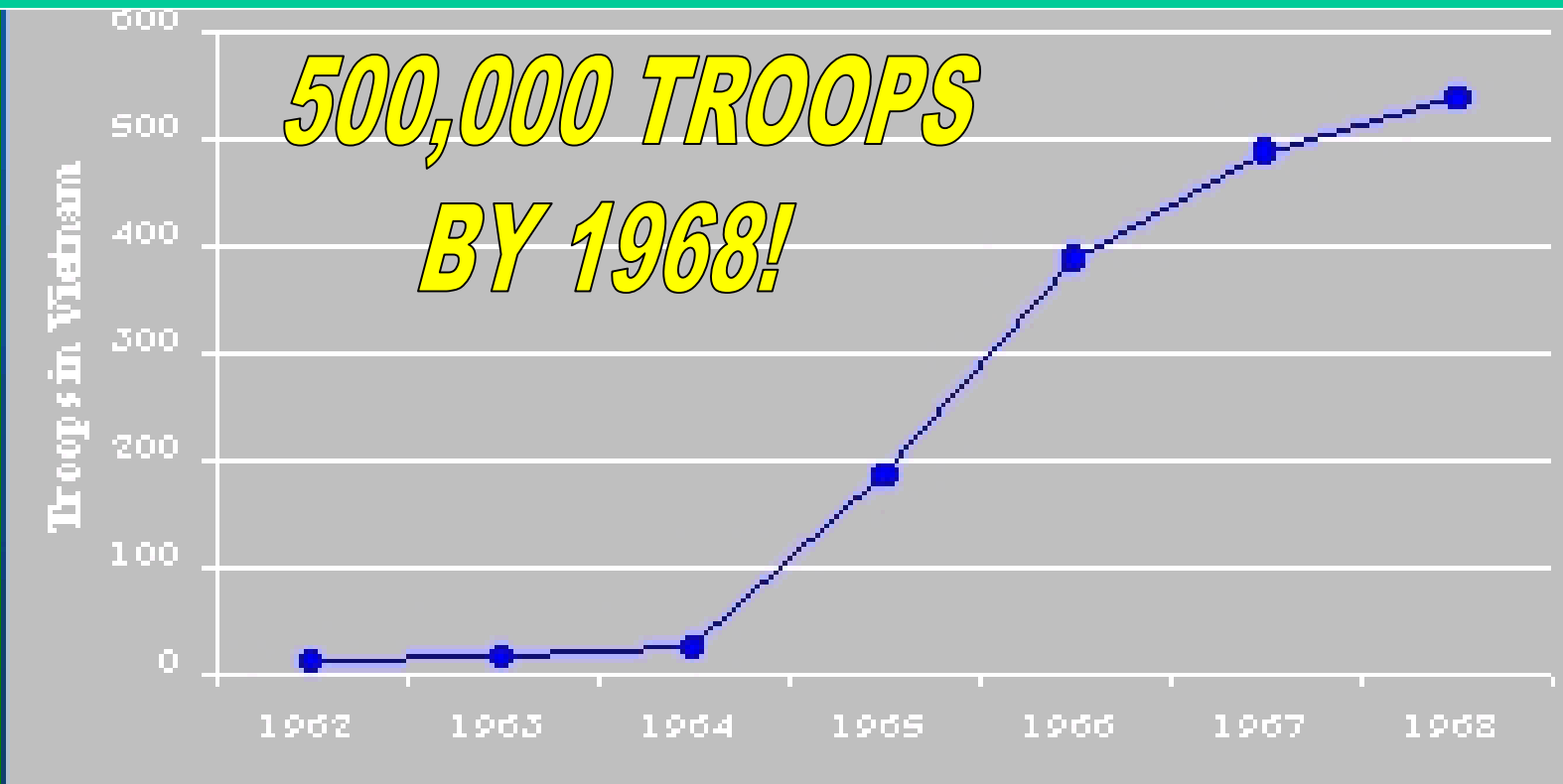
“I want to ask the Congress for a resolution expressing the unity and determination of the United States in supporting freedom and in protecting peace in southeast Asia.

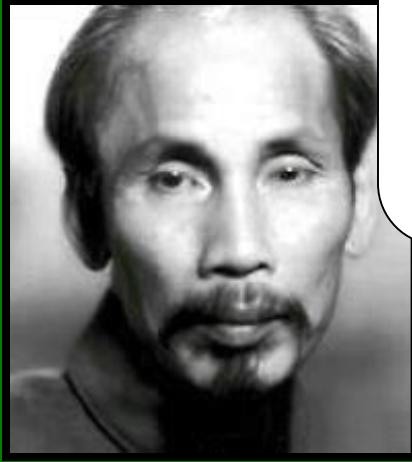
This resolution obligates the United States and other members to act against Communist aggression in any nation.”

Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

On August 5, 1964 Congress passed the **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution** that authorized the President to use war powers and send American troops into Vietnam.

Compare the amount of troops sent to Vietnam in 1964 to 1968.

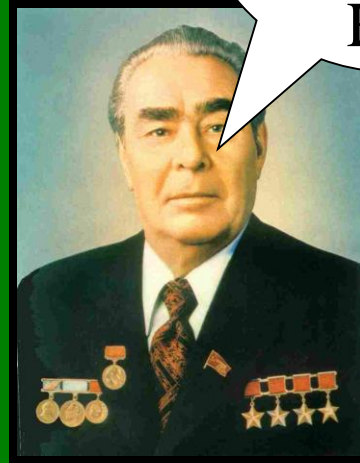




You need soldiers
and guns? No
problem, I've got
plenty.

I've got
your
back,
Ho.

Me too.
Slap me
five
Lenny!



At the same time, popular support for the Vietcong grew. Ho Chi Minh strongly supported the Vietcong with troops and munitions, as did the Soviet Union and China.

Who has the advantage?



Strategies for the War

United States

- Will use its superior firepower to force the enemy to surrender
- Will use air strikes to bomb the enemy into submission
- Will use search and destroy missions to pinpoint enemy bases and supplies.
- Will set up blockades to prevent supplies from reaching the enemy.

North Vietnam

- Will rely on the Guerilla tactics of surprise and mobility.
- Will avoid major head to head battles
- Will use knowledge of terrain to their advantage
- Will fight during the night and use underground tunnels to confuse enemy.
- Will not fight to win, but to prolong the war and never lose.

Napalm



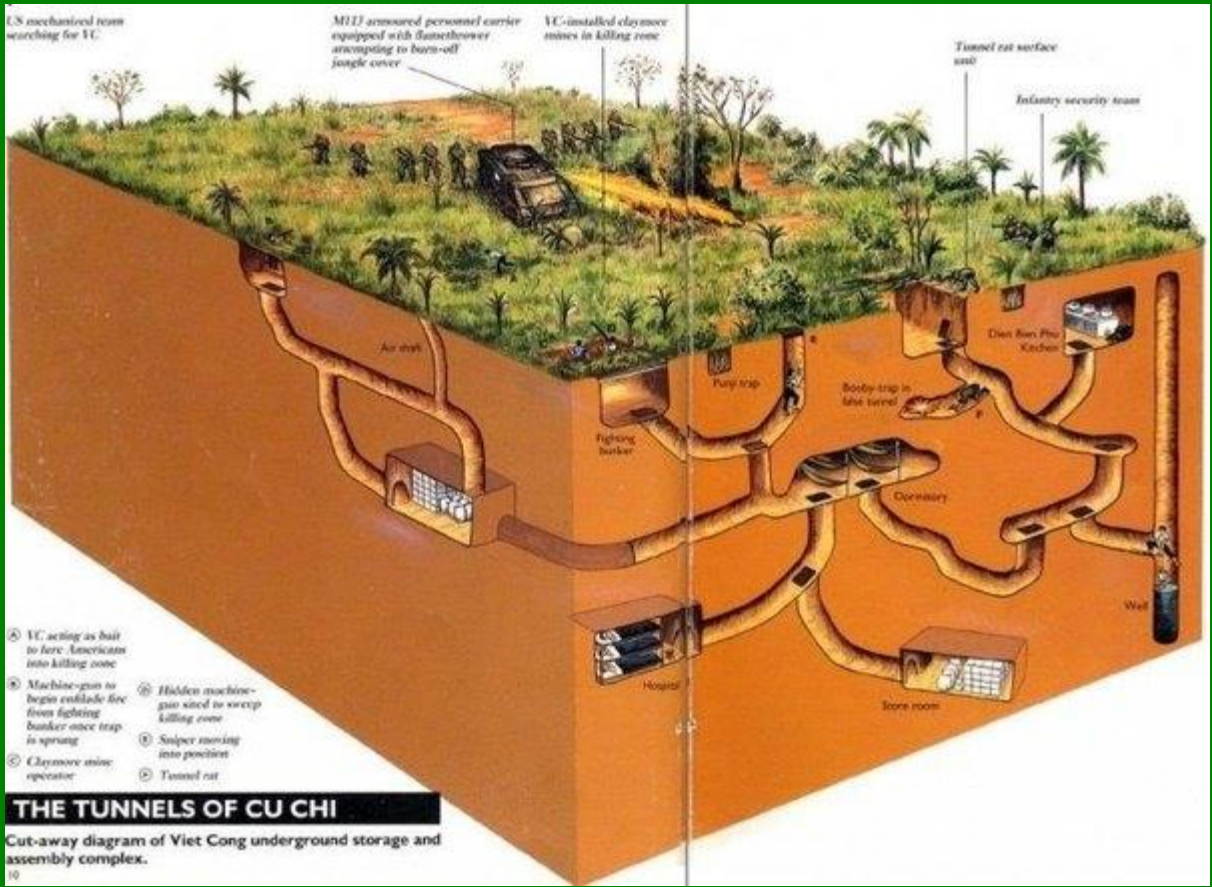
Agent Orange



Agent Orange



Underground Tunnels



www.StrangeMilitary.com

Ho Chi Minh Trail



Bombing Campaign

Cause: Unable to win a decisive victory on the ground

Result: The U.S. turned to air power and bombed millions of acres of farmland and forest in an attempt to destroy enemy hideouts.

The U.S. continued to drop bombs on more targets through 1967 causing an estimated \$300 million in damage.



Aerial Objectives

ALL OBJECTIVES FAILED

- To Destroy the North Vietnamese economy
- To Interrupt the flow of supplies and men
- To Reduce the North Vietnamese will to fight

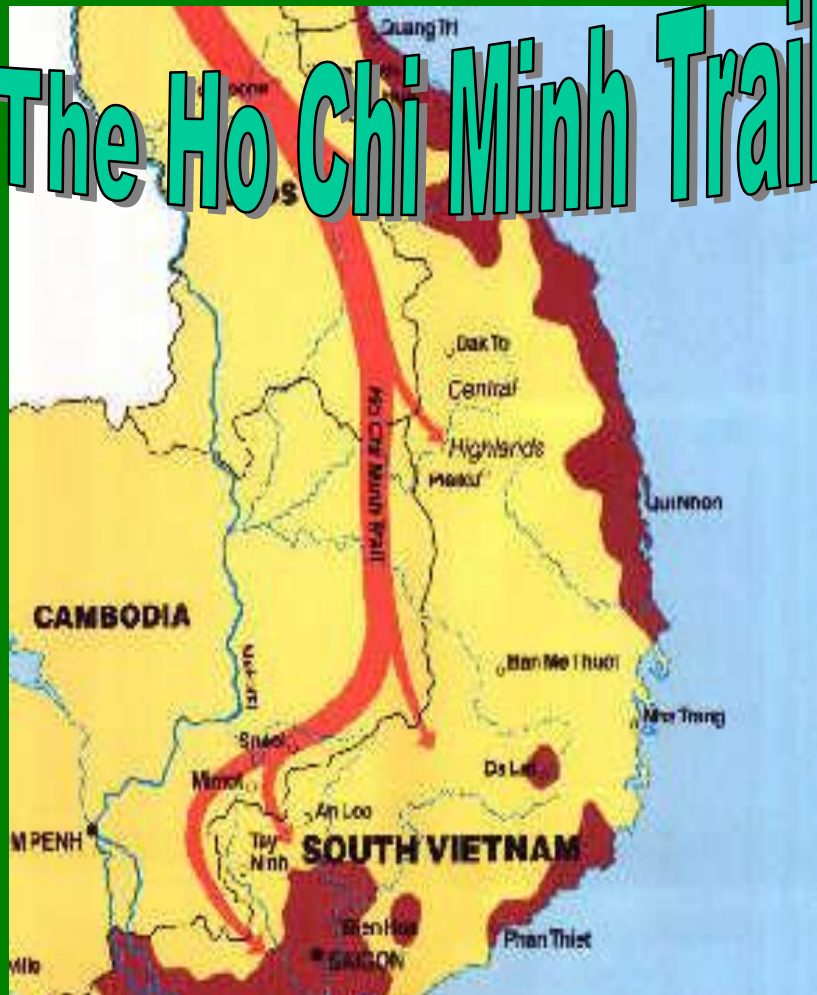


Major Turning Points

The Tet Offensive

On January 31, 1968, during the Vietnamese New Year known as Tet, the North Vietnamese communist forces initiated a large scale attack on major South Vietnamese cities and bases.

The Ho Chi Minh Trail



Why did the north use the Ho Chi Minh Trail and why was it effective?



Results of the Tet Offensive

- Up to 40,000 communists were killed in action
- The U.S. military quickly responded to the surprise attacks and defeated the communists
- Almost all territory was regained by the U.S. within a few days
- The public saw bloody street fighting and the communist's temporary occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon.



If the Tet Offensive was a military loss for North Vietnam, then why is it considered a turning point?

The My Lai Massacre

On March 16, 1968 a “search and destroy mission” unfolded in My Lai, a heavily mined area controlled by the VC. Many soldiers of Charlie Company, 11th Brigade, had been maimed or killed in the area during the preceding weeks. The agitated troops, under the command of Lt. William Calley, entered the village poised for engagement with the elusive Vietcong.



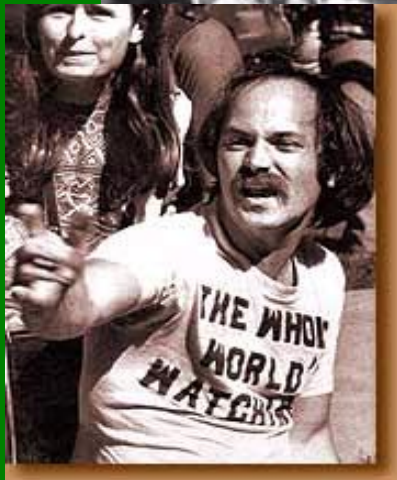
The mission turned into a massacre when Calley ordered his men to enter the village firing, though there had been no report of opposing fire. Over 300 apparently unarmed civilians including women, children, and the elderly were executed. For his part, Calley was said to have rounded up a group of the villagers, ordered them into a ditch, and mowed them down in a fury of machine gun fire.

At his trial, Calley testified that he was ordered by Captain Ernest Medina to kill everyone in the village of My Lai. Still, there was only enough photographic and recorded evidence to convict Calley, alone, of murder. He was sentenced to life in prison, but was released in 1974, following many appeals. After being issued a dishonorable discharge, Calley entered the insurance business.



Anti-War Protests on the Homefront

As a result of the military draft, civil rights movement, and television coverage of the war, many college students began to protest the war. 300,000 protested in New York City in August 1967.



Burning Draft Cards



Muhammad Ali

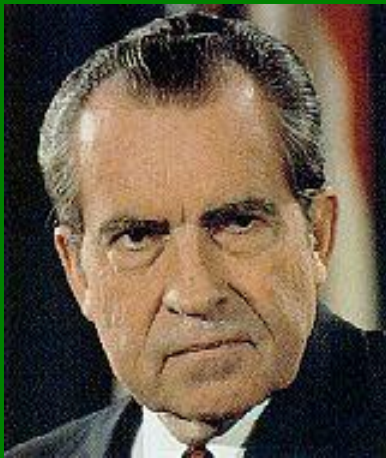
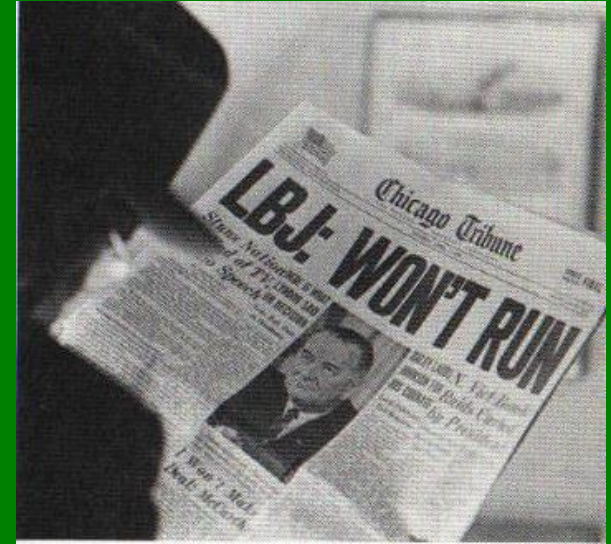
“ “I ain’t got no quarrel with those Vietcong.”

“My conscience won’t let me go shoot my brother, or some darker people, or some poor hungry people in the mud for big powerful America... And shoot them for what? They never called me nigger, they never lynched me, they didn’t put no dogs on me. ... Shoot them for what? How can I shoot them poor people? Just take me to jail.”



Nixon Elected President in 1968

Cause: During the late 1960's, protests against the war became more popular in the U.S. The stress of the war causes LBJ not to run for President for a second term.



Result: Elected in 1968, President Nixon begins withdrawing U.S. troops from Vietnam in 1969. This policy was called “Vietnamization” because it allowed U.S. troops to pull out while the South Vietnamese increased their combat role.

The Bombing of Cambodia

Cause: The Vietcong moved soldiers and supplies through Cambodia and Laos over the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Result: On March 18, 1969, American B-52s began carpet-bombing eastern Cambodia and Laos and dropped 540,000 tons of bombs, killing anywhere from 150,000 to 500,000 civilians. The bombing was kept secret from the American people.





The Kent State Shooting

After Nixon announced the bombing of Cambodia, the Nation erupted in protests. On May 4th, 1970, At Kent State University in Ohio, the National Guard was sent in due to massive protests and near riots.



Film
Clip



TRAGEDY AT KENT

Cambodia and Dissent:
The Crisis of
Presidential Leadership



Tin soldiers and Nixon coming,
We're finally on our own.
This summer I hear the drumming,
Four dead in Ohio.

Gotta get down to it
Soldiers are gunning us down
Should have been done long ago.
What if you knew her
And found her dead on the ground
How can you run when you know?



After some commotion, the guardsmen opened fire, killing four students and injuring nine.



The Christmas Bombing

In order to force North Vietnam to make concessions at the peace talks, Nixon orders massive bombings of Hanoi and Haiphong.



Paris Peace Accords

After years of stalled talks, a cease-fire was finally signed on January 27, 1973 by the United States, North Vietnam, and South Vietnam. Its provisions were:

- Cease-fire in-place and troop withdrawal
- All parties committed to no further acts of force on ground, in the air, and on the sea.
- Return of all captured military personnel and foreign civilians within 60 day period
- Exercise of South Vietnam's right of self-determination
- North and South Vietnam to begin peaceful negotiations on establishing normal relations and reunification.



Henry Kissinger, The United States Secretary of State, later justified the Paris Peace Accord by saying,

"We believed that those who opposed the war in Vietnam would be satisfied with our withdrawal, and those who favored an honorable ending would be satisfied if the United States would not destroy an ally."

America's longest war was over.



A NAVY NURSE HOLDS UP A NEWSPAPER
DECLARING PEACE FOLLOWING THE
SIGNING OF THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS
JANUARY 27, 1973

Peace with Honor

Cause: By March 1973, the last U.S. forces left Vietnam.

Result: The North Vietnamese overran South Vietnam two years later.



The last Americans
leave the American
Embassy in South
Vietnam

The Fall of Saigon



Saigon= Ho Chi Minh City



Results of the Vietnam War

- There were 58,000 Americans, 400,000 South Vietnamese, and over 900,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese killed in Action.
- 304,000 Americans wounded
- Over 10,000 American MIA/POW's
- U.S. officially recognized Vietnam in 1989
- Vietnam still remains a united nation under a communist government
- Both Cambodia and Laos fall to communism



The Vietnam War Memorial



The U.S. Government and the Vietnam War
Executive and Legislative Roles and Relationships
PART IV: JULY 1965-JANUARY 1968 □ WILLIAM CONRAD GIBBONS

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was not dedicated until 1982, more than seven years after the end of the war.

