

History of Vietnam

Vocabulary	Notes
<p>Containment: strategy to stop spread of communism</p> <p>Ho Chi Minh: Communist leader of North Vietnam</p> <p>Domino Theory: The theory of if you let one country go Communist the rest nearby will soon follow</p> <p>17th parallel: Line of separation, North and South Vietnam</p> <p>Ngo Dinh Diem: US backed leader of South Vietnam</p> <p>Vietminh: Fought against French colonial rule and supported Ho Chi Minh</p>	<p>During the Cold War, the U.S. was committed to containing communism.</p> <p>As a result, the spread of communism in Asia led the US to become involved in a civil war in Vietnam.</p> <p>Beginning in 1887, France gained control of the colony of Vietnam and called it French Indochina.</p> <p>In 1945, after years of French colonial rule, Communist leader Ho Chi Minh led a war for independence in Vietnam.</p> <p>Truman & Eisenhower feared the spread of communism in Asia & sent aid to France.</p> <p>In the 1954 Geneva Accords, Vietnam won independence and was divided along the 17th parallel.</p> <p>Ngo Dinh Diem became democratic president of South Vietnam.</p> <p>Ho Chi Minh's communist supporters in the North were called the Vietminh.</p> <p>In South Vietnam, a group of communists called the Vietcong were formed to oppose Diem & unify Vietnam.</p> <p>South Vietnamese President Diem was a Catholic (religion) and led a corrupt government that oppressed the Buddhists (religious majority).</p> <p>In protest, a Buddhist monk named Quang Duc immolated himself.</p> <p>In 1963 President Kennedy gave approval for the assassination of Diem. Kennedy was assassinated shortly thereafter.</p> <p>After JFK's death in 1963, the responsibility for Vietnam fell to Lyndon Johnson.</p> <p>In 1964, a North Vietnamese gunboat attacked the USS Maddox in the Gulf of Tonkin.</p> <p>Congress responded with the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which gave Lyndon Johnson broad powers to defend Vietnam at any cost.</p>

<p>Vietcong: Fought against US and South Vietnamese often using guerilla warfare</p>	<p>To contain the spread of communism in South Vietnam, Johnson began sending troops to Vietnam in 1965.</p> <p>By 1968, over 500,000 US soldiers were fighting in Vietnam.</p> <p>As a part of Operation Rolling Thunder, the US military started sending planes on bombing raids into North Vietnam.</p>
<p>President Kennedy: President of US, assassinated in 1963</p>	<p>The Vietcong were difficult to target and fight because they used guerilla tactics and blended in with regular citizens when helpful.</p> <p>The enemy also had hundreds of miles of tunnels to hide in. US military would send soldiers into these tunnels called tunnel rats to clear them of enemy combatants.</p>
<p>Lyndon Johnson: Took over after Kennedy, sent large numbers to Vietnam</p>	<p>The enemy also used the Ho Chi Minh Trail to resupply their troops. As a result, US Air Force bombed this trail frequently.</p> <p>The military used napalm (highly flammable sticky jelly) to destroy villages and an herbicide called Agent Orange to destroy crops.</p> <p>Missions to find enemy Vietcong were referred to as search and destroy missions.</p>
<p>Gulf of Tonkin Resolution: Allowed President Johnson freedom to wage war in Vietnam and send as many troops as deemed necessary</p>	<p>The vast coverage of Vietnam by the media, eventually made Vietnam a "Living room war."</p> <p>US citizens began to no longer trust the political and military leaders since what they often heard and saw on television differed greatly from what these leaders stated at times. The difference between what the government was saying and the realities on the ground were referred to as the "credibility gap."</p>
<p>Operation Rolling Thunder: Sending bombers into North Vietnam for bombing runs</p>	<p>On Jan. 30, 1968 (date), the Vietnamese New Year, the North Vietnamese launched simultaneous attacks across the country in the Tet Offensive.</p> <p>Richard Nixon was elected President in 1968 (year).</p>
<p>Agent Orange: Used to kill the overgrowth and</p>	<p>Nixon really wanted to deal a knockout blow in Vietnam & secretly sent US Troops to Cambodia (country).</p>

foliage on the ground in Vietnam to make air support and navigation easier.

Tet Offensive: A large attack waged on Jan. 30, 1968 by the North Vietnamese.

Vietnamization: Nixon's plan to withdraw troops from Vietnam.

In 1970, 4 students died when the National Guard shot into the crowd of violent protesters at Kent State University.

In 1973, the US and North Vietnam agreed to a cease fire and the US withdrew troops from Vietnam.

By 1975, North Vietnam had violated the cease fire and invaded South Vietnam to turn it communist.

Approximately 58,000 Americans were killed in Vietnam.

Timeline Assignment Draft: Important Dates...

1954- Vietnam gained independence

1963- Kennedy gave OK to assassinate Diem

1964- Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

1965- LBJ ordered 1st troops to Vietnam

1968- Tet Offensive; Height of Vietnam

1969- Nixon's Vietnamization policy

1970- Nixon ordered troops to Cambodia

1973- US ceasefire & withdraw of troops

1975- Communists unified Vietnam