

The Vietnam WarI. America's Commitment to the Conflict in Vietnam (1950-1964)

- A. During the Cold War, the U.S. was committed to _____ communism
1. The U.S. was effective in limiting _____ influence in Europe
 2. But, the spread of communism in _____ led the U.S. to become involved in a _____ in Vietnam
 3. Involvement in Vietnam from 1950 to 1973 proved to be America's _____ & most _____ war
- B. Vietnamese Independence from France
1. Since 1887, _____ controlled the colony of Vietnam in SE Asia
 2. By 1945, Communist leader _____ led a war of independence for Vietnam
 3. Truman & Eisenhower feared the spread of communism in Asia (“_____”) & sent aid to France
 4. Vietnam won independence in 1954 but was divided along the 17th parallel
 - a. Ngo Dinh Diem became _____ of South Vietnam
 - b. Ho Chi Minh gained control of _____
 - i. Ho Chi Minh's communist supporters in the North were called the _____
 - ii. In South Vietnam, a group of communists called the _____ were formed to unify Vietnam
- C. Containing Communism in Vietnam
1. South Vietnamese President Diem led a _____ government, offered little assistance to the _____, & oppressed Buddhists; Presidents Eisenhower & Kennedy _____ Diem despite his growing unpopularity
 2. In 1963, _____ Quang Duc immolated himself to protest Diem's regime
 3. In 1963 President Kennedy recognized that Diem had _____ of Vietnam & gave approval for the _____ of Diem; Diem's assassination led to _____ in South Vietnam
 4. After JFK's death in 1963, the responsibility for Vietnam fell to _____
- D. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964
1. In 1964, a North Vietnamese gunboat attacked the _____ in the Gulf of Tonkin
 2. Congress responded with the _____ Resolution which gave Lyndon Johnson broad powers to “defend Vietnam _____”

II. Fighting the Vietnam War under President Lyndon Johnson (1965-1969)

- A. The Escalation of the Vietnam War
1. In an effort to contain the spread of communism into South Vietnam, LBJ began sending U.S. _____ in 1965; By 1968, over _____ U.S. soldiers were fighting in Vietnam
 2. In “Operation Rolling Thunder,” the U.S. military began _____ North Vietnam
- B. Fighting the War in Vietnam
1. The goal of U.S. military was to defeat the _____ & support _____ in South Vietnam:
 - a. But, the Vietcong lived among the _____ in Vietnamese in cities & villages (*who is the enemy?*)
 - b. The Vietcong used _____ to combat U.S. military superiority
 - c. _____ made fighting difficult
 2. The U.S. military used a variety of tactics to fight the war in Vietnam
 - a. The _____ bombed villages & _____ (Ho Chi Minh Trail)
 - b. The military used _____ to destroy villages & pesticides (_____) to destroy crops
 - c. Soldiers were sent on deadly “_____” missions into the jungles to find the Vietcong
 3. Despite overwhelming military superiority, the U.S. could not win in Vietnam & the war became _____ at home
 - a. Television made Vietnam a “_____”
 - b. _____ broadcasts reported _____, atrocities, declining troop morale, & lack of gains in the war
 - c. The American public believed their was a “_____” between what the gov't was saying & the _____ of the Vietnam War

C. The Tet Offensive, 1968

1. In 1968, the Vietcong launched the _____ against U.S. forces in South Vietnam
2. The attack was contrary to media reports that the U.S. was _____ the Vietnam War
3. The Tet Offensive was a _____ in the Vietnam War
 - a. President Johnson began to question whether the war _____...& LBJ announced that he would not seek _____
 - b. American attitudes towards the war changed & _____ grew

D. Protesting the Vietnam War

1. As more men were _____ into the war, the larger the anti-Vietnam _____ became
2. _____ protested the killing of civilians & the draft, especially the large numbers of African Americans, _____, & high-school _____

III. Fighting the Vietnam War under President Richard Nixon (1969-1973)

A. Richard Nixon & the Election of 1968

1. LBJ's decision not to run for re-election & the assassination of _____ left the Democrats _____ for the election of 1968
2. Republican _____ took advantage of the divided Democrats & won the 1968 election

B. Nixon wanted "_____ with _____" in Vietnam

1. Nixon & National Security Advisor _____ developed a plan called _____: gradually withdraw _____ & replace them with South Vietnamese soldiers
2. But, Nixon really wanted a "knockout blow" in Vietnam & _____ sent U.S. troops _____ & ordered bombings of _____
3. When Americans found out about Nixon's attacks on Cambodia & Laos, it set off the largest _____ in U.S. history
 - a. 250,000 people, mostly students on college campuses, protested the war & some protests turned _____
 - b. 4 students _____ when the National Guard shot into a crowd of violent protestors at _____ University in 1970

C. Ending the Vietnam War

1. In 1973, the U.S. & North Vietnam agreed to a _____ & the U.S. _____ troops from Vietnam
2. In 1975, North Vietnam _____ the cease fire, invaded South Vietnam, & _____ the nation under a communist government

IV. Conclusions: The Impact of the Vietnam War

A. The conflict in Vietnam was the longest & most divisive war in U.S. history

B. Of the _____ U.S. soldiers who served:

1. _____ were killed & 303,000 were wounded
2. 15% were diagnosed with _____ disorder after the war
3. Many vets faced _____ from other U.S. citizens when they returned home

C. The war changed foreign policy

1. _____ ended as Americans became cautious of the U.S. _____ in the world
2. Congress _____ a president's ability to _____ without a declaration of war by passing the _____ in 1973

D. The war changed America at home

1. People began to lose _____ in the _____ of gov't leaders during the Johnson & Nixon years
2. The \$176 billion cost of the war led to high _____ in the 1970s & _____ LBJ's Great Society
3. The _____ Amendment lowered the voting age to _____ years old