

**The Vietnam War**I. 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