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Edexcel - IGCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE



The Vietnam Conflict, 1945–75

GCSEHistory.com

CLEVER Lili

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The Vietnam Conflict, 1945–75

Edexcel - IGCSE





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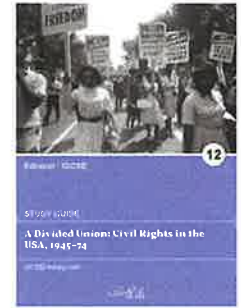
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In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons

-  **WHAT** questions cover the key events and themes.
-  **WHO** questions cover the key people involved.
-  **WHEN** questions cover the timings of key events.
-  **WHERE** questions cover the locations of key moments.
-  **WHY** questions cover the reasons behind key events.
-  **HOW** questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.
-  **IMPORTANCE** questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.
-  **DECISIONS** questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on **page 66**.

Page references

Tudor (p. 7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

The Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 75 is a modern investigation and breadth study that details the key events and people involved in the Vietnam Conflict. It covers the military conflict in Vietnam, the involvement of the USA, and the impact of global political conflicts. The course also investigates the French occupation and the impact of the conflict. You will focus on crucial events and study the different social, cultural, political and economic changes that occurred.

Purpose

This study enables you to understand the complexities and challenges of democracy versus communism, of war versus peace and of protest versus nationalism. You will investigate themes such as democracy, communism, dictatorship, government, propaganda, censorship, tactics, strategies and politics. This course will enable you to develop the historical skills of causation and consequence, and encourage you to analyse and evaluate contemporary sources as well as interpretations of the time period.

Topics

The Vietnam Conflict, 1945 - 75 is split into 5 key topics:

- ▣ In Topic 1, The Vietnamese Struggle against France for independence, 1945 - 54, you will study the beginnings of the Vietnam conflict. This includes the tactics of General Giap, the search for a diplomatic solution and the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu.
- ▣ In Topic 2, US policy and intervention in the Vietnamese War, 1954 - 64, you will examine life in North and South Vietnam, as well as Ho Chi Minh's attempts to unite Vietnam and the Gulf of Tonkin incidents.
- ▣ In Topic 3, Confrontation in the Vietnam War, you will focus on the escalation in 1964 - 68, how the USA took the lead in the war, and the roles of McNamara, General Westmoreland and President Johnson.
- ▣ In Topic 4, you will focus on President Nixon and President Ford's policies with regards to the Vietnam War. This will include the failure of the peace talks, how the war extended into Cambodia and Laos, and how it linked to Vietnamisation.
- ▣ In Topic 5, the impact of the conflict on civilians in Vietnam and attitudes in the USA, you will investigate the impact on civilians in Vietnam and the USA. You will also study the tactics of guerrilla warfare, the battle for 'hearts and minds', the Phoenix Program and bombing during the Vietnam War.

Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

- 👤 Ho Chi Minh.
- 👤 General Giap.
- 👤 Ngo Dinh Diem.
- 👤 President Truman.
- 👤 President Kennedy.
- 👤 President Eisenhower.
- 👤 President Johnson.
- 👤 President Nixon.
- 👤 President Ford.
- 👤 Henry Kissinger.

Key Events

Some of the key events you will study on this course include:

- 📅 French defeat at Dien Bien Phu.
- 📅 Vietnam split at the 17th parallel.
- 📅 France leaving Vietnam.
- 📅 Gulf of Tonkin incidents.
- 📅 Tet Offensive.
- 📅 My Lai Massacre.
- 📅 Paris Peace Accords.
- 📅 The draft.
- 📅 Vietnamisation.

- ★ US bombing of Cambodia and Laos.
- ★ Kent State Incident.
- ★ Pentagon Papers published.
- ★ The Fall of Saigon.

Assessment

The Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 75 forms part of paper 2 where you have a total of 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete. You should spend 45 minutes on this section of the paper. There will be 1 exam question on The Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 75. The question will be broken down into 4 sections; a, b, c(i) and c(ii). You will answer a, b and either c(i) or c(ii).

- ★ Question a is worth 6 marks. This question will require you to examine an extract and assesses your ability to analyse and evaluate a historical interpretation. You will need to identify the author's opinion or perspective by analysing the language the author uses and what they have chosen to comment on. You will explain how valid the overall impression is by using your own knowledge to evaluate that impression.
- ★ Question b is worth 8 marks. This question will require you to explain two effects of an event on something else by using your contextual knowledge and looking at the consequences. You will need to identify two effects and then demonstrate how the event led to the effect you have identified.
- ★ Question c(i) and c(ii) are worth 16 marks. This question will require you to construct an argument to support and challenge an interpretation stated in the question. You will be given two pieces of information to help jog your memory but you must use information of your own. You will have the opportunity to show your ability to explain and analyse historical events using 2nd order concepts such as causation, consequence, change, continuity, similarity and difference.

Revision! A dreaded word. Everyone knows it's coming, everyone knows how much it helps with your exam performance, and everyone struggles to get started! We know you want to do the best you can in your IGCSEs, but schools aren't always clear on the best way to revise. This can leave students wondering:



- ✓ How should I plan my revision time?
- ✓ How can I beat procrastination?
- ✓ What methods should I use? Flash cards? Re-reading my notes? Highlighting?

Luckily, you no longer need to guess at the answers. Education researchers have looked at all the available revision studies, and the jury is in. They've come up with some key pointers on the best ways to revise, as well as some thoughts on popular revision methods that aren't so helpful. The next few pages will help you understand what we know about the best revision methods.



How can I beat procrastination?

This is an age-old question, and it applies to adults as well! Have a look at our top three tips below.

🕒 Reward yourself

When we think a task we have to do is going to be boring, hard or uncomfortable, we often put it off and do something more 'fun' instead. But we often don't really enjoy the 'fun' activity because we feel guilty about avoiding what we should be doing. Instead, get your work done and promise yourself a reward after you complete it. Whatever treat you choose will seem all the sweeter, and you'll feel proud for doing something you found difficult. Just do it!



🕒 Just do it!



We tend to procrastinate when we think the task we have to do is going to be difficult or dull. The funny thing is, the most uncomfortable part is usually making ourselves sit down and start it in the first place. Once you begin, it's usually not nearly as bad as you anticipated.

🕒 Pomodoro technique

The pomodoro technique helps you trick your brain by telling it you only have to focus for a short time. Set a timer for 20 minutes and focus that whole period on your revision. Turn off your phone, clear your desk, and work. At the end of the 20 minutes, you get to take a break for five. Then, do another 20 minutes. You'll usually find your rhythm and it becomes easier to carry on because it's only for a short, defined chunk of time.



Spaced practice

We tend to arrange our revision into big blocks. For example, you might tell yourself: "This week I'll do all my revision for the Cold War, then next week I'll do the Medicine Through Time unit."

This is called **massed practice**, because all revision for a single topic is done as one big mass.

But there's a better way! Try **spaced practice** instead. Instead of putting all revision sessions for one topic into a single block, space them out. See the example below for how it works.

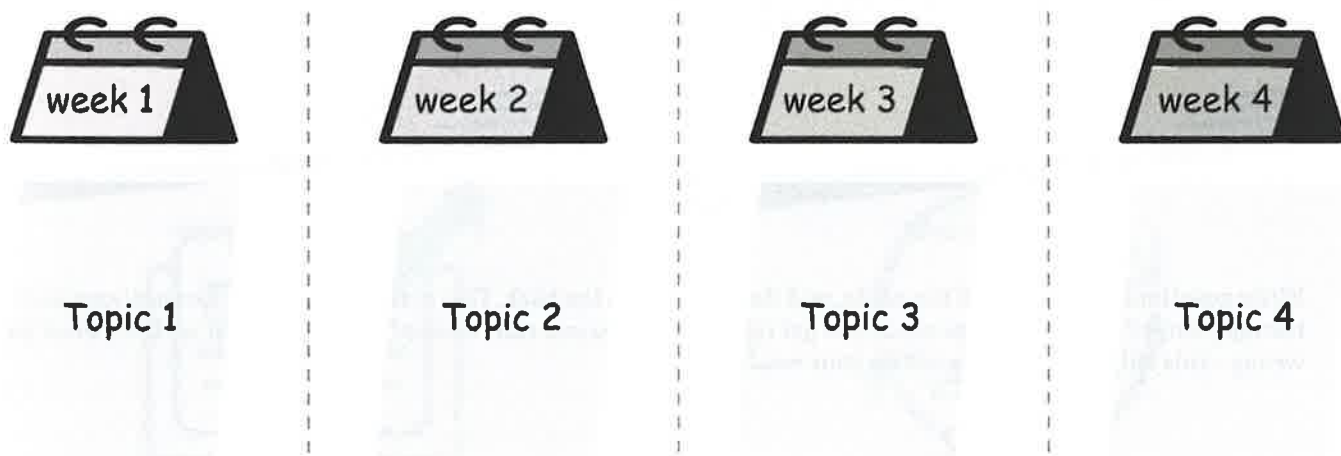
This means planning ahead, rather than leaving revision to the last minute - but the evidence strongly suggests it's worth it. You'll remember much more from your revision if you use **spaced practice** rather than organising it into big blocks. Whichever method you choose, though, remember to reward yourself with breaks.



Spaced practice (more effective):



Massed practice (less effective)

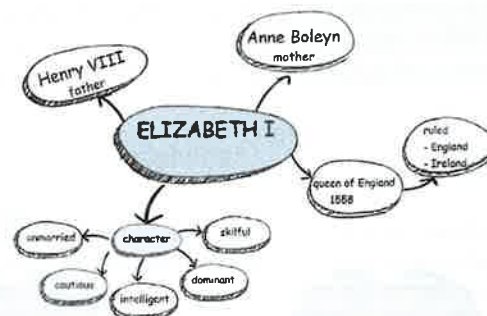


What methods should I use to revise?

Self-testing/flash cards



Self explanation/mind-mapping



The research shows a clear winner for revision methods - **self-testing**. A good way to do this is with **flash cards**. Flash cards are really useful for helping you recall short – but important – pieces of information, like names and dates.



Side A - question



Side B - answer

Write questions on one side of the cards, and the answers on the back. This makes answering the questions and then testing yourself easy. Put all the cards you get right in a pile to one side, and only repeat the test with the ones you got wrong - this will force you to work on your weaker areas.



pile with right answers

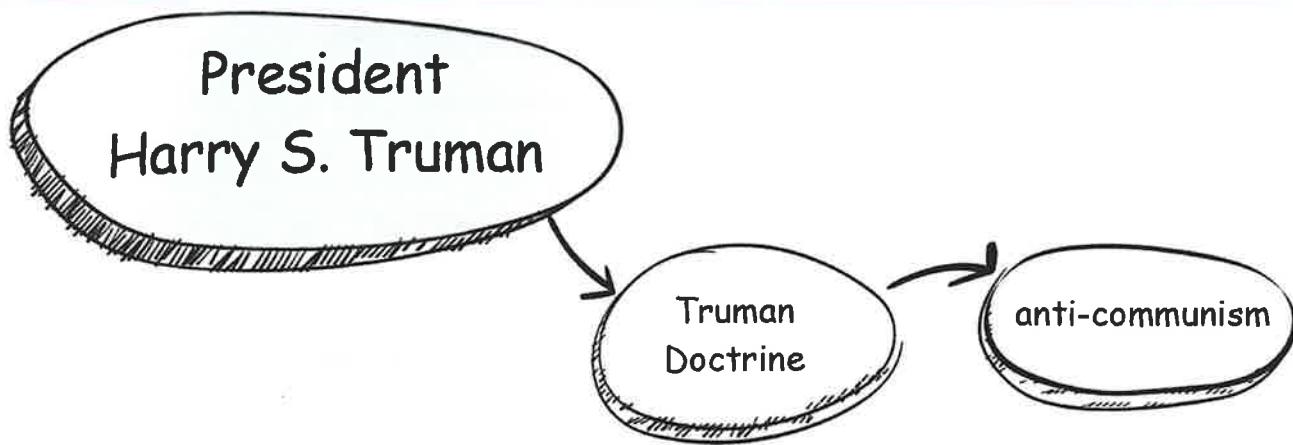


pile with wrong answers

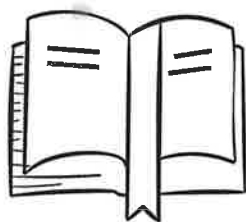
As this book has a quiz question structure itself, you can use it for this technique.

Another good revision method is **self-explanation**. This is where you explain how and why one piece of information from your course linked with another piece.

This can be done with **mind-maps**, where you draw the links and then write explanations for how they connect. For example, President Truman is connected with anti-communism because of the Truman Doctrine.

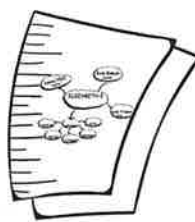


Review



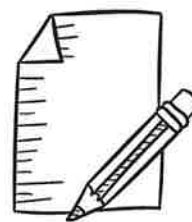
Start by highlighting or re-reading to create your flashcards for self-testing.

Self-Test



Test yourself with flash cards. Make mind maps to explain the concepts.

Apply



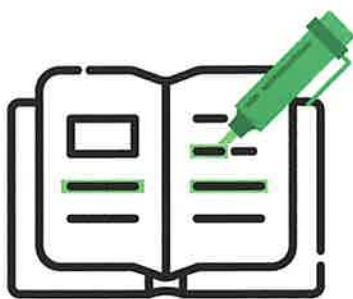
Apply your knowledge on practice exam questions.



Which revision techniques should I be cautious about?

Highlighting and **re-reading** are not necessarily bad strategies - but the research does say they're less effective than flash cards and mind-maps.

Highlighting

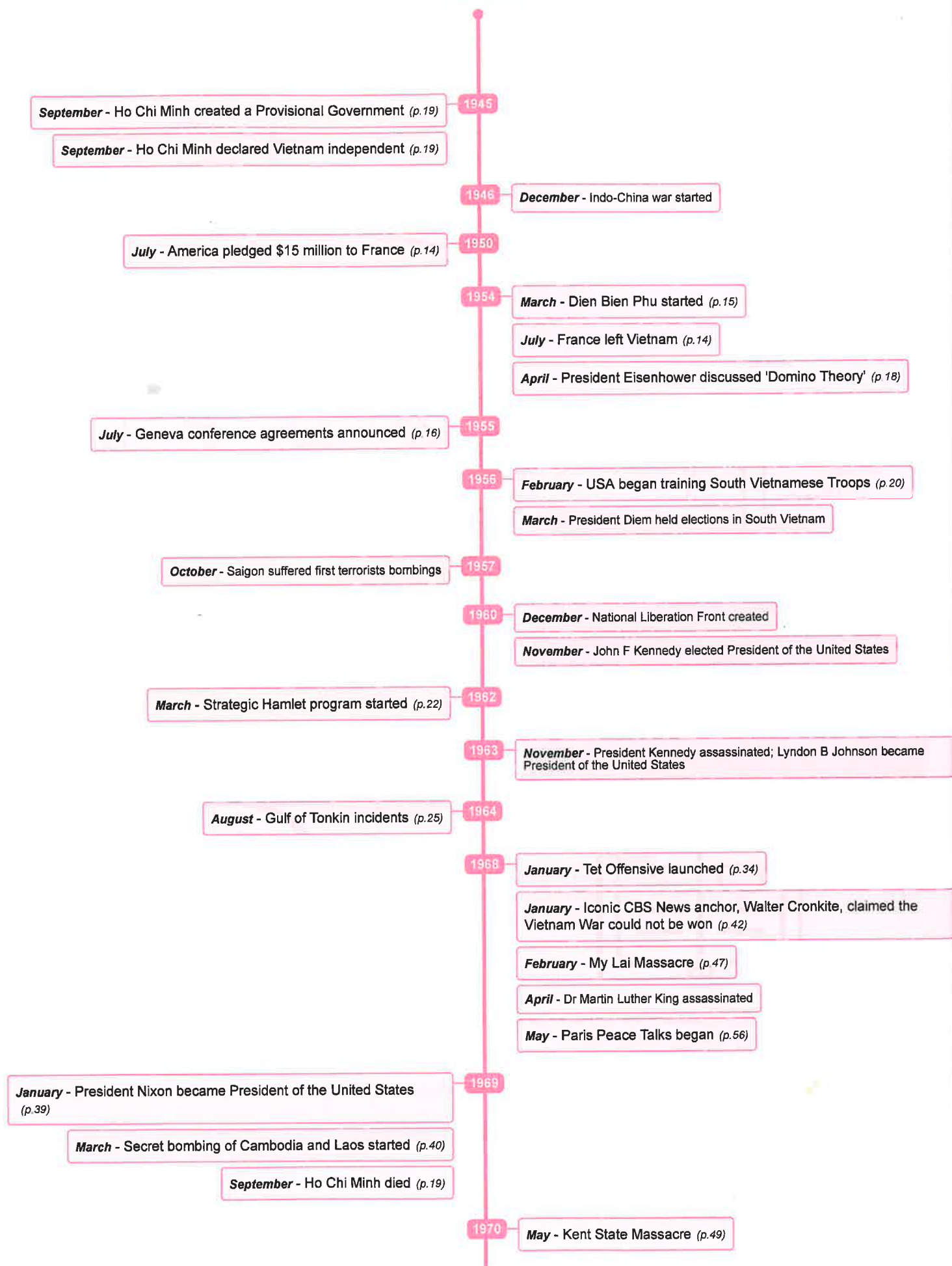


Re-reading



If you do use these methods, make sure they are **the first step to creating flash cards**. Really engage with the material as you go, rather than switching to autopilot.

TIMELINE



VIETNAM WAR





FRENCH RULE OF VIETNAM

'Let us unite and unify our action to overthrow the Japanese and the French.'
Ho Chi Minh, 1941



Who controlled Vietnam before the Second World War?

France fully took over Indochina in the late 19th century. France lost control to the Japanese during the Second World War, but wanted to regain it in 1945.



Who supported French rule in Vietnam?

French rule in Vietnam was supported by the USA, under President Truman, after March 1945. They provided around \$500 million a year in support.



Why did the USA support French rule in Vietnam?

The US wanted to **prevent communism** spreading in Asia, particularly after the fall of China to communism in 1949.



Who challenged French rule in Vietnam?

French rule in Vietnam was challenged by the Vietminh, a Vietnamese resistance movement founded to fight the Japanese during the Second World War. It was led by the **communist** Ho Chi Minh (p. 19).



How was French rule in Vietnam defeated?

The Vietminh used **guerrilla warfare** to defeat the French.



What were the reasons for the defeat of French rule in Vietnam?

There were 6 main reasons why the French were defeated in Vietnam.

- ✓ The Vietminh were able to use their excellent geographical knowledge to their advantage, using it to launch surprise attacks on the French.
- ✓ The Vietminh were aided by China and the USSR, who sent troops and supplies.
- ✓ Villagers supported the Vietminh, by spying and **deploying** supplies.
- ✓ The Vietminh used **guerrilla warfare**.
- ✓ The French troops did not care about regaining control of Vietnam. France also underestimated the Vietminh.
- ✓ There was limited assistance from the US.



When did the French rule end in Vietnam?

The French left Vietnam in July 1956.

DID YOU KNOW?

France gained control over North Vietnam following its victory over China in 1885.



GENERAL GIAP

General Giap built a highly disciplined communist force that was to eventually force the US from Vietnam.



Who was General Giap?

A Vietnamese **Communist** and eventual general of the North Vietnam Army.



What were General Giap's tactics?

He used 2 main **tactics**:

- ✓ Guerilla warfare.
- ✓ Waves of troops in huge numbers.

DID YOU KNOW?

Giap had no direct military training and was a history teacher. He said his two greatest influences were T E Lawrence and Napoleon.



DIEN BIEN PHU, 1954

'Underestimation of nonconventional units or a guerrilla enemy by regular forces is a cardinal military sin.'

Howard R Simpson, historian



What was Dien Bien Phu?

Dien Bien Phu was a decisive battle between French and North Vietnamese troops in 1954.



When did Dien Bien Phu take place?

The Battle of Dien Bien Phu was fought for 57 days between 13th March and 7th May, 1954.



Who was involved at Dien Bien Phu?

France fought the Battle of Dien Bien Phu against North Vietnam and the Vietminh.



What was the result of Dien Bien Phu?

There were 5 significant results of Dien Bien Phu.

- ✓ France lost the battle.
- ✓ Over 3,000 French soldiers were killed and 8,000 were wounded.
- ✓ The Vietminh lost 8,000 troops and a further 12,000 were wounded.
- ✓ It was a massive humiliation for the French.
- ✓ The remaining French soldiers were made to march to prisons located far away, with many dying during the journey.



Why did Dien Bien Phu happen?

The French felt one last large battle would defeat the **communists**.



How were the French defeated at Dien Bien Phu?

The French were defeated for 6 main reasons:

- ✓ The 10,000 French soldiers defended an airfield known as Dien Bien Phu, which was in a valley.
- ✓ The French were surrounded and had their supplies cut off by 50,000 Vietminh soldiers.
- ✓ The Vietnamese were willing to use suicide bombers.
- ✓ The Vietnamese managed to get **artillery** to the top of the surrounding hills and bombarded Dien Bien Phu.
- ✓ They launched attacks with vast numbers of men and were willing to take heavy **casualties**.
- ✓ The French ran out of essential supplies like water and medicines. Although they asked for help, neither the USA nor Britain would come to their aid. The French surrendered on 7th May, 1954.



Why did the French surrender at Dien Bien Phu?

The French surrendered at Dien Bien Phu for 3 key reasons:

- ✓ They had been defeated in the battle.
- ✓ They could not secure support from outside parties such as Britain and the USA.
- ✓ The French **parliament** voted 471 to 14 in support of ending the war and withdrawing from French Indochina.



What were the consequences of Dien Bien Phu?

The defeat at Dien Bien Phu had 2 important consequences.

- ✓ It ended France's 8-year war with the Vietminh.
- ✓ Over 400,000 soldiers and **civilians** lost their lives in the First Indochina War.

DID YOU KNOW?

All 13,000 men in the French garrison were either killed or captured.



GENEVA ACCORDS, 1954

These agreements divided Vietnam along the 17th Parallel.



What were the Geneva Accords?

The Geneva Conference was a meeting between 9 countries which focused on resolving the war between France and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The agreements that were reached became known as the Geneva Accords.



When was the Geneva Conference?

The Geneva Conference took place from 26th April to 21st July, 1954.



Who attended the Geneva Conference?

Representatives of 9 countries attended the Geneva Conference:

- ✓ Cambodia.
- ✓ Laos.
- ✓ China.
- ✓ France.



- ✓ Britain.
- ✓ USSR.
- ✓ USA.
- ✓ Vietminh (North Vietnam).
- ✓ The State of Vietnam (South Vietnam).



Where was the Geneva Conference held?

The **conference** was held in Geneva, Switzerland.



Why was the Geneva Conference held?

The Geneva Conference was held to bring a peaceful end to the conflict in Indochina.



What was agreed by the Geneva Accords?

The Geneva Accords resulted in numerous important agreements regarding Vietnam:

- ✓ Vietnam was split into two on a temporary basis, with a **demilitarised** zone in the middle. The country was divided at the 17th parallel, which was approximately halfway down.
- ✓ The south would be run by Emperor Bao Dai, who had spent a lot of time in the USA and strongly opposed **communism**.
- ✓ The north would be controlled by Ho Chi Minh (p. 19), a **communist**.
- ✓ France had to withdraw from Vietnam.
- ✓ The Vietminh had to withdraw from the south.
- ✓ The Vietnamese could choose if they wanted to live in the north or the south.
- ✓ Elections were to be held in 1956 to decide who ruled the whole of Vietnam. However, no clear electoral system was agreed.
- ✓ No foreign forces would be allowed to set up military bases in Vietnam.
- ✓ There were 300 days of free movement. One million people moved south; 130,000 moved north; and 5,000 to 10,000 supporters of North Vietnam stayed in the south.
- ✓ Laos and Cambodia were created.



What was the USA's response to the Geneva Accords?

President Eisenhower was worried about the spread of **communism** in the region and was committed to containing it. The USA refused to sign the accords, but became more involved in the future of Vietnam. In January 1955, America sent a shipment of military aid to Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, and offered to train the new army.



What was the response of South Vietnam to the Geneva Accords?

South Vietnam refused to sign the accords. Diem (p. 63), the prime **minister**, did not want to accept the division of the country as he wanted a united Vietnam.



What was the response of North Vietnam to the Geneva Accords?

China forced North Vietnam to agree to the demands, even though it would have a smaller area of control than in 1945. Ho Chi Minh (p. 19) wanted a united country, but he believed the division would only be temporary as the people of Vietnam would vote for a **communist** government in the elections that were due to be held before July 1956.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Geneva Accords gave the Vietnamese 300 days to decide whether to live in North or South Vietnam.

Around 660,000 Vietnamese chose to move to South Vietnam.



DOMINO THEORY

'You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you could have a beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences.'

President Eisenhower, 1954



What was the Domino Theory?

The Domino Theory said that if one country fell under **communist** influence, the surrounding nations in that region would also fall - like a line of dominos.



When was the Domino Theory created?

The phrase 'Domino Theory' was first used in 1954.



Who came up with the Domino Theory?

The phrase was first used by US President Eisenhower when he suggested the fall of French Indochina to **communism** could result in a domino effect in south east Asia.



What started the idea of the Domino Theory?

The idea of the 'Domino Theory' was a consequence of the Cold War. The 3 main causes were:

- ✓ The US government had committed to limiting the spread of **communism** in Europe through the Marshall Plan. The idea was that communism would take root in poorer countries, so supporting those nations' **economies** would stop the spread.
- ✓ The USA witnessed **communist** takeovers in some Asian countries including China, North Korea, and North Vietnam.
- ✓ Eisenhower believed Ho Chi Minh (p.19) wanted all of Vietnam to become **communist**, and that if this happened **communism** would spread to Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Indonesia and India. Vietnam was the first 'domino'.



What was a consequence of the Domino Theory?

To stop the spread of **communism** in south-east Asia President Eisenhower set up the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) with seven other countries in 1954.



What was the impact of the Domino Theory on the USA?

The fear triggered by the Domino Theory impacted the USA in 5 key ways:

- ✓ People began to believe there were **Soviet** spies living among American people and plotting to overthrow the government.
- ✓ The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was established to investigate suspected **communist** spies.
- ✓ Some filmmakers were accused of spreading **communist propaganda**.



- ✓ The McCarran Act was passed. This **legislation** restricted employment for **communists** and stipulated that all communist organisations had to be registered and investigated.
- ✓ It led to something called the Red Scare, a paranoia about **communism**, which facilitated McCarthyism. This in turn led to an increase of public support for greater involvement in Vietnam.

DID YOU KNOW?

the Domino Theory proved to be correct in regards to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos but failed in Burma and India.



HO CHI MINH

'You will kill ten of us, we will kill one of you, but in the end, you will tire of it first.'
Ho Chi Minh, 1946



Who was Ho Chi Minh?

Ho Chi Minh was the **communist** leader of North Vietnam.



What does Ho Chi Minh's name mean?

Ho Chi Minh means 'Enlightened One'.



What were Ho Chi Minh's main aims?

Ho Chi Minh's main aim was to achieve a **communist**, united, and **independent** Vietnam.



What were Ho Chi Minh's achievements?

Ho Chi Minh had 8 main achievements including:

- ✓ He founded the Vietminh.
- ✓ He led the Vietnamese to victory over the Japanese and the French, and played a major role in the war against the US.
- ✓ He helped **communism** to develop in Vietnam.
- ✓ He was instrumental in the development of the Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21).
- ✓ He was prime **minister** of North Vietnam from 1945 to 1955.
- ✓ He was **president** of North Vietnam from 1945 to 1969.
- ✓ He created the North Vietnamese Army and the Vietcong (p.20).
- ✓ He established links with China and the USSR.



What was Ho Chi Minh's link to the Vietcong?

He was instrumental in the creation of the Vietcong (p.20) by encouraging the different armed groups in the south to work together as one organisation. The new organisation became known as the National Liberation Front in December 1960. In the south they were called the 'Vietcong' which meant Vietnamese **communist**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ho Chi Minh was recognised as one of the 100 most important people of the 20th century by Time Magazine.

VIETCONG

'I became convinced that the US effort would not succeed because of the lack of conviction in the Saigon government compared to the discipline and sense of self-sacrifice among the Vietcong.'
Historian William J Duiker



What was the Vietcong?

The Vietcong (VC) was made up of over a dozen different political and religious groups based in South Vietnam. They opposed the South Vietnamese government, both politically and militarily.



When was the Vietcong established?

The Vietcong was established on 20th December, 1960.



Who was the leader of the Vietcong?

The leader of the Vietcong was Hua Tho. Although he was non-communist, so were many members of the organisation.



Why was the Vietcong established?

The Vietcong was formed for three main reasons:

- ✓ There was much anger and frustration at Diem's (p. 63) failure to hold the elections agreed at the Geneva Conference, which would have meant a united Vietnam.
- ✓ Frustration pushed some people to violence, and groups of South Vietnamese people intended to use terror **tactics** to force elections or overthrow Diem's (p. 25) regime.
- ✓ The violence resulted in many members of Diem's (p. 63) government being murdered. He hit back by sending the ARVN into the jungle to hunt down **rebel** forces. A report produced by Ho Chi Minh's (p. 19) advisor, Le Duan, commented that Diem's policy was proving successful, and therefore the rebel forces in South Vietnam had to become more organised.



What was Ho Chi Minh's involvement with the Vietcong?

Le Duan's report convinced Ho Chi Minh (p. 19) that he needed to help the resistance fighters in the south if they were to be successful. He persuaded different armed groups who opposed Diem (p. 63) to come together in one organisation - the National Liberation Front, or the Vietcong, as it was called by the ARVN and US advisers.



What were the aims of the Vietcong?

The Vietcong had 3 key aims.

- ✓ It wanted to overthrow Diem (p. 25) and establish a new government that represented all groups in South Vietnamese society.
- ✓ It was committed to the reunification of Vietnam, **independent** of all foreign influence.
- ✓ It was committed to the redistribution of wealth and **restoration** of **peasants'** rights.



Who supported the Vietcong?

The Vietcong had both domestic and international support.

- ✓ Domestic support for the Vietcong was vast. As well as **communists**, and **nationalists** who wanted reunification, it appealed to the **middle classes**, teachers, doctors, and also **peasants** and workers.
- ✓ Internationally, the Vietcong was supported by North Vietnam, China and the USSR.



How was the Vietcong supported by the North?

The North developed various supply routes to help the Vietcong, including the Ho Chi Minh Trail.



How did the Vietcong fight?

The Vietcong used 4 **guerrilla tactics** against Diem's (p.63) ARVN forces.

- ✓ Their aim was not to destroy, but to wear down.
- ✓ They fought in cells of 8-10 soldiers.
- ✓ They blended into the **population**, making it difficult for Diem's (p.63) forces to find them.
- ✓ They picked their battles, attacking at night and only fighting if they outnumbered enemy soldiers.



What was the difference between the Vietcong and the Vietminh?

The Vietminh was the anti-Japanese and anti-French force created in the 1940s to drive out foreign colonialists. After the division of Vietnam, its members resided in the north. The Vietcong was created in the 1950s to fight Diem's (p.63) regime in the south, and was used as North Vietnam's vehicle for creating chaos across the south.



What was the Ho Chi Minh Trail which was used by the Vietcong?

There are 4 important details to note about the Ho Chi Minh Trail:

- ✓ It was a supply route from North to South Vietnam.
- ✓ It was a series of parallel roads that ran along the Vietnamese border, often through thick jungle.
- ✓ The route went from North Vietnam, through Laos and Cambodia, to South Vietnam.
- ✓ It was used to send supplies, troops and weapons to the Vietcong.



What did the Vietcong do to gain help and support?

The Vietcong used both positive and oppressive methods to control the Vietnamese.

- ✓ They used violence and intimidation to control villages.
- ✓ They created a political group called the National Liberation Front (NLF). It spread **communist** ideas among the villages, and encouraged people to help the Vietcong.



How did President Kennedy try to defeat the Vietcong?

President Kennedy sent an extra 16,000 advisers to South Vietnam, to train the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) to fight the Vietcong. They were called 'advisers' rather than troops, because he wanted to avoid full-scale war.



What were President Kennedy's motives towards the Vietcong?

President Kennedy wanted to stop **communism** and destroy the Vietcong.



Why did President Kennedy fail to defeat the Vietcong?

President Kennedy's attempt to defeat the Vietcong failed for 3 main reasons:

- ✓ Efforts by US troops to train villagers to fight the Vietcong were unsuccessful because the Americans could not speak Vietnamese.
- ✓ The US troops were unable to stop the Vietcong visiting the villages at night, once they had left.
- ✓ The USA supported the ARVN, which was regarded as part of Diem's (p.63) **corrupt** government.



Why did the USA see the Vietcong as a threat?

The Vietcong was seen as a threat by the USA for 5 significant reasons:

- ✓ Although the ARVN had five times as many troops, it was too concerned over who should lead rather than pulling together to defeat the Vietcong.
- ✓ China supported the Vietcong by using the Ho Chi Minh Trail to send \$100 million in aid to South Vietnam.
- ✓ The South Vietnamese government was seen as the USA's puppet and remained unpopular.



- ✓ The introduction of **reforms**, and the use of **propaganda**, meant the Vietcong gained local support.
- ✓ The number of attacks by the Vietcong increased and were focused on US military targets.



What was President Johnson's response to the Vietcong threat?

After President Kennedy was **assassinated**, President Johnson increased the number of US advisers in South Vietnam to 20,000. He wanted to avoid US involvement in an escalating war by ensuring the establishment of a **democratic** and popular government that would oppose **communism**.



What was another name for the Vietcong?

US personnel referred to the Vietcong as 'Charlie'. This was because it was known as 'VC', which in the **phonetic alphabet** is 'Victor Charlie'.



How did the Vietcong react to US intervention?

In the early 1960s, the Vietcong began 2 main projects to counter increasing US intervention:

- ✓ The amount of supplies brought along the Ho Chi Minh Trail was increased.
- ✓ It increased the number of **guerrilla** attacks, from 50 in September, 1961, to 150 in October.



Why did the Vietcong become more dangerous to the USA?

There were 3 main reasons why the Vietcong threat increased:

- ✓ Increasing tensions with the Americans had pushed the Vietcong to use more violent methods.
- ✓ America was increasing supplies, troops and operations in South Vietnam.
- ✓ However, the South Vietnamese were still unable to hold elections.

DID YOU KNOW?

The name Vietcong means 'cong san Viet Nam'. This translates as 'Vietnamese communist'.



STRATEGIC HAMLET PROGRAM

'The Strategic Hamlet Program failed because of over-expansion and the establishment of hamlets in basically insecure areas.'
Pentagon Papers, 1942



What was the Strategic Hamlet programme?

The Strategic Hamlet programme was an initiative introduced by Diem (p.63), supported by President Kennedy and the US government that saw around 5,000 new villages built in South Vietnam.



When was the Strategic Hamlet programme introduced?

The Strategic Hamlet programme began in March 1962.



Why was the Strategic Hamlet programme introduced?

There were 3 key reasons the programme was introduced.

- ✓ Diem (p. 63) was a very unpopular leader and it was an attempt to 'win the hearts and minds' of the South Vietnamese population.
- ✓ Diem (p. 63) portrayed it as a policy that helped the South Vietnamese people defend themselves against the Vietcong (p. 20).
- ✓ The hidden reason for the programme was to stop the Vietcong (p. 20) using peasant villages for food and shelter. They also wanted to stop the Vietcong from gathering intelligence about the ARVN from the peasants.

How did the Strategic Hamlet programme work?

The programme worked by moving peasants away from their homes to new villages known as 'strategic hamlets'. These were surrounded by ditches and barbed wire. In just one year, between 1962 and 1963, two thirds of South Vietnamese people were forced to live in strategic hamlets.

How did the USA hope to gain support with the Strategic Hamlet programme?

It was hoped measures such as building new schools and hospitals, as part of the Strategic Hamlet programme, would build strong support for Diem (p. 63).

Why did the Strategic Hamlet programme fail?

The Strategic Hamlet programme failed for 4 key reasons:

- ✓ The new villages needed inhabitants, so people were forced to move into them even if they didn't want to.
- ✓ Many villagers believed they should live where their ancestors were buried, so the move upset them for religious reasons.
- ✓ Other peasants did not want to have to travel further to reach their rice fields.
- ✓ Not enough food was provided by the government, which meant some of those in the new hamlets faced starvation.

What were the consequences of the Strategic Hamlet programme?

The Strategic Hamlet programme had two key consequences:

- ✓ The programme made people less likely to support Diem (p. 63), not more. Membership of the National Liberation Front and the Vietcong (p. 20) increased by 300% in two years.
- ✓ Its failure led Kennedy to increase the USA's involvement in Vietnam, and he sent more military advisors to support Diem (p. 63) and the ARVN.

What was the role of the Strategic Hamlet programme in the Hearts and Minds initiative?

'Hearts and Minds' was an American pacification programme, designed to persuade the South Vietnamese to reject communism. The Strategic Hamlets Programme was one aspect of it.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Strategic Hamlet Program only lasted two years and only 20% of it was completed.



PHOENIX PROGRAM

A US-designed programme of torture, interrogation and assassination.



What was the Phoenix Program?

The Phoenix Program was an American operation to arrest, interrogate, convert, and kill suspected Vietcong (p.20).



When did the Phoenix Program begin?

The Phoenix Program, or Operation Phoenix, started in 1968.



Who was in charge of the Phoenix Program?

The CIA was responsible for the Phoenix Program.

DID YOU KNOW?

Methods of torture included electric shock, beatings and suspending prisoners in mid-air.



BATTLE OF AP BAC, 1963

This battle was the first major victory for the Vietcong.



What was the Battle of Ap Bac?

The Battle of Ap Bac was a major battle of the Vietnam War, fought in South Vietnam.



When was the Ap Bac Battle?

The Battle of Ap Bac was on 2nd January, 1963.



What was the outcome of the Ap Bac Battle?

Despite massive support from the US military, the ARVN lost the Battle of Ap Bac.

DID YOU KNOW?

The aim of the initial US and South Vietnamese operation was to capture a Vietcong radio transmitter.



DIEM GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW

'Democracy demands from each of us more effort, understanding and goodwill than any other form of government.'
Ngo Dinh Diem, 1955



What led to the overthrow of the Diem government?

Diem's (p. 63) government became increasingly unpopular.



What were the events that led to the overthrow of the Diem government?

The overthrow of the Diem government was the result of 4 key events:

- ✓ The loss of the Battle of Ap Bac (p. 24), despite enormous support from the US military.
- ✓ In May 1963, Diem's (p. 63) troops opened fire on a Buddhist procession and killed nine people.
- ✓ In June 1963, a Buddhist **monk** named Thich Quang Duc burned himself to death in Saigon as a protest against Diem's (p. 63) treatment of Buddhists. Diem responded by ordering Buddhist temples to be **raided** and closed.
- ✓ America announced publicly it would no longer support Diem (p. 63) and his government.



What was the result of the overthrow of the Diem government?

Diem (p. 63) was removed from power by ARVN generals and later **assassinated**.



How was the USA involved in the overthrow of the Diem government?

While the USA was not directly involved with Diem's (p. 63) **assassination**, there was evidence it was aware of the plot and made no move to **prevent** it due to Diem's unpopularity and instability.



Who took over after Diem was overthrown?

After Diem (p. 63) was removed from power, South Vietnam was ruled by a series of military leaders until Nguyen Van Thieu became **president** in 1967.

DID YOU KNOW?

Initially, the United States claimed no knowledge of the coup that overthrew Diem. The truth was that American officials met with and encouraged the generals who organised the plot.



GULF OF TONKIN INCIDENT, 1964

'For all I know, our navy was shooting at whales.'
President Lyndon B Johnson, 1965



What was the Gulf of Tonkin Incident?

The Gulf of Tonkin incident occurred when three North Vietnamese torpedo boats fired on the USS Maddox, an American warship.



When was the Gulf of Tonkin Incident?

The Gulf of Tonkin incident happened on 2nd August, 1964.



Where did the Gulf of Tonkin Incident happen?

It happened in the Gulf of Tonkin, off the east coast of North Vietnam.



Why did the Gulf of Tonkin Incident happen?

Under Operation Plan 34A, South Vietnamese **mercenaries** were sent into the north. They were supported by US destroyer naval ships positioned in the Gulf of Tonkin, which were North Vietnamese waters. Ho Chi Minh (p.19) was unhappy about this and launched the attack.



What were the key events in the Gulf of Tonkin Incident?

There were a number of key events in the Gulf of Tonkin Incident:

- ✓ The USS Maddox was sent to support the South Vietnamese **mercenaries**.
- ✓ On 3rd August, 1964, three North Vietnamese torpedo boats travelled towards the Maddox.
- ✓ The Maddox fired at the torpedo boats, which fired back. One torpedo hit but didn't explode.
- ✓ The US jets sank one torpedo ship and damaged the other two.
- ✓ On 4th August there was confusion over further attacks from North Vietnam. However, it was a false alarm; none had taken place.
- ✓ Despite the false alarm, Johnson **sanctioned** an attack on North Vietnam.



What was the second Gulf of Tonkin incident?

The second incident was an alleged attack on US warships in North Vietnamese seas. It never took place, but was reported as having taken place by the US government.



What happened after the Gulf of Tonkin incident?

President Johnson ordered **air strikes** against North Vietnam.



What was President Johnson's response to the Gulf of Tonkin incident?

President Johnson ordered a US **air strike** on targets in North Vietnam. Two US planes were shot down, which was the final move that allowed full American intervention in the Vietnam War.



What were the consequences of the Gulf of Tonkin incident?

As a result of the incident, Johnson looked to scale up the USA's involvement in Vietnam. However, he first needed powers to do so, so he asked the US government to pass **legislation** called the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.



What was the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution?

On 7th August, 1964, the US Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. This gave President Johnson permission to send troops to Vietnam and initiate further attacks on North Vietnam, without gaining permission from Congress or formally declaring war.



How did the Vietcong react to the Gulf of Tonkin incident?

From November 1964, North Vietnam increased the number of troops and supplies going to South Vietnam. The Vietcong (p.20) mounted a successful attack on the US airfield at Pleiku, and won the Battle of Binh Gia.



What actions did the USA take after the Gulf of Tonkin incident?

America sent troops to help the South Vietnam government retain power.



What was the significance of the Gulf of Tonkin incident?

The Gulf of Tonkin incident was significant because it provided the opportunity for the USA to escalate its response in Vietnam. Some historians believe it was just an excuse, and the attacks never happened.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Gulf of Tonkin resolution passed by the US Congress allowed President Johnson to deploy troops in undeclared war against North Vietnam.



TACTICS OF THE VIETCONG

'When the enemy advances, retreat; When the enemy halts, harass; when the enemy tires, attack; when the enemy retreats, pursue.'
Mao Zedong, 1933



What tactics did the Vietcong use?

The US army was one of the largest, strongest, most advanced, and well-equipped armies in the world. In order to beat it, and the ARVN, the Vietcong (p.20) had to use local jungle knowledge and guerrilla warfare to overcome their enemies' technology and defeat them.



What guerrilla warfare tactics were used by the Vietcong?

The Vietcong (p.20) used 6 main guerrilla warfare tactics to fight the US army and the ARVN:

- ✓ Soldiers did not wear uniforms, so its members could hide in plain sight among peasants. It was very hard to tell them apart from ordinary civilians.
- ✓ It had no headquarters and operated in small, well-armed groups, making it difficult to find them.
- ✓ It repurposed US mines by digging them up and creating booby traps, adding bamboo spikes and crossbows.
- ✓ It followed the rule of retreating when the enemy attacked, and attacking when the enemy retreated.
- ✓ It never attacked directly, instead picking off the enemy in ones and twos. Vietcong (p.20) members were famous for disappearing quickly into tunnels before the enemy had a chance to react.
- ✓ It constantly attacked enemy camps.



What was the aim of the Vietcong tactics of guerrilla warfare?

The aim of guerrilla warfare was to create fear and break down the morale of the US forces.



What did Ho Chi Minh say about the Vietcong tactics of guerrilla warfare?

Ho Chi Minh (p.19) said the following:

- ✓ 'We must not go in for large-scale battles and big victories, unless we are certain of success.'
- ✓ 'The aim of guerrilla warfare is to nibble at the enemy, harass him in such a way that he can neither eat nor sleep in peace, to allow him no rest, to wear him out physically and mentally.'
- ✓ 'Wherever the enemy goes, he should be attacked by our guerrillas, stumble on land mines, or be greeted by sniper fire.'



What were the typical features of a guerrilla fighter that used Vietcong tactics?

Vietcong (p.20) fighters shared a number of typical features and attributes:

- ☑ They had extensive knowledge of the local jungle which helped them ambush the enemy.
- ☑ They wore everyday **civilian** clothes so US forces could not identify them.
- ☑ They usually carried **Soviet** AK-47 assault rifles. This was a simple weapon to use but very accurate, and it could weather the watery **terrain** of the jungle.
- ☑ They travelled light with small rations of rice, enabling them to move quickly through the jungle.
- ☑ They would have tools to make 'punji sticks', which they used to make **booby traps**.



What was the Ho Chi Minh Trail that the Vietcong used in its tactics?

The Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21) was a 600-mile route of many roads running through the thick jungle of Laos and Cambodia, parallel to the length of Vietnam. Supplies were sent along it from North Vietnam and China to South Vietnam. At the height of the war, 60 tons of equipment a day and 20,000 soldiers a month were transported.



What was important about the Ho Chi Minh Trail to Vietcong tactics?

The Ho Chi Minh trail (p.21) was incredibly important. It meant North Vietnam could ensure fighters in the south received regular supplies of weapons, food, and soldiers.



Why did the Vietcong tactic of using the Ho Chi Minh trail make it difficult for the enemy?

The US forces and the ARVN found the Ho Chi Minh (p.19) trails difficult for 2 main reasons:

- ☑ The trail was well organised. By the end of the war, you could travel the route from North Vietnam to Saigon in six weeks. The trail was 15,000 km long, and both US forces and the ARVN found it hard to overcome the challenges it posed.
- ☑ The US tried bombing the trail. However, when one section was bombed, the Vietcong (p.20) simply used a different section.



What was the idea of 'hanging on the belts' of Americans as a tactic of the Vietcong?

The idea was that the Vietcong (p.20) remained close to the enemy and engaged in close-quarter fighting. This helped them carry out surprise attacks and ambushes. As the Vietcong stayed so close it made bombing **campaigns** more difficult, as the Americans did not want to kill their own soldiers.



How were the tunnels used as a tactic by the Vietcong?

The tunnel system allowed the Vietcong (p.20) to move across South Vietnam without being seen, rather than risking being a target from the air. The tunnels were widely used as bases, ambush spots, and hospitals and also helped with the 'hanging on the belts of Americans' **tactic**.



What were the key features of the tunnels the Vietcong used as a tactic?

There were 3 key features of the tunnel systems:

- ☑ They were complicated systems that ran for over 300km beneath the Vietnamese jungle.
- ☑ They included kitchens, hospitals, sleeping quarters and meeting rooms, as well as storerooms for food, weapons, and explosives.
- ☑ They had various defence measures including hand-detonated **mines** at the surface, trap doors, air-raid shelters, **booby traps**, blast walls, false tunnels with booby traps, punji traps, tripwires, and remote smoke outlets.



What was the tactic of booby traps used by the Vietcong?

The Vietcong (p.20) used 6 main types of **booby traps**:

- ☑ Punji sticks.
- ☑ Snake pits.
- ☑ Grenade-in-a-can bombs.
- ☑ Flag bombs.

- ✓ Cartridge traps.
- ✓ 'Bouncing Betty' bombs.

How did the Vietcong use the booby trap punji sticks as a tactic?

The Vietcong (p.20) sharpened bamboo stakes, **hiding** them in shallow pits and covering them with leaves. The stakes would pierce the enemy's boots and sever **limbs**. Sometimes they smeared the spikes with human excrement to infect the **casualty's** wounds.

How did the Vietcong use the booby trap snake pits as a tactic?

The Vietcong (p.20) **guerrillas** often carried bamboo pit vipers in their packs, to kill any enemy who searched them. They also tied snakes to bamboo sticks and placed them in their tunnel systems. When the bamboo was released, the snake was freed and would attack the enemy.

How did the Vietcong use the booby trap grenade-in-a-can bombs as a tactic?

Two cans were placed on trees, opposite each other. After removing the safety pins, grenades were placed in the cans. A tripwire was then attached to each grenade. When the wire was tripped by the enemy, the grenades would be pulled out of the cans and explode immediately.

How did the Vietcong use the booby trap flag bombs as a tactic?

US troops often captured enemy flags, so, when the Vietcong (p.20) left a base or location it would **rig** its flags with explosives.

How did the Vietcong use the booby trap cartridge traps as a tactic?

It was hard to detect cartridge traps, which made them terrifying. A cartridge - a round of **ammunition** - was placed inside bamboo and then put in a shallow hole in the ground. At the bottom of the bamboo was a board and a nail. The weight of the enemy on the cartridge caused the nail to act as a firing pin, shooting the bullet upward into the victim's foot.

How did the Vietcong use the booby trap 'Bouncing Betty' bombs as a tactic?

These traps would launch into the air when triggered and explode approximately 1m above the ground - at the height of the stomach or genitals.

How many casualties were caused by the Vietcong's booby trap tactics?

The Vietcong's (p.20) traps caused around 19% of US **casualties**.

How was the organisation of the Vietcong part of its tactics?

The Vietcong (p.20) was organised in small groups called cells. Fighters rarely saw anyone outside their cell, so they couldn't betray the wider group if they were captured.

How did the Vietcong use disguise as part of its tactics?

Vietcong (p.20) fighters dressed as normal villagers, so US soldiers couldn't tell them apart from **civilians**. This led to a lot of ordinary people losing their lives.

What were the Vietcong's tactics regarding the peasants?

The Vietcong (p.20) worked to get the support of the **peasants** in 4 key ways:

- ✓ They rarely attacked **peasants** or their property.
- ✓ They seized land from the wealthy and redistributed it among the poor, providing food and supplies.



- ✓ However, they were known to kill those who refused to support them. Between 1966 and 1971, 27,000 **civilians** were killed by the Vietcong (p.20).
- ✓ They used **propaganda** to convince people they were beating the US Army. This included images of women and children, to show that everyone was helping to rid Vietnam of the Americans.



What were the successes of the Vietcong's tactics?

The Vietcong's (p.20) **tactics** were successful in 2 main ways:

- ✓ The aim of the **tactics** was to 'get inside the heads' of American soldiers and scare them, which they did.
- ✓ As a result of their **tactics**, the Vietcong (p.20) was able to use American weapons against them. In 1964, a report **stated** that 90 per cent of Vietcong weapons were US weapons that had been captured in ambushes.



What were the failures of the Vietcong's tactics?

The Vietcong's (p.20) **tactics** failed for 3 main reasons:

- ✓ Many **civilians** were mistaken as Vietcong (p.20) troops and killed.
- ✓ Not all Vietnamese people supported the actions of the Vietcong (p.20), as terror and intimidation was sometimes used to gain local support.
- ✓ The **guerrilla** attacks alone were not enough to get rid of the Americans from Vietnam.

DID YOU KNOW?

Guerilla warfare is a tactic that has been used in wars throughout history.



TACTICS OF THE USA

'I am not going to lose Vietnam. I am not going to be the president who saw Southeast Asia go the way China went.'
President Lyndon B Johnson, 1963



What tactics did the USA use in the Vietnam War to fight against the Vietcong?

The USA had one of the most feared armies in the world as it was well trained and well equipped. But the USA's military resources were no match for the Vietcong's (p.20) **guerrilla warfare**. The US had to alter its **tactics** against the Vietcong as the war progressed.



What kind of soldiers did the USA send to combat the Vietcong's tactics in Vietnam?

When the war started the USA sent experienced GIs, or general infantryman, to fight against the Vietcong (p.20). However, as **fatalities** and **casualties** piled up they increasingly sent younger, less experienced troops.



What was a GI, sent by the USA to combat Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

American soldiers in the Second World War started calling themselves GIs, which stood for 'general infantryman'. The nickname became popular during the conflict in Vietnam. GIs faced many challenges there, which hampered America's ability to defeat the Vietcong (p.20) and win the war.



What were the typical features of a US soldier fighting against Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

American GIs had 10 typical features or attributes:

- ✓ By the end of the war, the average age of a GI was 19.

- ✓ Many of the soldiers were forced to fight in Vietnam as part of military **conscription**, known as the draft. Soldiers had to serve for a one-year period known as a 'tour of duty'.
- ✓ Unlike the Vietcong (p.20), American GIs didn't travel light. They carried ration packs, **ammunition**, spare uniform, and as much water as they could. No matter how much water they carried, it was never enough to quench the thirst caused by the climate of the Vietnamese jungle.
- ✓ The GIs' uniforms often rotted in Vietnam's hot, damp climate.
- ✓ GIs were often overzealous and made careless mistakes when out on patrol. They were often killed by the Vietcong's (p.20) **booby traps**.
- ✓ Many GIs came from urban cities in the USA. Many had never travelled before and were ill-prepared for the environment and **culture** of Vietnam.
- ✓ They carried smoke grenades, to let US helicopters know when and where to extract them from the jungle.
- ✓ They carried fragmentation, or frag, grenades. When they exploded these sprayed red-hot fragments. However, many GIs were themselves accidentally killed by them, as the grenades often got caught on jungle plants.
- ✓ Unlike the Soviet AK-47 rifles used by the Vietcong (p.20), the M16 rifles carried by American GIs often jammed near water and mud, which was not ideal in Vietnamese jungle **terrain**.
- ✓ GIs wore boots with drainage holes to let the water out, and reinforced soles to combat the punji traps.

What methods did the USA use to combat Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

The USA employed a number of **tactics** to fight against the Vietcong (p.20) **guerrillas**:

- ✓ 'Search and destroy', in which the US troops would enter Vietcong (p.20) **territory**, search out the enemy, and destroy them.
- ✓ Bombing **campaigns**, such as Operation Rolling Thunder.
- ✓ The use of explosive technology, such as pineapple bombs.
- ✓ The use of chemical warfare, including **napalm** and Agent Orange.
- ✓ The USA fought a war of **attrition**.
- ✓ The use of helicopters.

What was the 'search and destroy' tactic used by the USA to fight against the Vietcong in Vietnam?

Search and destroy was a US military **tactic** that worked in the following ways:

- ✓ Bases were built that stretched all along the South Vietnamese coast and border, to launch 'search and destroy' missions into the jungle.
- ✓ American forces searched villages for the Vietcong (p.20). When they found the enemy they burned down the entire village, which destroyed the Vietcong base and served as a warning to other villages not to harbour the **guerrillas**.
- ✓ This **tactic** soon earned the name 'zippo **raids**', as Zippo cigarette lighters were used to set fire to the thatched roofs of village houses.

What was Operation Cedar Falls in the USA's fight against Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

Operation Cedar Falls was an example of 'search and destroy'. In 1967, 750 Vietcong (p.20) were killed. Despite early successes, the **guerrillas** soon returned. The level of violence created 4 million **refugees**, which increased the unpopularity of the South Vietnamese and USA.

Why was the USA's tactic of 'search and destroy' a failure fighting against Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

The USA's **tactic** of 'search and destroy' failed for a number of reasons:

- ✓ US soldiers were simply not cut out to cope with the Vietcong's (p.20) **guerrilla tactics**.
- ✓ America's **superior** technology of heavy weapons and aircraft were better suited to open combat, but the Vietcong (p.20) did not engage with that method of fighting.
- ✓ As US troops searched for the enemy they were taken by surprise and attacked. The Vietcong (p.20) fighters would disappear back into the jungle before the Americans could respond.

- ✓ Young and inexperienced GIs could not tell the difference between Vietcong (p.20) soldiers and innocent villagers, and killed many ordinary **civilians**.

How did the USA use Operation Rolling Thunder to fight against Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

Operation Rolling Thunder was a major bombing **campaign** that lasted 3 years. It was an important US **tactic**.

- ✓ B-52 bombers dropped millions of tonnes of explosives.
- ✓ It targeted the Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21) and **industrial** targets but not Hanoi, the capital of North Vietnam. As the **campaign** progressed, targets also included towns and cities in South Vietnam, and Vietcong (p.20) bases in Laos and Cambodia.
- ✓ It cost the USA \$4 billion, and killed 90,000 people.
- ✓ President Johnson wanted to bomb the Vietcong (p.20) into **submission**.

Why did the tactics used by the USA in Operation Rolling Thunder fail against the Vietcong in Vietnam?

There were 2 main reasons the bombing **tactics** of Operation Rolling Thunder failed:

- ✓ Supplies continued to get through to the Vietcong (p.20) via the extensive tunnel system and the Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21).
- ✓ Destroying **industry** didn't have an effect, as China and the USSR were sending military supplies to North Vietnam.

How did the USA use 'pineapple bombs' to fight against Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

The USA developed a new weapon called the 'pineapple bomb', which exploded in the air and released 500 smaller bombs that caused huge damage. It was developed to maim rather than kill, so when someone was wounded, others would help - taking their attention away from the battle.

How did the USA use chemical weapons to fight against Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

When the bombing **campaigns** failed to defeat the Vietcong (p.20), the Americans started to use chemical weapons. The 3 most widely used were:

- ✓ Agent Orange, a toxic weed killer used to destroy the jungle so the Ho Chi Minh trail (p.21) could be seen from the air.
- ✓ Agent Blue, a weed killer used to destroy crops so the Vietcong (p.20) would have no food.
- ✓ Napalm, a combustible chemical used to destroy the jungle.

What tactics were used by the USA in Operation Ranch Hand to fight against the Vietcong in Vietnam?

Operation Ranch Hand saw 3,000 villages sprayed with chemicals across 24% of South Vietnam. Water supplies were poisoned. There were some **fatalities** and many ongoing health problems.

What were the problems with the USA's use of chemical weapons to fight against Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

The use of chemical weapons was inhumane. Agent Orange and Agent Blue led to people developing cancer and caused birth **defects** in newborns. Napalm burned through victims' skin, muscle and bone.

What were the US Zippo raids tactics Vietnam?

US soldiers used cigarette lighters, known as Zippos, to burn down villages suspected of housing Vietcong (p.20) soldiers.

How did the USA use attrition warfare against the Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

The US **tactic** of **attrition** meant focusing on killing as many Vietnamese soldiers as possible. It is estimated that around a million North Vietnamese and Vietcong (p.20) soldiers died, compared to 55,000 Americans. However, this tactic did not bring success for the US.



How did the USA use helicopters to fight against the Vietcong tactics in Vietnam?

Helicopters were used in 3 key ways.

- ✓ They were used to bring troops to a battle zone quickly, over difficult **terrain**.
- ✓ They supported ground troops during 'search and destroy' missions.
- ✓ They were used to evacuate wounded soldiers.

What was the McNamara Line tactic used by the US in Vietnam?

The McNamara Line, named after US secretary of defence Robert McNamara, was an electronic infiltration barrier that attempted to block the Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21) with barbed wire and **mines**. It was eventually abandoned due to the severity of attacks on US troops.

What were the successes of the USA's tactics used to fight against the Vietcong in Vietnam?

Overall, the US Army had little success. They did damage some of the supply lines along the Ho Chi Minh trail (p.21). However, the trail was so extensive it made little difference, making it impossible for the US to gain a strategic advantage in the war.

What were the failures of the USA's tactics to fight against the Vietcong in Vietnam?

Not only did US **tactics** result in the capture of very few Vietcong (p.20), their tactics alienated ordinary people. Many innocent people were killed, and the local people turned to the Vietcong due to the tactics employed by the US forces. Their use of chemical warfare was also condemned around the world for its abuse of human rights.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can remember the core tactics of the US through the anagram BATS:
-Bombing -Artillery -Technology -Search and destroy



SIEGE OF KHE SANH, 1968

'Khe Sanh was not that important to us... It was the focus of attention in the United States because their prestige was at stake, but to us it was part of the greater battle that would begin after Tet. It was only a diversion, but one to be exploited if we could cause many casualties and win a big victory.'

Vo Nguyen Giap on the Battle of Khe Sanh

What was the siege of Khe Sanh?

The **siege** of Khe Sanh involved the Americans and South Vietnamese. They were defending an airstrip on the border of Laos.

When was the siege of Khe Sanh?

The **siege** of Khe Sanh lasted from January to July in 1968.

What was the result of the Siege of Khe Sanh?

The North Vietnamese **claimed** victory, while the Americans claimed they had made a tactical withdrawal.



DID YOU KNOW?

General Westmoreland of the United States Army considered using nuclear weapons, but they were ruled out due to the terrain.



BATTLE OF HUE, 1968

'It seems now more certain than ever that the bloody experience of Vietnam is to end in a stalemate.'
Walter Cronkite after the Battle of Hue and Tet Offensive, 1968



What was at the battle of Hue?

The city of Hue was captured by North Vietnamese. For the next few months the city became a war zone, filled with vicious street fighting.



When was the battle of Hue?

The Battle of Hue occurred between January and March in 1968.



What was the result of the battle of Hue?

The city was eventually taken back by the Americans, but a large part of it had been destroyed.



DID YOU KNOW?

After the battle it was estimated only 7,000 of the 17,000 homes in the city were still standing.



TET OFFENSIVE

'The Tet Offensive failed because we underestimated our enemies and overestimated ourselves. We set goals which we realistically could not achieve.'
Vietcong General Tran Van Tra, writing in 1978



What happened during the Tet Offensive?

The Tet Offensive was a significant turning point in the Vietnam War. The US government had told the public it was doing well in its fight against the Vietcong (p.20) and would soon be able to bring the war to an end. However, just months later, the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong launched a series of major attacks in South Vietnam.



When did the Tet Offensive start?

The Tet Offensive started on 30th January, 1968. There was supposed to be a ceasefire to allow for celebrations in honour of Tet, a Vietnamese holiday celebrating the lunar new year.



Where did the Tet Offensive happen?

Hundreds of towns, cities and military bases were attacked during the Tet Offensive, along with General Westmoreland's base and the US **embassy** building, both in Saigon.



What was General Westmoreland's role in the Tet Offensive?

General Westmoreland was the commander of the US Army in Vietnam. He played a key role in the Tet Offensive as the attacks caught him off guard. Months earlier he had presented the view to Congress that the war was going well. He said: 'We will prevail in Vietnam over the **communist** aggressor!.'



Why did the Tet Offensive happen?

The Tet Offensive had two aims:

- ✓ The Vietcong (p.20) and North Vietnamese government hoped it would win them support from the South Vietnamese against the Americans, inspiring them to get rid of the current government and force the Americans from the country.
- ✓ They hoped a decisive victory against the Americans would attract media attention in the USA, weakening support from the war from its citizens.



What were the key events in the Tet Offensive?

There were a number of key events in the Tet Offensive:

- ✓ In the build up to the Tet Offensive the Vietcong (p.20) carried out smaller attacks, away from important cities, to draw US troops. Around 50,000 American GIs were sent to defend these areas.
- ✓ On 30th January, 84,000 Vietcong (p.20) and North Vietnamese soldiers launched a number of attacks across Vietnam.
- ✓ The Americans were on the back foot to begin with. However, they recovered and quickly recaptured the towns, cities and bases taken by the enemy during the attacks.
- ✓ The American **embassy** in Saigon was retaken by US paratroopers within hours.
- ✓ The **communist** forces were defeated in the Tet Offensive. 50,000 North Vietnamese troops and 10,000 Vietcong (p.20) soldiers were killed.



What happened to Hue during the Tet Offensive?

The Vietcong (p.20) captured the city of Hue, and it took three weeks for the Americans to recapture the city.



Why was the USA shocked by the Tet Offensive?

The US government and media had given Americans the impression they were winning the war. The Tet Offensive changed public opinion, as many began to see the reality.



How many casualties were there in the Tet Offensive?

Around 50,000 Vietcong (p.20) fighters died, compared to 2,500 American soldiers.



What were the failures of the Tet Offensive for the Vietcong?

Militarily, the Tet Offensive was a defeat for the Vietcong (p.20) and North Vietnam. They lost thousands of soldiers, and the USA re-took all cities, towns and bases.



What were the successes of the Tet Offensive for the Vietcong?

The Tet Offensive was both a political and **psychological** victory for a number of reasons.

- ✓ They had shown they could **strike** at any moment, and could take key cities and bases.



- ✓ The events were shown across US television, and the public saw the chaos and destruction. Americans now came to realise that, despite the clear advantage American military should have had, they were proving to be no match to the Vietcong's (p.20) **guerrilla tactics**.
- ✓ The American public started to turn against President Johnson and the USA's involvement in the Vietnam War. This was one of the Vietcong's (p.20) aims.



What were the results of the Tet Offensive?

The Tet Offensive was a huge turning point in the war, and had a number of consequences.

- ✓ The Americans began to question their involvement in Vietnam. They had been told, months before, that the end of the war was close. The Tet Offensive showed them that this was not true.
- ✓ The USA had spent vast sums of money, and many people had lost loved ones in the jungle of Vietnam, but the Vietcong (p.20) were able to **strike** a blow at the US **embassy** and showed no signs of letting up. It became clear to the US public that the war was not going to be over soon.
- ✓ In March 1968, President Johnson told the US public that he would not be running in the next presidential election.
- ✓ In June 1968, General Westmoreland was replaced by General Creighton Abrams. It was clear that Johnson was not happy with Westmoreland when he requested 200,000 more troops, and he turned down the request.
- ✓ The Tet Offensive had woken people up to the fact that the USA was now spending \$30 billion a year fighting the Vietcong (p.20), and 300 Americans were being killed every week in Vietnam.
- ✓ The Tet Offensive had also killed many **civilians** and destroyed many cities, further weakening support for the war.



What were the consequences of the Tet Offensive for the Vietcong?

The Vietcong (p.20) had expected the south to rise up in revolt, but this didn't happen; instead, the Vietcong was nearly wiped out. Between them, the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese Army lost around 45,000 men.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Tet Offensive was a major defeat for the communists. It resulted in the death of some 45,000 NVA and Vietcong troops, as well as the near-collapse of the Vietcong.



VIETNAMISATION

'I ordered first a substantial increase in the training and equipment of South Vietnamese forces.'
President Richard Nixon, 1969



What was Vietnamisation?

Vietnamisation was a US policy to end American involvement in Vietnam by developing the South Vietnamese army.



When was the policy of Vietnamisation introduced?

The policy of Vietnamisation was officially announced on 3rd November, 1969. By spring 1972, when US forces attacked Laos, it was evident the policy was failing.



Who was involved in the policy of Vietnamisation?

The policy of Vietnamisation was the idea of President Nixon (p.61), who implemented it during his time in office.

What were the aims of the policy of Vietnamisation?

The policy of Vietnamisation had a number of aims:

- ✓ It aimed to make the ARVN self-sufficient, so it could defend South Vietnam without US support.
- ✓ This, in turn, would enable Nixon to withdraw US troops from Vietnam.

Why was the policy of Vietnamisation introduced?

The policy of Vietnamisation was introduced for a number of reasons:

- ✓ Nixon was realistic about the unlikelihood of victory in Vietnam, and knew he had to bring an end to the war.
- ✓ Nixon could not use nuclear weapons to do this, so he had to find another way.
- ✓ Nixon was anti-communist and did not want South Vietnam to fall to **communism**.
- ✓ Nixon believed the South Vietnamese should take responsibility for their own defence.
- ✓ Nixon needed to find a practical solution to the war quickly, as a **poll** in early 1969 showed 56 per cent of Americans thought US involvement in Vietnam was wrong.

What problems did President Nixon face when implementing the policy of Vietnamisation?

At the same time as Nixon implemented Vietnamisation, with the intention of withdrawing US troops, he was also extending the war into Cambodia and Laos. For this, he needed more soldiers. In April 1970 he announced 100,000 more troops were needed, prompting widespread demonstrations across the USA.

How did the policy of Vietnamisation work?

There were a number of aspects to the policy of Vietnamisation:

- ✓ The USA was to provide training and equipment for the expansion of the ARVN.
- ✓ Local villagers would be recruited as **civilian militia**, in charge of securing rural areas.
- ✓ The ARVN would take a more direct role in seeking out the Vietcong (p.20). Since 1965 they had taken a back seat to the US.
- ✓ Between 1968 and 1971, the ARVN was increased from 393,000 to 532,000 troops.
- ✓ As the ARVN became more self-sufficient, US troops would be withdrawn from Vietnam. The first notable departure was on 7th July, 1969.
- ✓ By the beginning of 1970 the ARNV had been equipped with \$4 billion worth of military supplies, including rifles, **artillery**, munitions, and helicopters.
- ✓ ARNV officers had received specialised training in command, military **strategy**, and counter-insurgency warfare.

What were the official peace talks during Vietnamisation?

Nixon began the long and difficult process of sending representatives to negotiate with both North and South Vietnam, as well as the Vietcong (p.20).

What were the secret peace talks during Vietnamisation?

Nixon held secret peace talks with North Vietnam's leader, Le Duc Tho, sending Henry Kissinger (p.62) to negotiate.

How many US troops were withdrawn during Vietnamisation?

President Nixon (p.61) said he was decreasing the number of US troops in Vietnam by 25,000. The withdrawal started in July 1969.

Why did they train the ARVN during Vietnamisation?

General Abrams was ordered to focus on training the ARVN so it could continue the war without the support of US troops.



What were the secret bombings ordered by Nixon during Vietnamisation?

In March 1969, President Nixon (p.61) ordered bombs to be dropped on the Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21) in Cambodia. He did this due to the presence of Vietnamese communists and because it was also being used as a supply trail. He wanted to pressure the North Vietnamese into negotiating.

Why did Vietnamisation fail?

Vietnamisation failed for a number of reasons.

- ✓ There was a poor harvest in 1972.
- ✓ There was corruption and theft.
- ✓ The US did not provide enough funding.
- ✓ The ARVN soldiers were not adequately trained.
- ✓ The South Vietnamese government was very unpopular.
- ✓ The ARVN was militarily weak and corrupt.
- ✓ South Vietnam was economically weak.

How did the harvest cause Vietnamisation to fail?

In 1972, a poor harvest led to economic hardship. Little or no support was given to the South Vietnamese people.

How did corruption cause Vietnamisation to fail?

The stealing of supplies and equipment was common. Officers regularly took bribes, which allowed thieves to steal goods. This cost the US Army millions of dollars in lost equipment, and meant that troops were not adequately supplied. This made winning the war harder.

How did funding cause the failure of Vietnamisation?

The amount of funding available was restricted by the US Congress. This limited the capability and options available to the US military.

How did the inadequate training of the ARVN troops lead to the failure of the policy of Vietnamisation?

The training of ARVN troops was rushed. Instructions for equipment use and operation were given in English, which the Vietnamese could not understand. Without US support, the ARVN was unable to continue fighting.

How did the unpopularity of the South Vietnamese government lead to the failure of the policy of Vietnamisation?

The South Vietnamese people disliked their own government. It was weak and divided, and they saw it as a puppet of a US administration that was also corrupt. It could not survive without billions of dollars of aid provided by America.

How did the military weaknesses and the corruption of the ARNV lead to the failure of the policy of Vietnamisation?

Americans had thrown significant funding at the ARVN, but they couldn't change the fact it was a much divided organisation, riddled with corruption and incompetence. Even though the US had provided training, its leaders were incapable of commanding the respect of their men, and did not have the morale needed to combat the Vietcong (p.20).

How did the economic weaknesses of South Vietnam lead to the failure of the policy of Vietnamisation?

The USA had been propping up the South Vietnamese government since the 1950s, and it had become dependent on American funding. At the same time, the US was looking to gradually withdraw funding, while the USSR and China were sending significant funds to the government in North Vietnam.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nixon argued that Vietnamisation was the contrast to the 'Americanisation' of the war he claimed took place under Lyndon B Johnson.

NIXON DOCTRINE

'I would rather be a one-term president and do what I believe is right than be a two-term president at the cost of seeing America become a second-rate power.'
Richard Nixon, 1970



What was the Nixon Doctrine?

The Nixon Doctrine set out the US government's **foreign policy** on how it would support **allies** who faced military threats. The US would supply them with money and equipment, but no troops. This became known as Vietnamisation (p.36).



When was the Nixon Doctrine introduced?

The Nixon Doctrine was introduced on 25th July, 1969.



Who was responsible for the Nixon Doctrine?

President Richard Nixon (p.61) was elected in 1969, and changed the US approach to the Vietnam War. This approach was outlined in the Nixon Doctrine.



What happened because of the Nixon Doctrine?

The Nixon Doctrine created the policy known as Vietnamisation (p.36).



What did Nixon say in the Nixon Doctrine?

In a speech in July 1969, Nixon said that America would honour any **treaties** it had already made, and would support its **allies** against any threat by providing training for their troops. However, no US troops would be sent to help.



What did Vietnamisation mean under the Nixon Doctrine?

Vietnamisation (p.36) was another name given to Nixon's approach. It meant the USA could 'withdraw with honour', and would allow South Vietnam to remain an **independent**, non-communist country.



How was the reaction to the Nixon Doctrine divided?

The South Vietnamese government felt that the US was withdrawing before the ARVN was ready to take over. However, the American people wanted the Vietnamisation (p.36) that Nixon had promised.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Nixon Doctrine is also known as the Guam Doctrine as it was first introduced at a conference in Guam, an island in the western Pacific Ocean that is classed as US territory.

CAMBODIA ATTACKS, 1970

'Why is it moral for the North Vietnamese to have 50,000 to 100,000 troops in Cambodia, why should we let them kill Americans from that territory... and why in all these conditions is there a moral issue?'

Henry Kissinger, writing in his private diary



What were the Cambodia attacks of 1970?

The North Vietnamese were bringing supplies for the war effort against the South through Cambodia. The Americans decided to bomb and attack this supply route.



When did bombing start during the Cambodian attack in 1970?

The orders for the Cambodia attacks were given on 15th March, 1969. The bombing occurred between March 1969 and May 1970.



What did the US do in the Cambodia attack in 1970?

America ordered secret bombing **raids** and sent 30,000 US and 50,000 ARVN troops into Cambodia. Troops were limited to keeping within 19 miles of the border with Vietnam, and had orders to withdraw by the end of June 1970.



Were the attacks in Cambodia in 1970 successful?

11,000 communists were killed, and this helped keep Lon Nol's anti-communist government in power. There was extensive damage to the Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21), and large amounts of weapons and supplies were confiscated. However, the North Vietnamese were still able to use the trail in Laos.



What was the reality of the attacks in Cambodia in 1970?

The 19-mile limit meant the South Vietnam army couldn't advance further, as they would be cut off from the US troops and their own supplies. This meant that many **communists** could stay safe by staying outside the 19-mile boundary.



Did people protest against the attacks in Cambodia in 1970?

The American public was outraged by what had happened and protested against President Nixon's (p.61) actions. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (p.26) was cancelled by Congress. Military funding became limited, and there were calls for Vietnamisation (p.36) to happen more quickly.

DID YOU KNOW?

Neither US Secretary of State William Rogers, nor Defence Secretary Melvin Laird, were told about Nixon's decision to attack Cambodia until it was made public.



LAOS ATTACKS, 1971

President Richard Nixon tried to keep the invasion of Laos a secret.



What were the attacks on Laos?

Following the attacks on Cambodia, South Vietnam and the USA attacked the Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21) through Laos.



When were the attacks on Laos?

The attack on Laos occurred between February and March 1971.

What happened at Tchepone in the Laos attack?

The South Vietnamese army captured the city of Tchepone (also known as Sepon). The North Vietnamese gathered 36,000 troops for a retaliatory attack.

What was the outcome of the attacks in Laos?

There was fierce fighting, and the trail remained under North Vietnamese control. Despite air support from the USA, the ARVN suffered heavy **casualties** and had to retreat.

DID YOU KNOW?

Laos had more than two million tons of bombs dropped on it to disrupt the Ho Chi Minh Trail



NORTH VIETNAM BOMBING

'The bastards have never been bombed like they're going to be bombed this time.'
President Richard Nixon in 1972, reacting to the Easter Offensive

What was the North Vietnam Easter Offensive?

North Vietnam launched a surprise attack against the south in March 1972.

What happened during North Vietnam's Easter Offensive?

Around 120,000 troops from North Vietnam and the Vietcong (p.20) attacked three bases in South Vietnam. The South Vietnamese ARVN, with air support from the USA, managed to repel the attack.

What did the USA do during the North Vietnam bombing offensive?

In April 1972, the USA retaliated with Operation Linebacker. This involved heavy bombing of North Vietnam, including the cities of Hanoi and Haiphong. They also blocked Chinese and **Soviet** ships from entering North Vietnamese waters.

What was the outcome of the North Vietnam bombing offensive?

The USA destroyed the majority of North Vietnam's war **industry** and supply routes. Most of its radio and communication networks were also demolished. China and the USSR started to encourage the north to negotiate for peace.

DID YOU KNOW?

The North Vietnamese timed their attack to coincide with the end of the winter monsoon season. This meant the rain and low clouds hindered the South Vietnamese and US defence tactics.

OPPOSITION TO VIETNAM WAR

'Television brought the brutality of war into the comfort of the living room. Vietnam was lost in the living rooms of America - not on the battlefields of Vietnam.'
Academic Marshall McLuhan, 1975



What media coverage was there of the Vietnam War?

US media coverage continued to expand as the war continued. In 1964 there were fewer than 10 journalists in Vietnam, but by 1968 there were over 600. Television also played a part in bringing the war into American homes.



What are some examples of media coverage of the Vietnam War?

Examples of media coverage of the Vietnam War included:

- ✓ The Tet Offensive (p. 34) in January 1968. Coverage showed Vietnamese **civilians** being killed and ancient monuments destroyed.
- ✓ In February 1968 there were news stories of General Nguyen Ngoc Loan's execution of a Vietcong (p. 20) fighter.
- ✓ In November 1969 the media broke the truth about the My Lai Massacre (p. 47).



Why was there an increase in media coverage of the Vietnam War?

Media coverage of the Vietnam War increased for the following reasons:

- ✓ To begin with, there were few troops in Vietnam. In 1960 there were only 900 'military advisers', and no reporters.
- ✓ This changed in 1960 when local Vietnamese people were killed in an attack against Diem (p. 63), the South Vietnamese **president**. Many journalists travelled to Vietnam to report on the event.
- ✓ As US involvement in the war increased, so too did the number of journalists covering the conflict. By 1965 there were 400 foreign news reporters in Vietnam - an increase of 900 per cent on 1964.
- ✓ Since the Second World War, there had been a significant increase in the number of Americans who owned a television. In 1948, just 1 per cent of American households had a television; by 1961, this had risen to 93 per cent.
- ✓ Journalists were better equipped to report the news with ground-breaking technology such as video cameras and voice recorders. It helped reporters capture the reality of the war and broadcast it to America and the world.
- ✓ There was no **censorship** on coverage of the Vietnam War. The Second World War and Korean War had been filmed by military cameramen, but Vietnam was caught on film by **independent** television networks.



What was the early media coverage of the Vietnam War like?

Early coverage of events in Vietnam mostly included positive reporting on the courage of American soldiers and the new technology used in weaponry. In the context of the Cold War, it portrayed the USA as the 'goodies', fighting the **communist** 'baddies' of North Vietnam.



How was the anti-Vietnam War movement portrayed on television?

The media showed the anti-war movement and created momentum for it through television, music, and key public figures.



How did television portray the civil rights movement's views on the Vietnam War?

Civil rights activists such as Martin Luther King, Muhammad Ali, and the Black Panthers were among those who spoke out. They opposed black people having to fight for America when they faced racism at home.



How was music used in coverage of the anti-Vietnam War movement on television?

Music was a massive medium for the anti-war movement to express its beliefs. Music from Bob Dylan, John Lennon and Jimi Hendrix among others helped create a young generation that opposed the war.



What were the 'five o'clock follies' in media coverage of the Vietnam War?

As the war intensified in the mid 1960s, US forces met with journalists covering the conflict daily at 5:00pm. The journalists would jeer and mock the military officials as they felt the truth was being **hidden** about the extent of failures of the US Army in Vietnam. These meetings became known as the 'five o'clock follies' as they were seen as useless.

What was the significance of media coverage of the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War?

The TV media coverage of the Tet Offensive (p.34) was significant for the following reasons:

- ✓ The coverage resulted in a change in how the war was reported and how the public perceived the conflict.
- ✓ For many months officials had assured the public that they were winning the war, however the TV media coverage of the Tet Offensive (p.34) contradicted this.
- ✓ TV reports of the Tet Offensive (p.34) showed the fall of the US **embassy** of Saigon - a symbolic defeat in the eyes of Americans (although the US eventually won it back).
- ✓ Viewers saw the brutality of the war, and after the Tet Offensive (p.34) many people did not trust what they were being told.

How did media coverage expose the government's lies to the public about the Vietnam War?

People lost faith when they realised the government was not being completely honest about what was happening in Vietnam. For example, the US government **claimed** victory in the Tet Offensive (p.34), but CBS journalist Walter Cronkite (p.64) reported the reality and showed that it was a **stalemate**.

What role did television play in the anti-war movement and Vietnam?

Television played a part in affecting public opinion. It showed the **civil rights** movement, music, Watergate and the Pentagon Papers, as well as live broadcasts from Vietnam.

What was the 'credibility gap' on television during the Vietnam War?

The 'credibility gap' was the term used to describe the difference between what the US government said was happening, and what people saw happening on TV.

What was the significance of Walter Cronkite's role in media coverage of the Vietnam War?

The role of Walter Cronkite (p.64) was significant for the following reasons:

- ✓ Walter Cronkite (p.64) was a famous news broadcaster, seen as one of the 'most trusted men in America'. His coverage of the war played a huge role in the peace movement.
- ✓ In one of his news broadcasts for CBS, in February 1967, he said: 'It seems now more certain than ever, that the bloody experience of Vietnam is to end a **stalemate**... it is increasingly clear to the only **rational** way out then will be to negotiate.'
- ✓ Cronkite was so influential that President Johnson once said to an advisor: 'If I have lost Cronkite, I've lost this country.'
- ✓ When Walter Cronkite (p.64) made his famous statement on the Tet Offensive (p.34) in 1968, it was considered a turning point in the media and public attitude, and the beginning of the fading of support for the war.

What was the significance of media coverage of the My Lai Massacre in the Vietnam War?

Coverage of the My Lai Massacre (p.47) in March 1968, was significant because it damaged the reputation of the US forces. Americans were shocked and appalled about both the reports of their soldiers murdering innocent people but also the fact that the army and government had tried to cover it up.

What was the impact of media coverage of the Vietnam War?

The TV media coverage of the Vietnam War had the following impacts:

- ✓ It led to a lack of trust in the US Army and the government. When the New York Times published leaked reports of American actions in Vietnam in June 1971 that were supposed to be secret many felt they had been lied to about the war.
- ✓ The media coverage influenced public opinion. When the names and faces of over 200 US soldiers were published during a week of fighting in 1969, people became angry about fighting a distant war.
- ✓ As more and more stories were published of soldiers and **civilians** dying and the brutality of the war, this affected the **morale** and behaviour in the US forces.
- ✓ The failure of US **tactics** in Vietnam was widely published and clear for Americans to see on the television and this led to more people questioning the point of the war and if the USA could win.
- ✓ The anti-war movement was further strengthened by the TV media coverage of the conflict.

DID YOU KNOW?

Vietnam was known as the 'first television war'.

STUDENT MOVEMENT

'I ain't got no quarrel with the Vietcong.'
Muhammad Ali, 1966



What was the student movement?

The student movement was a **left-wing crusade** which wanted to transform American society. It focused on perceived social, political and **economic** injustices of the time.



When did the student movement develop?

The student movement began to gain momentum at the end of the 1960s and in the early 1970s.



Why did the student movement develop?

There were 4 key reasons the student movement developed:

- ✓ Students wanted a greater say in their education at college and university.
- ✓ Students wanted a form of participatory **democracy** in which people had more say in politics and more control over decisions made by the government.
- ✓ Students wanted to end racism and fight for **civil rights**.
- ✓ Students were against the Vietnam War.



Why did the student movement oppose the Vietnam War?

The student movement against the Vietnam War grew for 8 key reasons:

- ✓ Media coverage turned people against the war.
- ✓ 12 per cent of soldiers that fought in the war ended up either dead or seriously injured. The number of **amputations** was approximately 300 per cent higher than in the Second World War.
- ✓ The average age of an American GI killed in Vietnam was 23.
- ✓ 2,000,000 men were forced to fight in Vietnam between 1964 and 1972 as a result of the draft.
- ✓ Leading figures like Martin Luther King and Muhammad Ali highlighted issues of racial inequality in the US forces.
- ✓ People did not like the corruption and brutality of the South Vietnamese government as it was undemocratic.

- ✔ Even politicians began to question the war, which was distracting the government from pressing domestic issues like education and healthcare.
- ✔ The USA was losing against the Vietcong (p.20). Events like the Tet Offensive (p.34) and My Lai Massacre (p.47) brought this home to the American people.

How did students and hippies protest against the war in Vietnam as part of the student movement?

Examples of protests and demonstrations included:

- ✔ 500,000 people came together in Washington on 15th November, 1969, to listen to speeches and songs about ending the war. It was the biggest anti-war protest in US history.
- ✔ Hippies protested by rejecting the traditional American way of life. Not working or going to school, growing hair long and taking illegal drugs was seen as a rejection of government and authority.
- ✔ Student protests became increasingly violent and there were many clashes with police.
- ✔ In August 1970, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Wisconsin, a bomb was detonated by student protesters. One person was killed and several others injured.
- ✔ In May 1970, there were protests at the Kent State (p.49) University which resulted in the deaths of 4 students.

Why did the student movement gain media coverage?

The protestors were a small minority of the 8.5 million students in the US, but they attracted a lot of media interest because most of them were white, middle-class, and outwardly rejecting the values of their parents' generation.

What did the Students for a Democratic Society do in the student movement?

There are 5 key facts to note about the Students for a Democratic Society:

- ✔ It was a student activist organisation, led by Tom Hayden, that grew to 3,000 members on 80 campuses by 1965. By the end of the decade it had over 100,000 members in 150 colleges.
- ✔ It held its first meeting in 1960. It released a statement called 'Port Huron', which set out its aims to campaign against racism and war, and in support of human rights.
- ✔ It participated in civil rights protests and campaigned for better students' rights in universities and colleges. It also protested against university rules.
- ✔ It grew considerably because students greatly opposed American involvement in the Vietnam War.
- ✔ It split into different groups by 1969 due to internal disagreements.

What was the Weatherman student movement?

There are 4 key facts to note about the Weatherman movement:

- ✔ It was a radical student group created in 1969 when the Students for a Democratic Society collapsed.
- ✔ It was willing to incite and use violence to stop the Vietnam War and create a revolution.
- ✔ It was responsible for several acts of domestic terrorism, including bomb attacks between 1970 and 1971 in New York, Boston and Washington.
- ✔ The members of the group were hunted by the FBI.

What was the significance of the student movement to the Vietnam War?

The student movement was significant as it was a key factor in the eventual withdrawal of US forces from Vietnam.

DID YOU KNOW?

Of the 8.7 million Americans serving between 1965 and 1973, only 1.8 million were drafted.

DRAFT SYSTEM

'Hell no, we won't go!'
A popular slogan against the draft system



What was the draft system for the Vietnam War?

Any man aged over 18 could be drafted into compulsory military service. Most were under 26, and the average was 19 years of age.



What training did people who were drafted into the Vietnam War receive?

Draftees received only basic training before being sent to fight in Vietnam.



What was the response to the draft system in the Vietnam War?

Many people felt the draft was unfair, that the draftees were too young, and that a lack of proper training increased the chances of them dying.



What was the lottery system of the draft in the Vietnam War?

In 1969, to try and make the system fairer, the government turned the draft into a random lottery system. Men aged from 25 to 31 were included, adding a further 26 million potential soldiers. Out of 2.6 million men who fought in Vietnam, 650,000 were draftees.



Was anyone exempt from the draft in the Vietnam War?

4 main groups were exempt from the draft:

- ✓ The physically and mentally unfit.
- ✓ University students.
- ✓ Some government and industrial workers.
- ✓ Only sons, or those who could prove being drafted would create hardship for their families.



How many men were made exempt from the draft in the Vietnam War?

In total, 15 million men were made exempt from the draft.



What were the views of conscientious objectors on the draft for the Vietnam War?

Men could become conscientious objectors (COs) and refuse military service on the grounds of their religious or moral beliefs.



What work did conscientious objectors do as part of the draft system in the Vietnam War?

Conscientious objectors were required to undertake war work, such as working in weapons factories. There were around 17,000 COs in total, although almost 20 times as many men applied for exemption.



How did people avoid the draft in the Vietnam War?

Men living or working abroad could avoid the draft, but this option was only really available to the wealthy. Some 50,000 men went into hiding or left America illegally instead.



Why was the draft system unfair in the Vietnam War?

There were 3 main reasons the draft system was seen as unfair:

- ✓ Middle-class white men were often able to avoid the draft as they could afford to go to university or move abroad.
- ✓ Those with influential contacts could also dodge the draft.

- ✓ A disproportionate number of poor people, and those belonging to black and ethnic minorities, were therefore called up.

How many people refused to obey the draft for the Vietnam War?

9,000 men were **prosecuted** for refusing to be drafted.

What was the significance of the draft system in the Vietnam War?

The significance of the draft system to the Vietnam War was its impact on the growing peace movement. Many people saw the system as unfair and engaged in protests.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 30,000 people left the United States to avoid the draft.

MY LAI MASSACRE, 1968

'It was terrible. They were slaughtering villagers like so many sheep.'
Larry La Croix, American sergeant

What was the My Lai Massacre?

American troops went to the village of My Lai to search for Vietcong (p.20). The American troops killed and abused over 500 women, children and old men.

When did the My Lai Massacre happen?

The My Lai Massacre happened on 16th March, 1968, not long after the Tet Offensive (p.34) began.

Where did the My Lai Massacre happen?

The **massacre** happened in a village called My Lai, in the Quang Ngai region of South Vietnam.

Who was involved in the My Lai Massacre?

Approximately 80 US soldiers from Charlie Company, a unit of the army's 11th Infantry Brigade, took part in the **massacre**.

Why did the My Lai Massacre happen?

There were 2 key reasons the **massacre** happened:

- ✓ Charlie Company was sent on a search and destroy (p.31) mission, following reports of a base of 200 Vietcong (p.20) fighters in the area of My Lai. Reports suggested locals were giving them food, shelter and weapons, so Charlie Company was sent to burn all crops, livestock and food.
- ✓ Charlie Company had lost 5 soldiers in the Tet Offensive (p.34). Although the unit had never directly fought the Vietcong (p.20), it had experienced the organisation's **guerrilla warfare** while on patrol. It is thought the war had taken a **psychological** toll on the soldiers.

What were the key events in the My Lai Massacre?

There were a number of key events in the My Lai Massacre:

- ☑ At 7:30am on 16th March, 1968, 9 American helicopters landed near the village of My Lai. It was a Saturday, and it was expected all the villagers would be at the market.
- ☑ Upon landing, the soldiers started shooting at any house they thought might contain Vietcong (p.20) soldiers.
- ☑ Grenades were used to destroy houses, crops and livestock.
- ☑ Some villagers tried to escape but the US forces shot or stabbed them. This was completely unwarranted; none of the villagers had retaliated and most of those present were women and children.
- ☑ There were also several reports of Charlie Company troops torturing and raping civilians.
- ☑ No Vietcong (p.20) soldiers were found, and only a few weapons were recovered.
- ☑ Charlie Company returned to base and said 22 civilians were killed by accident, and the remaining dead were Vietcong (p.20).

How was the My Lai Massacre covered up?

At first, Charlie Company received much recognition for its efforts. As the truth emerged, the government attempted a cover up:

- ☑ The government announced the troops had killed 128 Vietcong (p.20) fighters and destroyed their base.
- ☑ However, some soldiers and local inhabitants reported what had really happened.
- ☑ The army attempted a cover-up, but one soldier, Ronald Ridenhour, made his eye-witness account public. He wrote more than 30 letters to politicians and military officials, saying 'something rather dark and bloody' had happened at My Lai a year earlier.
- ☑ General Westmoreland received one of Ridenhour's letters. Although he didn't believe it, he ordered an inquiry. The army later admitted to 20 accidental civilian deaths.

What happened when the My Lai Massacre was investigated?

Two inquiries were held into the events of the My Lai Massacre, one by the government and the other by the army.

What did the government's investigation conclude about the My Lai Massacre?

The government investigation into the My Lai Massacre came to two main conclusions:

- ☑ It interviewed 398 witnesses and the weight of evidence indicated Charlie Company had massacred approximately 347 unarmed civilians.
- ☑ All those involved in the torture, rape, murder and cover up of the massacre should be punished.

What did the army's investigation into the My Lai Massacre conclude?

The army's investigation reported widespread failures and came to several conclusions:

- ☑ There were significant failures in the leadership and discipline of the soldiers.
- ☑ The soldiers were not experienced enough to carry out the roles they had been assigned to.
- ☑ The psychological trauma experienced by the men of Charlie Company created a desire for revenge against the Vietnamese.
- ☑ 25 men should be prosecuted for the massacre, either because of their participation or their involvement in the cover up.

How many were prosecuted because of their role in the My Lai Massacre?

Although the army said 25 men should be prosecuted, and some did face murder charges, only Lieutenant William Calley was prosecuted.

Who was Lieutenant Calley in the My Lai Massacre?

Lieutenant William Calley was one of the soldiers in charge of Charlie Company on the day of the massacre. He was responsible for the murder of 109 civilians at My Lai.



What was the role of Lieutenant Calley in the My Lai Massacre?

Calley played a leading role in the day's events. In accounts of what happened from other soldiers, Calley is reported to have said the following:

- ✓ In response to questions about a group of men, women and children gathered in the centre of the village by soldiers, he said: 'You know what I want you to do with them.'
- ✓ On returning 10 minutes later and finding the group still there, he said: 'Haven't you got rid of them yet? I want them dead. Waste them.'

What happened to Lieutenant Calley following his trial for the My Lai Massacre?

Lieutenant Calley was sentenced to life imprisonment. President Nixon (p.61) received more than 5,000 telegrams in protest as many were outraged by the sentence, believing Calley was only following orders. In response, Calley was confined to an army base on President Nixon's orders and released after three and a half years.

What was the public's response to the My Lai Massacre?

Newspaper reports surfaced in November 1970 that **claimed** more than 500 **civilians** had been murdered in the **massacre**. On 5th December, pictures taken by an army photographer were shown on television, prompting a massive outcry.

What were the consequences of the My Lai Massacre?

The My Lai Massacre had 3 main consequences:

- ✓ It greatly strengthened the growing peace movement. People were repulsed by the atrocities committed by Charlie Company and questioned the morality of the USA's involvement in Vietnam.
- ✓ Due to the cover up of the **massacre**, people distrusted the government and the army. They did not believe they were being told the full truth about the war.
- ✓ The **massacre** led to further investigations and, in 1971, it was found over a third of US troops were addicted to drugs. It was clear **morale** was at an all-time low.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although somewhere between 100 and over 500 people were killed, only one person was charged and jailed for the My Lai Massacre.



KENT STATE UNIVERSITY PROTESTS

'Remember Kent State, May 4, 1970: An iconic moment for a generation... a coming of conscience for a country.'

Author Rita Dragonette

What was the Kent State Protest?

The Kent State Protest, or Kent State shootings, involved the shooting and killing of unarmed university students who were protesting against the Vietnam War.

When did the Kent State University protest shootings happen?

The Kent State protest occurred between 1st and 4th May, 1970. The shootings took place on the final day.



Where did the Kent State Shootings happen?

The shootings happened at Kent State University in the **state** of Ohio.



Why did the Kent State University protest shootings happen?

There were 2 main reasons for the shootings:

- ✓ Protestors were demonstrating at the university against the Vietnam War. This was prompted by Nixon's announcement of the invasion of Cambodia and the need for 150,000 more US troops.
- ✓ The Ohio **state** governor had sent in the National Guard to stop the demonstrations that had taken place all weekend. On the Monday, the protests turned violent and events escalated to the shootings.



What were the key events in the Kent State University protest shootings?

There were 6 key events in the Kent State University protest shootings:

- ✓ President Nixon (p. 61) announced to the American public that US forces had invaded Cambodia on 30th April, 1970.
- ✓ Protests across America took place the next day at many colleges and universities, including Kent State University.
- ✓ Protests continued over the weekend, often escalating to clashes between protesters and police. Windows were smashed and police cars vandalised.
- ✓ With further protests planned for Monday, 4th May, amid fears of continued violence, 1,000 National Guardsmen were sent to stop them.
- ✓ Just after midday, violence erupted. Students threw rocks and the National Guardsmen responded with tear gas.
- ✓ In the chaos, at 12.24pm, some of the National Guardsmen started shooting at the protesters. 4 students, including one called Jeffrey Miller, were killed and a further 9 were injured.



How did the Kent State Protest begin?

The Kent State shootings started when National Guardsmen fired their guns into a crowd of student protesters and students. The reasons for the shooting remain unclear.



How did the Kent State Protest develop?

There were 5 main developments over the first four days of May:

- ✓ There were clashes between anti-war protesters and pro-war supporters.
- ✓ There were student demonstrations over the following days. These included sit-ins and the students occupying some university buildings, as well as setting fire to the Reserve Officers' Training Office on campus.
- ✓ The **state** governor sent in 900 National Guardsmen with tear gas and rifles.
- ✓ The students threw gas canisters and bricks at the National Guard.
- ✓ The National Guard fired into the crowd and killed four students. Nine other people were injured.



What happened to the National Guardsmen that had carried out the shootings at the Kent State University protest?

The government investigated the shootings and a report **stated** that the guardsmen's actions were "unnecessary, unwarranted, and inexcusable". 8 of them were arrested but there was not enough evidence to **prosecute**.



What was the public reaction to the shootings at the Kent State Protest?

There were 3 main reactions to the shooting:

- ✓ The public was horrified by the shootings, which caused outrage across America.
- ✓ However, there was some support for the National Guardsmen who had shot at the students.
- ✓ There were protests at other universities, and about 2 million students went on **strike** because of the killings.



Why were the shootings at the Kent State Protest controversial?

The students killed in the Kent State shootings were white and **middle class**, which was why there was such public outrage. When two black students were shot and 12 injured during an anti-war protest at Jackson State University, there was very little publicity or reaction.

What was significant about the shootings at the Kent State University protest?

The shootings were significant as it strengthened the anti-war movement further and led to increased calls for America to withdraw from Vietnam.

DID YOU KNOW?

28 soldiers fired 67 rounds over 13 seconds, killing 4 students and wounding 9.



OPPOSITION FROM POLITICIANS TO THE VIETNAM WAR

'I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home... I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken.'

Dr Martin Luther King, 1967

What political opposition was there to the Vietnam War?

Politicians began to oppose the war for a number of reasons, as they responded to public sentiment. They demonstrated their opposition in Congress and other governing institutions, as well as publicly.

What were the reasons for political opposition to the Vietnam War?

Politicians opposed the war for 5 main reasons:

- ✓ It seemed unwinnable. Events like the Tet Offensive (p.34) demonstrated the strength of the Vietcong (p.20), and the invasion of Laos proved the policy of Vietnamisation (p.36) was not working.
- ✓ The cost was extremely high. It is estimated the war cost the US government \$170 billion - around \$1 trillion in today's money. The financial burden meant domestic spending programmes on things like education and healthcare were neglected.
- ✓ It risked destroying **international relations**. Many nations, including the United Kingdom which had a 'special relationship' with the USA, distanced themselves from the Vietnam War. The UK did not join the war as it felt it was hypocritical to fight against a nation battling for **independence**.
- ✓ The US opposition party, the Democrats, saw opposing the war as a way to criticise the administration and gain power.
- ✓ Media coverage, particularly on television, brought home the brutality of war to politicians and the public alike.

What international political opposition was there to the Vietnam War?

The USA was condemned by many countries for incidents such as the My Lai Massacre (p.47) and its use of chemical weapons.



How did the media affect the political opposition to the Vietnam War?

The media coverage of events such as the My Lai Massacre (p.47) and Kent State (p.49) shootings, along with photographs of the horrific effects of Agent Orange and **napalm**, sparked shock and outrage worldwide. Some politicians were embarrassed to be American.



What effect did the public have on political opposition to the Vietnam War?

From the 1960s, the US government faced 2 significant forms of opposition, from a public who felt ashamed of the actions of their government and military.

- ✓ Anti-war protesters and **veterans** openly condemned the atrocities they had witnessed.
- ✓ As opposition grew, it became impossible for the government to ignore what the people wanted. They had to stop the war.



What was the significance of the political opposition to the Vietnam War.

The political opposition to the Vietnam War was significant because it contributed to the reasons for US withdrawal from Vietnam. The US government came under increasing pressure from both the public and leading politicians to bring US troops home from Vietnam.

DID YOU KNOW?

In November 1969, Washington hosted the largest anti-war protest in American history with an estimated 500,000 people taking part.



HARD HATS

'The image of hardhats assaulting anti-war protestors in May 1970 crystallized long-standing popular narratives about class, race, and protest in this country.'
Penny Lewis, professor of sociology at the City University of New York



What were the Hard Hats?

The Hard Hats was a nickname given to construction workers who supported the war.



How did the Hard Hats become involved in the protests against the Vietnam War?

Some Hard Hats attacked an anti-war protest in New York, on 8th May, 1970.



What was the police reaction to the Hard Hats attacks on the anti-war protests?

Nothing was done by the police to stop the attacks.

DID YOU KNOW?

The riot lasted roughly 2 hours and even spilled into New York City Hall. Some 70 people were injured and 6 arrested.



SILENT MAJORITY

'Let us understand: North Vietnam cannot defeat or humiliate the United States. Only Americans can do that.'

President Richard Nixon, 1969



What was the silent majority during the war in Vietnam?

The 'silent majority' was the term President Nixon (p.61) used for the people who supported the war, but took no active role in campaigning for it.



When was silent majority first mentioned?

It was first mentioned on 3rd November, 1969, in a speech made by President Nixon (p.61).



What was Nixon's silent majority speech about?

President Nixon (p.61) speech appealed for support from the 'silent majority'. He believed that most people supported the war and his policies.



What was the reaction to Nixon's silent majority speech?

After the speech was broadcast, over 80,000 telegrams and letters were sent to the White House, from people expressing their support.



What was the estimated percentage of the silent majority after the Nixon speech?

A poll showed that 77% of the public supported Nixon's policies.



What was the outcome of the silent majority speech?

Congress passed resolutions approving Nixon's conduct of the war. Nixon could negotiate with the North Vietnamese as he had plenty of support at home.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nixon received thousands of letters and telegrams in support of the Vietnam War.



POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAM WAR

'And so tonight - to you, the great silent majority of my fellow Americans - I ask for your support.'

President Richard Nixon, 1969



What was the political support of the war in Vietnam?

Political support for the war was complicated. It mainly came from Republicans, right-wing Americans, anti-communists, and the military.



What were the complications of the political support of the war in Vietnam?

No politician wanted to see the US lose the war against North Vietnam, or the South to become communist, but they wanted to win the popular vote as well. Supporting the war could lead to them losing votes.



How did political support affect the funding of the war in Vietnam?

Congress gradually became less supportive, partially because of the cost; but they kept funding it because the military kept telling them victory was near.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1965, 64 percent of Americans believed the USA was right to send troops to Vietnam.



PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

'I pledge to you that we shall have an honorable end to the war in Vietnam.'
President Richard Nixon, 1969.



What was the role of peace negotiations at the end of the Vietnam War?

These were the discussions that took place before the Paris Peace Accords that ended the Vietnam War.



What was the background to the peace negotiations for the end of the Vietnam War?

President Nixon (p.61) promised to end the war in his election **campaign** of 1968. He started talks with China and the USSR to try to end the Vietnam War. North Vietnam worried they wouldn't be able to continue fighting without their **allies**, so in 1970 they agreed to talks with the US.



What were America's demands in the negotiations to end the Vietnam War?

President Johnson had mentioned, as early as April 1965, that the USA would negotiate at any time, but that an **independent** South Vietnam must be guaranteed.



What were the North Vietnamese demands in the negotiations for the end of the war in Vietnam?

They wanted a united Vietnam to be part of any peace talks, and they expected a **communist** government to be elected.



What happened when talks began between the USA and North Vietnam for the war to end?

Following the 1968 Tet Offensive (p.34), both sides decided to hold talks in Paris, but they simply **stated** their previous positions.



Why was the USA under pressure to negotiate the end of the war in Vietnam?

There were 2 important reasons why the USA was under pressure to end the war in Vietnam.

- ✓ Opposition to the war was increasing.
- ✓ Congress had cut funding.



What happened during the negotiations for end of the Vietnam War?

There were 3 main steps to the negotiations.

- ✓ On 8th October 1972, the USA and North Vietnam reached an agreement.
- ✓ President Thieu of South Vietnam refused to sign, because he had been left out of the talks in Paris.
- ✓ North Vietnam accused the USA of using Thieu's refusal as an excuse to back out of the agreement.



What were the consequences of the negotiations for the end of the Vietnam War?

There were 4 important consequences to the negotiations to end the Vietnam War.

- ✓ The talks broke off.
- ✓ Nixon promised President Thieu weapons, supplies and aid, if he would attend the talks.
- ✓ Nixon asked China and the USSR to persuade the North to return to the talks.
- ✓ Talks resumed on 8th January, 1973.

DID YOU KNOW?

Following his resignation as president in 1975, Thieu settled in London, UK, and later moved to Massachusetts in the USA.



EASTER OFFENSIVE, 1972

'In summary...the pressure is mounting and the battle has become brutal...the senior military leadership has begun to bend and in some cases to break. In adversity, it is losing its will and cannot be depended upon to take the measures necessary to stand and fight.'

General Abrams, 1972

What was the Easter Offensive?

The Easter Offensive was a North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam.

When was the Easter Offensive?

The Easter Offensive took place between March and October 1972.

What was the US reaction to the Easter Offensive?

This was a shock to the USA, which didn't think the North was strong enough to launch another major attack after the Tet Offensive (p.34).

What was the outcome of the Easter Offensive?

It made the USA think the war could drag on for years, despite the gains South Vietnam made in the Easter Offensive.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Easter Offensive was the largest land invasion since China entered the Korean War in 1950.

PARIS PEACE ACCORDS, 1973

'Now that we have achieved an honorable agreement, let us be proud that America did not settle for a peace that would have betrayed our allies.'

President Richard Nixon, 1973



What were the Paris Peace Accords?

The Paris Peace Accords were agreements to end the war and restore peace in Vietnam.



When were the Paris Peace Accords signed?

They were signed on 27th January, 1973.



Who were the key figures that negotiated the Paris Peace Accords?

The key figures involved in public and secret meetings where a peace agreement was negotiated were the USA's Henry Kissinger (p. 62) and North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho.



Who signed the Paris Peace Accords?

There were 4 signatories to the Paris Accords:

- ✓ The USA.
- ✓ North Vietnam.
- ✓ South Vietnam.
- ✓ The National Liberation Front, otherwise known as the Vietcong (p. 20).



What were the agreements of the Paris Accords?

There were 7 agreements in the Paris Peace Accords:

- ✓ Acceptance of the reunification of Vietnam, and agreement a new government would be elected under international supervision.
- ✓ All four parties agreed to a **ceasefire**.
- ✓ Agreement to keep the armies of both Vietnamese governments, but the USA would not send aid to the ARVN.
- ✓ The USA would withdraw all troops, equipment and advisers within 60 days.
- ✓ All sides would exchange **prisoners of war** and equipment within 60 days.
- ✓ The USA would send aid for **reconstruction** to both sides.
- ✓ The USA government would not interfere in Vietnam in any way.



Was peace achieved with the Paris Accords?

The Paris Peace Accords did not bring instant peace.

DID YOU KNOW?

In October 1972, Henry Kissinger worked out a peace agreement. South Vietnam refused to sign in fear the USA would abandon them.

North Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho and United States negotiator Henry Kissinger were both awarded the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts in the Paris Peace Accords.



FALL OF SAIGON, 1975

'It has been a long fight and we have lost... Those who fail to learn from history are forced to repeat it. Let us hope that we will not have another Vietnam experience and that we have learned our lesson.'

Thomas Polgar, CIA Station Chief in Saigon



What was the fall of Saigon?

This was the capture of Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, by the People's Army of Vietnam and the Vietcong (p.20).



When was the fall of Saigon?

The fall of Saigon happened on 30th April, 1975.



What happened to US soldiers during the fall of Saigon?

The remaining US soldiers, and some Vietnamese **refugees**, were evacuated by helicopter.



What was the importance of the fall of Saigon?

The fall of Saigon was important for 2 reasons:

- ✓ It marked the end of the Vietnam War.
- ✓ Vietnam became a united **communist** country.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 10,000 South Vietnamese were evacuated to American ships. It was the largest helicopter evacuation in history.



COST OF THE VIETNAM WAR

'War is not combat, though combat is a part of war. Combatants are not the main participants in modern war. Modern war affects civilians far more and far longer than combatants.'

American journalist Nick Turse



What was the cost of the Vietnam War?

The cost of the Vietnam War went beyond the \$167 billion spent - it also involved human and social costs.



What was the human cost of the Vietnam War?

In human terms, the statistics were overwhelming:


- ✓ An estimated total of 4,204,364 killed.
- ✓ An estimated total of 1,944,200 wounded soldiers.
- ✓ An estimated 850,000 people left with severe **psychological** problems.





What was the cost of the Vietnam War in terms of the amount of US deaths?


The total number of American dead was 58,318.





 **What was the cost of the Vietnam War in terms of the amount of US wounded?**
The total number of American wounded was 303,644.


 **What was the cost of the Vietnam War in terms of the amount of Vietnamese deaths?**
The total number of Vietnamese dead was between 966,000 and 3,812,000.


 **What was the cost of the Vietnam War in terms of the amount of South Vietnamese deaths?**
The total number of South Vietnamese dead was between 449,256 and 743,000.

 **What was the cost of the Vietnam War in terms of the amount of South Vietnamese wounded?**
The total number of South Vietnamese wounded was 1,170,000.


 **What was the cost of the Vietnam War in terms of the amount of North Vietnamese deaths?**
The total number of North Vietnamese dead was between 667,130 and 951,895.

 **What was the cost of the Vietnam War in terms of North Vietnamese wounded?**
Total number of North Vietnamese wounded was 604,200.

 **What was the cost of the Vietnam War in the impact on society?**
President Johnson had made plans for solving many of the social problems in America, but the funding went to the war instead. This, largely unrealised, plan was known as the 'Great Society'.

 **What was the cost of the Vietnam War in the impact on people?**
There were three significant ways in which the war impacted the American people.

- ✓ American pride had been hurt, as the nation had lost a war to a much less industrialised and wealthy country.
- ✓ There was a lack of trust between the people and the government.
- ✓ There was a social divide between those who supported the war, and those who opposed it.

 **What was the cost of the Vietnam War on the returning soldiers?**
There were two major ways in which the war had an impact on the returning soldiers.

- ✓ They faced a lot of hostility by both anti-war protestors and by **veterans** of previous wars - many were beaten up and faced **discrimination**.
- ✓ There was little understanding of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and the rate of suicides among **veterans** was nearly double that of men of a similar age who had not fought.

DID YOU KNOW?

The peak of Vietnam war spending by the USA was in 1968.

REASONS FOR THE USA'S FAILURE

'If I've lost Walter Cronkite, I've lost Mr Average Citizen.'
President Lyndon B Johnson in 1968, after hearing Cronkite's report on the Vietnam War

What caused the USA to fail in Vietnam?

The American government and public lacked a clear understanding of, or the motivation and adaptability to succeed, in Vietnam. They were also at a disadvantage culturally, politically and militarily, as they were not Vietnamese.

What were the main reasons the USA failed in Vietnam?

The 4 main reasons that contributed to the USA's failure in Vietnam were:

- ✓ The **tactics** and resolve of the Vietcong (p.20).
- ✓ The cultural weaknesses of the USA in Vietnam.
- ✓ The political and public opposition to the war in the USA.
- ✓ The **military** weaknesses of the American forces.

Why did cultural weaknesses lead to the USA failing in Vietnam?

Cultural weakness was a key reason of the USA's failure in Vietnam due to the following:

- ✓ Many Americans had racist attitudes towards the Vietnamese, meaning they did not always treat local **civilians** well. This led to atrocities like the My Lai Massacre (p.47). US forces needed the support of the locals, but mostly alienated them.
- ✓ It was hard to gain support from the locals because they didn't speak their language and needed interpreters.
- ✓ Most Americans had no idea what the country was like. They didn't understand why villagers were unwilling to leave the lands where their ancestors were buried. This led to feelings of hatred from the local **population** and increased support for the Vietcong (p.20).
- ✓ The Americans didn't realise most Vietnamese villagers were unable to read, so dropping leaflets warning them to leave before bombing **raids** happened didn't work. Millions of innocent **civilians** were killed during the conflict.
- ✓ Many South Vietnamese saw the USA as occupiers imposing their ideas - just as the French and Japanese had - and not advocates for **democracy**. They helped the Vietcong (p.20), creating further difficulties for the US forces.

Why did political and public opposition lead to the USA's failure in Vietnam?

Political and public opposition led to the USA's failure in the Vietnam War for the following reasons:

- ✓ The USA backed the South Vietnamese government, which was **corrupt**. Many officials had worked for the French, making America even more unpopular. Political figures and the American public objected to the USA fighting a war that defended a corrupt regime.
- ✓ The USA faced opposition at home in the form of anti-war protests, and restricted funding from Congress after 1971. This placed President Nixon (p.61) under huge pressure to withdraw from Vietnam.
- ✓ The US public questioned the **legitimacy** of the war, meaning the US government no longer had a **mandate** to fight.
- ✓ Americans were horrified by media coverage of the war, and this led to a growth in the anti-war movement. By 1971, many surveys showed the majority of American people wanted US troops brought home immediately and an end to the conflict. The US government could not fight a war its people did not want.

Why did weaknesses in the USA's military lead to its failure in Vietnam?

Military weaknesses in the US forces led to failure in Vietnam for the following reasons:

- ✓ The **military** believed the war could be won with more troops and through bombing **campaigns** in North Vietnam, which was not the limited war the government wanted. US forces also failed to adjust their **tactics** to suit Vietnam's **terrain** and climate.
- ✓ US **tactics** alienated locals and caused resentment. 'Search and destroy (p.31)' included soldiers burning the homes of villagers.



- ✓ As the war progressed more soldiers were needed, so the draft became increasingly important. It meant many young and inexperienced soldiers were posted to Vietnam - and, as they returned home after a year, they left just as they were learning how to fight in the country's tough conditions. This contributed to the high number of **casualties**.
- ✓ Soldiers lacked training in how to combat **guerrilla tactics**. Their weapon and methods were ineffective in the jungle. One key problem faced by inexperienced GIs was the inability to recognise the enemy, leading to the deaths of innocent **civilians** and demoralised troops.
- ✓ Discipline among US soldiers was inadequate. Drug taking and desertion - where a soldier would leave his post - were rife. Approximately 30 per cent of US troops in Vietnam used heroin, further impacting their competency to fight effectively.
- ✓ The US military did not adapt their approach to combat the Vietcong's (p.20) **guerrilla tactics**, and therefore could not beat it.
- ✓ Their **tactics** often killed innocent **civilians** and sometimes their own troops. This led to low **morale** among the US forces which made it difficult for them to fight.
- ✓ With 12,000km between the USA and Vietnam, it meant US forces often had problems with their equipment and weapons.
- ✓ Racial inequalities in the US Army led to low **morale** and significant opposition back home. By 1970, black Americans made up 11 per cent of soldiers in Vietnam but almost 25 per cent of the **casualties**. Black soldiers questioned why they were fighting a war in the name of a freedom they did not have themselves.



How did the strengths of the Vietcong lead to the USA's failure in Vietnam?

The strength of both the Vietcong's (p.20) **tactics** and its resolve led to US failure in Vietnam for the following reasons:

- ✓ They knew the landscape, **culture** and language of the south, and so could easily navigate their way around undetected. They could also garner the support of the locals.
- ✓ The Vietnamese had a history of fighting foreign invaders, namely France and Japan. They were determined to remove all foreign influences from their country.
- ✓ The Vietcong (p.20) was already well established in the south, so North Vietnam could work with them and send supplies using the Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21). Many North Vietnamese fighters were originally from the south, before the 1954 Geneva Accords, and so had family and contacts they could use.
- ✓ They had international support. Between 1954 and 1967, China and the USSR sent \$3 billion in aid, weapons, and equipment. Laos and Cambodia allowed the Ho Chi Minh Trail (p.21) to run through their countries, and there was little America could do to stop this without further conflict.
- ✓ The North Vietnamese and Vietcong (p.20) troops were used to jungle conditions. They used **guerrilla tactics** and fought small skirmishes, although they could also fight large battles. These **tactics** were perfect for the **terrain**, and the USA could not fight effectively.
- ✓ The Vietcong (p.20) used a system of tunnels and bases to move supplies, troops and equipment. They were well-organised and experienced. The USA continuously failed at destroying the Vietcong's supply lines.
- ✓ The North Vietnamese and Vietcong (p.20) troops were fighting for their country. They had a clear motive to achieve victory and fought with fierce determination. The US troops, however, were fighting 12,000km from home for a cause they increasingly cared less about.

DID YOU KNOW?

Despite losing the Vietnam war, the US defeated the NVA in nearly every major battle.

IMPACT ON CIVILIANS

'It becomes necessary to destroy the town to save it.'
Unidentified US Army Major, 1968

What was the impact of the Vietnam War on North Vietnamese and South Vietnamese civilians?

The social and **economic** impact was huge for both the North and South Vietnamese **populations**.

What was the impact of the Vietnam War on North Vietnamese civilians?

The impact was significant. Not only was there the fear of US bombs, but food was scarce, and criticism of the government was strictly prohibited.

What was the impact of the Vietnam War on South Vietnamese civilians?

The **civilians** faced US bombing and **poverty**, which led many to leave their rural villages and become **refugees**.

DID YOU KNOW?

By 1972 there were approximately 800,000 orphaned children in Vietnam. Many lived on the streets of cities such as Saigon.

RICHARD NIXON

'A man is not finished when he's defeated. He's finished when he quits.'
President Richard Nixon, 1969

Who was Richard Nixon?





Richard Nixon was the 37th President of the United States of America.

When was Nixon president?

Nixon was President of the United States from 1969 until 1974.





What was Nixon's background?

Nixon's background included the following:

-  He was a very successful student and studied law at university.
-  He served in the US navy during the Second World War.
-  He served as Eisenhower's vice-president between 1953 and 1961.
-  He ran against John F Kennedy in the 1960 presidential election and lost.

What were the key events in Nixon's presidency?

The key events in Nixon's presidency included:

-  In May 1964, he made a commitment to withdraw the USA from Vietnam.
-  In February 1972, he visited China and was the first US **president** to visit the **communist state**.
-  In May 1972, he visited the USSR.
-  In June 1972, the Watergate **scandal** began.



- ✓ In January 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed, signalling an end to the Vietnam War.
- ✓ In June 1973, he took responsibility for the Watergate scandal.
- ✓ He faced charges of impeachment in July 1974.
- ✓ He became the first US president to resign from office in August 1974.



What were Nixon's views on the Cold War?

Nixon was anti-communist and committed to the policy of containment. However, he also took office at a time when America's Cold War-related spending had reached an unsustainable high. He looked at reducing tensions with communist states, including the USSR and China, to reduce spending.



What roles did Nixon have in America?

Richard Nixon had 3 key roles in America:

- ✓ Had a long career in politics, having been elected to the House of Representatives in 1947 and the Senate in 1950.
- ✓ Served as vice-president under Eisenhower and ran for president in 1960, narrowly losing to John F Kennedy.
- ✓ He eventually became president in January 1969.



Why was Nixon elected president?

One of the key reasons why Nixon was elected president in 1969 was because of President Johnson's failures in the Vietnam War.



Why did Nixon resign as president of the USA?

Richard Nixon resigned as president of the USA on 9th August, 1974 because of his involvement in the Watergate Scandal.

DID YOU KNOW?

Richard Nixon was the first US president to resign from office.



HENRY KISSINGER

'Kissinger brought peace to Vietnam the same way Napoleon brought peace to Europe: by losing.'
Author Joseph Heller, 1979



Who was Henry Kissinger?

Henry Kissinger was National Security Adviser to President Nixon (p.61). He later became Secretary of State.



When was Henry Kissinger national security advisor?

He was National Security Advisor from 1969 to 1973.



What was Henry Kissinger's background?

There are 5 important points in Kissinger's background:

- ✓ He was born in Germany in 1923 to a Jewish family.
- ✓ His family emigrated to the USA in 1938 to escape Nazi persecution.

- ✓ He served in the US armed forces during the Second World War.
- ✓ He studied political science at Harvard University, where he began advising the US government on **foreign policy**.
- ✓ Kissinger's ethos was common sense and practicality in politics.

What was significant about Henry Kissinger?

Kissinger was an incredibly skillful politician. He successfully negotiated the Paris Peace Agreement with North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho, ending the war in Vietnam in 1973. He won a Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the peace settlement.

DID YOU KNOW?

Kissinger's Nobel Peace Prize in 1973 was hugely controversial. Two members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee resigned in protest.

NGO DINH DIEM

'I want you to be successful. I want to be useful to you. I don't expect you to be a 'yes man'. I realise that you must never appear a puppet of the United States.'
Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge to President Diem, August 1963

Who was Ngo Dinh Diem?

Ngo Dinh Diem was the final prime **minister** of the State of Vietnam from 1954 to 1955, and then President of South Vietnam from 1955 to 1963.

Who led South Vietnam before Ngo Dinh Diem?

The leader of South Vietnam before Ngo Dinh Diem was Bao Dai, a former emperor of Vietnam, who led anti-communist forces in South Vietnam after the departure of the French.

Was Diem a good president?

Diem was initially regarded as a good **president**. He built new schools and strengthened the **economy**. However, this changed because he increased his power, allowed corruption, and was anti-Buddhist.

What were the reasons Diem lacked support?

Diem lacked support for 6 important reasons:

- ✓ Most of the South Vietnamese **population** was Buddhist, but Diem favoured Catholics and gave them government jobs.
- ✓ There were still a lot of **communists** in South Vietnam who opposed him.
- ✓ A number of other political and religious groups used their own armies to oppose Diem.
- ✓ Diem showed little respect for the villages, or for anyone who lived outside Saigon.
- ✓ When villagers complained about greedy and **corrupt** landowners, he did nothing to help them.
- ✓ His promised land **reforms** failed.

How did Diem deal with his opponents?

Diem ordered the arrest of those who opposed him, and those who were suspected of being **communists**. It is estimated there were 65,000 arrests, and that 2,000 people were killed.



How did Diem break the Geneva Accords?

Under the Geneva Accords, there were supposed to be elections in 1956, but Diem refused to hold them.



Who supported Diem?

Diem had support from the USA, which was concerned the proposed 1956 elections would be won by the communists.



How did the USA support Diem?

Advisers were sent by President Eisenhower to train the Army of the Republic of Vietnam - the ARVN.



Why did the USA support Diem?

The USA remained in Vietnam after the Geneva Accords for 2 main reasons.

- ✓ President Diem's government was not strong or popular enough.
- ✓ President Eisenhower believed in the Domino Theory (p. 18), and was concerned about the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.

DID YOU KNOW?

Both President Diem and President Kennedy were Catholic, and both were assassinated in 1963.



WALTER CRONKITE

'For many years, I did my best to report on the issues of the day in as objective a manner as possible.'

Walter Cronkite's UN address, 1999



Who was Walter Cronkite?

Walter Cronkite was an American news broadcaster who became known as 'the most trusted man in America' due to his reporting on the Vietnam War.



What was Walter Cronkite's background?

Walter Cronkite's background included:

- ✓ He studied political science at the University of Texas.
- ✓ Cronkite's early career as a journalist saw him covering events during the Second World War and the Nuremberg trials.
- ✓ He joined CBS news in 1950, and became well known by the public.



What was significant about Walter Cronkite?

Cronkite's role as a journalist contributed to the growing opposition to the war, which played a part in the USA's withdrawal from Vietnam.



DID YOU KNOW?

Cronkite covered a number of major battles during the Second World War. He parachuted into the Netherlands with the 101st Airborne Division.

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A

- Air strike** - an attack by aircraft, typically a bombing.
- Allies** - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.
- Ammunition** - collective term given to bullets and shells.
- Amputate, Amputation** - to surgically remove a limb from someone's body.
- Artillery** - large guns used in warfare.
- Assassinate** - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.
- Assassination** - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.
- Attrition** - the act of wearing down an enemy until they collapse through continued attacks.

B

- Booby traps** - seemingly harmless devices concealing something that will kill, harm or surprise. Especially in warfare, booby traps were often set off by a wire and contained explosives.
- Bribe, Bribery, Bribes** - to dishonestly persuade someone to do something for you in return for money or other inducements.

C

- Campaign** - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.
- Casualties** - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.
- Ceasefire** - when the various sides involved in conflict agree to stop fighting.
- Censorship** - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or unacceptable is suppressed.
- Civil rights** - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.
- Civilian** - a non-military person.
- Claim** - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.
- Communism** - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each person receives according to need.
- Communist** - a believer in communism.
- Conference** - a formal meeting to discuss common issues of interest or concern.
- Conscription** - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.

Containment - meaning to keep something under control or within limits, it often refers to the American idea of stopping the spread of communism.

Corrupt - when someone is willing to act dishonestly for their own personal gain.

Culture - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

D

- Deadlock** - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.
- Defect** - the act of defection; to leave your country or cause for another.
- Demilitarised** - to remove all military forces from an area and forbid them to be stationed there.
- Democracy** - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.
- Democratic** - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.
- Deploy** - to move military troops or equipment into position or a place so they are ready for action.
- Discriminate, Discrimination** - to treat a person or group of people differently and in an unfair way.

E

- Economic** - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.
- Economy** - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.
- Embassy** - historically, a deputation sent by one ruler, state or country to another. More recently, it is also the accepted name for the official residence or offices of an ambassador.

F

- Fatalities, Fatality** - Deaths.
- Foreign policy** - a government's strategy for dealing with other nations.

G

- Guerrilla tactics, Guerrilla warfare** - a way of fighting that typically involves hit-and-run style tactics.
- Guerrillas** - groups of small, independent fighters usually involved in a war against larger, regular military forces.

H

- Harvest** - the process of gathering and collecting crops.

Hippies - Groups of Americans who 'dropped out' of traditional life. Most did not go to college or work and travelled around the country, organising music festivals and protests against the Vietnam war and campaigning for world peace.

Impeach, Impeachment - to charge someone, usually a high-ranking government official, with treason or a crime against the state.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrial - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

International relations - the relationships between different countries.

L

Left wing - used to describe political groups or individuals with beliefs that are usually centered around socialism and the idea of reform.

Legislation - a term for laws when they are considered collectively, for example housing legislation.

Legitimacy, Legitimate - accepted by law or conforming to the rules; can be defended as valid.

Limb - an arm or leg.

M

Mandate - authority to carry out a policy.

Massacre - the deliberate and brutal slaughter of many people.

Mercenary - someone who takes action in order to earn money, rather than out of principle.

Middle class - refers to the socio-economic group which includes people who are educated and have professional jobs, such as teachers or lawyers.

Military force - the use of armed forces.

Militia - an army created from the general population.

Mine - an explosive device usually hidden underground or underwater.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

Monk - a member of a religious community, often living a simple life of poverty, chastity and work.

Morale - general mood of a group of people.

Morals - a person's set of rules about what they consider right and wrong, used to guide their actions and behaviour.

N

Napalm - a petrol based chemical, used to devastating effect in conflict as it sticks to skin and causes terrible burns.

Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

P

POW, Prisoner of war, Prisoners of war - somebody who has been captured and taken prisoner by enemy forces.

Pacification - Making something, or someone, peaceful.

Parliament - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

Peasant - a poor farmer.

Persecution - hostility towards or harassment of someone, usually due to their race, religion or political beliefs.

Phonetic Alphabet - A series of code words to indicate different letters of the alphabet, E.G 'Alpha' to mean 'A'.

Poll - a vote or survey.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

President - the elected head of state of a republic.

Prevent, Preventative, Preventive - steps taken to stop something from happening.

Propaganda - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

Prosecute - to institute or conduct legal proceedings against a person or organisation.

Psychological - referring to a person's mental or emotional state.

R

Radical, Radicalism - people who want complete or extensive change, usually politically or socially.

Raid - a quick surprise attack on the enemy.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Reform, Reforming - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

Refugee, Refugees - a person who has been forced to leave where they live due to war, disaster or persecution.

Restoration - to return something to its former owner, place or condition; this includes returning a monarch to the throne or a head of state to government.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

Rig, Rigged - politically, to interfere in or fix an election to

determine the winner.

Right wing - a political view with beliefs centred around nationalism and a desire for an authoritarian government opposed to communism.

S

Sanctions - actions taken against states who break international laws, such as a refusal to trade with them or supply necessary commodities.

Scandal, Scandalous - something that angers or shocks people because rules or accepted standards of behaviour have been broken.

Search and destroy, Seek and destroy - a tactic used by the US in Vietnam. Helicopters brought in soldiers who searched out the enemy in a specific area, such as a village, destroyed them, and then left.

Siege - action by enemy forces to surround a place or building, cutting off access and supplies, with the aim of either destroying it, gaining entry, or starving the inhabitants out.

Soviet - an elected workers' council at local, regional or national level in the former Soviet Union. It can also be a reference to the Soviet Union or the USSR.

Stalemate - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

Strategy - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

Strike - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

Submission, Submit - a formal surrender and acceptance of a new authority.

Superior - better or higher in rank, status or quality.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Terrain - a stretch of land and usually used to refer to its physical features, eg mountainous, jungle etc.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

V

Veteran, Veterans - an ex-soldier.

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The Vietnam Conflict, 1945–75

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