

Vietnam War

Background

From an American point of view, the Vietnam War was probably the most important development of the Cold War.

Its legacy on American foreign policy cannot be underestimated.

The Vietnam War fundamentally exposed the limitations of the world's greatest superpower, and profoundly influenced an entire generation of American policy makers.

Vietnam also had a revolutionary impact on the American home front.

Despite its tradition of moral superiority, America lost its innocence in Vietnam!

Assignment

1) During the Second World War, who was involved in the war of decolonization in Indochina?

2) What new war of decolonization broke out after the Second World War?

3) What happened during this conflict?

4) What was the significance of the Geneva Agreement of 1954?

5) After 1954, who were the forces in the North and the South of Vietnam?

6) Why did America become involved in Vietnam? What fear fuelled this decision?

7) How were American forces involved in Vietnam after the French left?

8) Why would some historians consider American involvement in Vietnam to be "a classic case of a government practicing folly"?

9) What caused Congress to pass the Tonkin Gulf Resolution in 1964?

10) What is the Tonkin Gulf Resolution?

11) How did the Tonkin Gulf Resolution impact American military commitments in Vietnam?

12) What was the relationship between North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front, also called the Viet Cong? Explain the significance of the Ho Chi Minh Trail!

13) What change to the status of American troops did Johnson make in 1965? Why?

14) Who replaced Johnson as President in 1968? On what platform was he elected?

15) What was the anti-war movement?

16) What elements made up Kissinger's Two Track Formula to implement Nixon's Vietnamization Plan?

a) _____

b) _____

17) What did the New Nixon Peace Offensive mean for American involvement in Vietnam?

18) What were the terms of the ceasefire that was signed in January 1973?

19) What happened after the ceasefire?

20) What was the cost of the Vietnam War?

<i>Money</i>	
<i>Military Service & Casualties</i>	
<i>International Influence</i>	
<i>America</i>	

21) Why did America lose the Vietnam War?

22) Complete the missing information on the many lessons America learned in Vietnam.

The Americans learned . . .

- that even a _____ has its limitations.
- that without _____ it is difficult to wage war in a _____.
- that military intervention in a _____ can be futile.
- that _____ are not reliable military forces, and therefore the American government cancelled _____.
- that there should be limitations of the power of the president to _____.
- that the _____ was not an absolute political truth.
- that maybe it was not worth stopping the _____.

23) What was the Watergate Scandal?

24) Critical Thinking . . . What is the most important lesson to learn from the Vietnam War?
