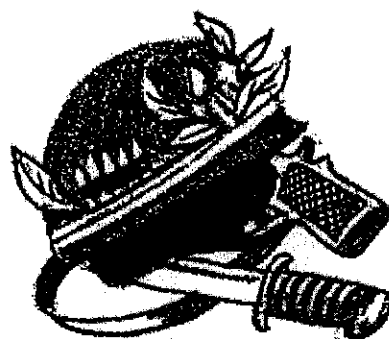


VIETNAM WAR

The Vietnam War lasted from 1957 until 1975. Communist-ruled North Vietnam wanted to take over non-Communist South Vietnam and unite the north and south into a single nation. The United States feared that if one Southeast Asian country fell to the Communists, the other nations in the region would also fall. In the end, the United States and South Vietnamese forces were unable to stop the North Vietnamese take-over.



Directions: Complete the sentences on these pages by filling in the spaces with the words, names, and terms in bold print.

guerrilla warfare	Ho Chi Minh Trail	search and destroy	Viet Cong
Soviet Union	Cambodia	military forces	communism
Marines	B-52 bombers	helicopters	
North Vietnam	advisers	China	
the Philippines	containment	aid	

Background/Early Events

- (1) In the years after World War II ended in 1945, President Harry S. Truman declared that the United States must help any nation threatened by Communists. Truman's policy — called _____ — was followed by Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson.
- (2) In the mid-1950s, Vietnam was a divided country. Ho Chi Minh was the leader of Communist North Vietnam. Ngo Dinh Diem, an opponent of _____, was the President of South Vietnam.
- (3) President Eisenhower sent several hundred U.S. _____ to help Diem.
- (4) Diem did little to improve the hard life of peasants in rural areas. In 1957, a rebellion broke out against his rule. The rebels were called the _____, or Vietnamese Communists.
- (5) North Vietnam supported the rebellion in South Vietnam and established a supply line to the Viet Cong through Laos and Cambodia. This system of roads and trails came to be known as the _____.
- (6) By 1961, the U.S.-backed Diem government was in danger of being overthrown by the rebels. President John F. Kennedy reacted by increasing the number of American military advisers in Vietnam from about 900 to about 16,000. He also expanded economic and military _____.
- (7) In 1963, a group of South Vietnamese generals overthrew the unpopular Diem government. A period of political disorder followed. _____ stepped up its supply of war materials and began to send units of its own army into the south.
- (8) In 1964, the United States accused North Vietnamese torpedo boats of attacking American ships off the coast of North Vietnam. Congress responded by passing the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson the power to increase U.S. _____ in the region.

- (9) A year later, President Johnson sent a group of U.S. _____ to South Vietnam. They were the first American ground combat forces to enter the war.

The Fighting Escalates

- (10) U.S. troop strength grew from 60,000 in 1965 to 543,000 in 1969. The Americans joined about 800,000 South Vietnamese forces and another 69,000 men from Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Thailand, and _____.
- (11) North Vietnam and the Viet Cong had over 300,000 troops, but the exact number is unknown. The Soviet Union and _____, the two biggest communist nations in the world at that time, sent war materials but no military forces to the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.
- (12) The United States did not try to invade and conquer North Vietnam during the war. Instead, it focused on air strikes against targets in North Vietnam and _____ ground missions against the enemy in South Vietnam.
- (13) The air raids against North Vietnam were carried out by huge _____ and smaller warplanes.
- (14) In South Vietnam, American pilots used _____ to search for the Viet Cong in jungle and mountain regions.
- (15) The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese used a defensive strategy and tried to avoid major battles in the open. The lightly armed Communists preferred _____, which included such tactics as ambushes and hand-laid bombs.
- (16) Between 1965 and 1967, neither side could gain an advantage. The U.S. Army and Marines usually won their battles, but North Vietnam continued to send in new troops. The _____ and China provided more war materials.
- (17) To avoid defeat, North Vietnamese forces often retreated into neighboring Laos and _____.

National Guard	college campuses	election	cease-fire agreement
money and lives	Saigon	U.S. troops	military aid
enemy food crops	Johnson	television	peace negotiations
South Vietnam			

Final Years of the War

- (18) Public opinion in the United States began to turn against the war. Many Americans wondered whether blocking Communist expansion in South Vietnam was worth the cost in _____.
- (19) When field commander General William C. Westmoreland asked for an additional 206,000 troops, President Johnson turned down the request. _____ cut back the bombing of North Vietnam and called for peace negotiations.
- (20) Peace talks began in Paris in May, 1968. When negotiations failed to produce an agreement, Americans became impatient with the war. President Richard M. Nixon announced a new policy known as Vietnamization. This policy called for stepped-up training of South Vietnamese forces and the gradual withdrawal of _____ from South Vietnam.

- (21) As the fighting dragged on, anti-war demonstrations were held in the United States, many on _____.
- (22) On May 4, 1970, a demonstration at Kent State University in Ohio ended in violence. _____ units fired into a group of protesters, killing four students and wounding nine others. The event shocked the nation and aroused more anti-war sentiment.
- (23) Opposition to the Vietnam War also developed as a result of _____ coverage, which brought scenes of war into millions of American homes.
- (24) War critics called attention to the large number of civilians killed by U.S. bombing missions and ground operations in South Vietnam. Bombs and chemical sprays destroyed much of the countryside. U.S. forces used such weedkillers as Agent Orange to reveal Communist hiding places in the jungle and to destroy _____.
- (25) In 1972, North Vietnam undertook a major invasion of South Vietnam. This campaign resulted in heavy losses for both sides, and led to the beginning of serious _____.
- (26) On January 27, 1973, a _____ was signed by the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the Viet Cong.
- (27) According to the agreement, the United States and its allies would withdraw their forces from Vietnam within 60 days. North Vietnam could leave 150,000 troops in the south. Each side would return prisoners of war. An internationally supervised _____ would settle the political future of South Vietnam.
- (28) On March 29, 1973, the last U.S. ground forces left Vietnam. Congress sharply reduced _____ to South Vietnam.
- (29) With American troops gone from Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong resumed their attacks against _____.
- (30) The war finally ended when South Vietnam surrendered to North Vietnam in Saigon on April 30, 1975. _____ was then renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

factories	Laos	58,000	150 billion
prisons	Vietnam	500,000	10 million
the United States	cropland	1 million	vital interests
unemployment	sacrifices		

Results of the War

- (31) About _____ Americans died during the Vietnam War, and another 300,000 were wounded.
- (32) More than _____ South Vietnamese lost their lives during the fighting.
- (33) The death toll among the North Vietnamese ranged between _____ and 1 million.
- (34) The United States spent over \$_____ on the war.
- (35) U.S. warplanes caused heavy damage to North Vietnam's _____ and transportation system.
- (36) South Vietnam suffered the most destruction because that is where nearly all of the fighting

took place. As many as _____ South Vietnamese — half the country's population — became refugees.

- (37) The bombing and use of chemicals in order to clear forests damaged much of South Vietnam's _____ and plant and animal life.
- (38) North Vietnam helped establish communist governments in _____ and Cambodia in 1975.
- (39) In 1976, North Vietnam united North and South Vietnam into the communist nation of _____.
- (40) Hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese were put in _____ by the Communists. More than one million people fled the country between 1975 and the early 1990s.
- (41) The Vietnam War was the first foreign war in which American forces failed to achieve their objectives. This hurt the pride of many people in _____ and left bitter and painful memories.
- (42) About 2,700,000 American men and women fought in the war. Most veterans made the transition to civilian life with relative ease, but others experienced serious problems. These veterans suffered from a high rate of divorce, drug abuse, suicide, involvement in violent crime, and _____.
- (43) Many opponents of the war criticized and ignored the returning veterans. This reaction made the veterans feel that the nation neither recognized nor appreciated their _____.
- (44) The Vietnam War has made the United States look more closely at world troublespots before sending U.S. troops to foreign countries. Since Vietnam, many Americans have argued that the nation should stay out of wars that do not directly threaten its safety or _____.