

# **Containment of Communism: Vietnam**

# Vietnam War



How was the Vietnam War similar to the Korean War?

How was the Vietnam War different from the Korean War?

# Key Vocabulary

- Gulf of Tonkin Incident: U.S. ships were fired upon by N. Vietnamese ships which eventually led to increased U.S. military presence in Vietnam

# Key Vocabulary

- Vietnamization: plan to gradually withdraw U.S. troops and encourage the South Vietnamese to take more responsibility for fighting

# After Vietnam gained independence from France in 1954...

- Representatives from France, Vietnam, U.S., Soviet Union, other nations met to establish peace agreement for Vietnam at the Geneva Convention
- Talks reflected Cold War tensions
- Worried about spread of communism, Western powers did not want Ho Chi Minh and his Communists to have complete control of Vietnam

# After Vietnam gained independence from France in 1954...

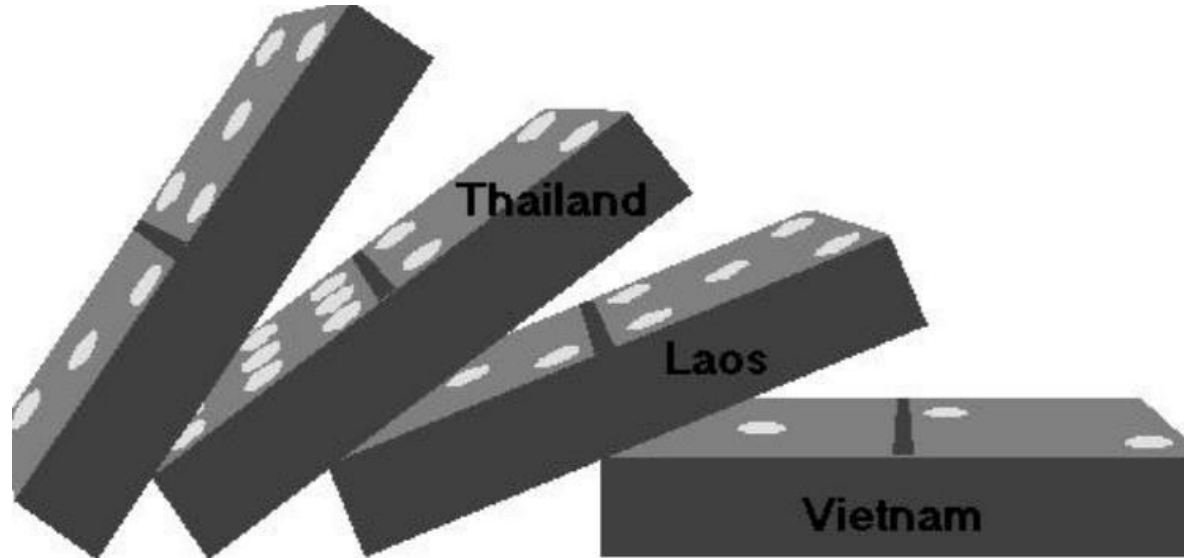
- Vietnam temporarily divided into northern and southern halves along the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel
- The two countries were separated by a **demilitarized zone** similar to that of Korea.
- Communist North Vietnam was supported by both the Soviet Union and China
- The United States and its allies supported South Vietnam.



The Vietnam War, 1964-1975



# Causes of Vietnam War



- Just as in the Korean War, the domino theory played a part in the Vietnam War.

# Causes of Vietnam War

- U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower believed that if Vietnam fell to communism, then other nations in the region would too.

# U.S. Involvement

Photo # KN-11060 The Tonkin Gulf Incident, 2 August 1964. Painting by E.J. Fitzgerald



- The war became worse with the **Gulf of Tonkin** incident in 1964, when the North Vietnamese attacked U.S. navy ships.

# U.S. Involvement

- As a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incident, President Lyndon Johnson received support from the U.S. Congress to increase U.S. involvement in the war.
- In 1965, U.S. combat troops were sent to Vietnam.



# End of War

- After a long and bloody war, President Richard Nixon would begin to withdraw U.S. troops from Vietnam.
- This policy of turning over control of the war to South Vietnam while the U.S. troops withdrew was called Vietnamization.
- The last U.S. troops in Vietnam left in 1973.



# Results of the War

- The Vietnam War showed the world that even the U.S., with the most advanced army and the best equipment, could be defeated by a lesser power.
- “Fought by politicians and generals instead of just military leaders.”
- War unpopular at home.



# Results of the War



- The Vietnam War resulted in over 58,000 U.S. deaths and about 2 million Vietnamese deaths

# Opinion of the War at home

- First “TV” war: updated every evening on the news
- This was the first time in American history that the public was so clearly against the war.
- The Vietnam War was unpopular in the U.S. because of the large number of U.S. casualties and the draft of males into the armed forces.





END THE  
WAR  
IN  
INDOCHINA  
VIETNAM  
NOW

# End of the War

- The war ended in 1975, when the South Vietnamese surrendered before the capture of Saigon, by the North Vietnamese army.
- In 1976, North Vietnam united both North and South Vietnam to form the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.



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