

17.4

The War's End & Effects



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Assess Nixon's new approach to the war, and explain why protests continued.
- Explain what led to the Paris Peace Accords and why South Vietnam eventually fell to the communists.
- Evaluate the impact of the Vietnam War on the United States.

Attempts to Withdraw

Nixon's defenders saw him as a hard-working patriot with a new vision for America

Others believed he was deceitful bent on gaining power & punishing his "enemies"



America & South Vietnam attempted compromise, wanting all communist troops out of South Vietnam & freedom of POWS

North Vietnam wanted the U.S. out of region & a coalition government with representatives from the Vietcong

Vietnamization

Nixon was committed to “Peace with honor” & refused North Vietnam peace terms

Vietnamization- U.S. forces would withdraw as ARVN troops assumed more duties

Nixon also ordered the secret bombing of the Ho Chi Minh trail

Nixon, however, inherited an unpopular war & a vocal opposition to it

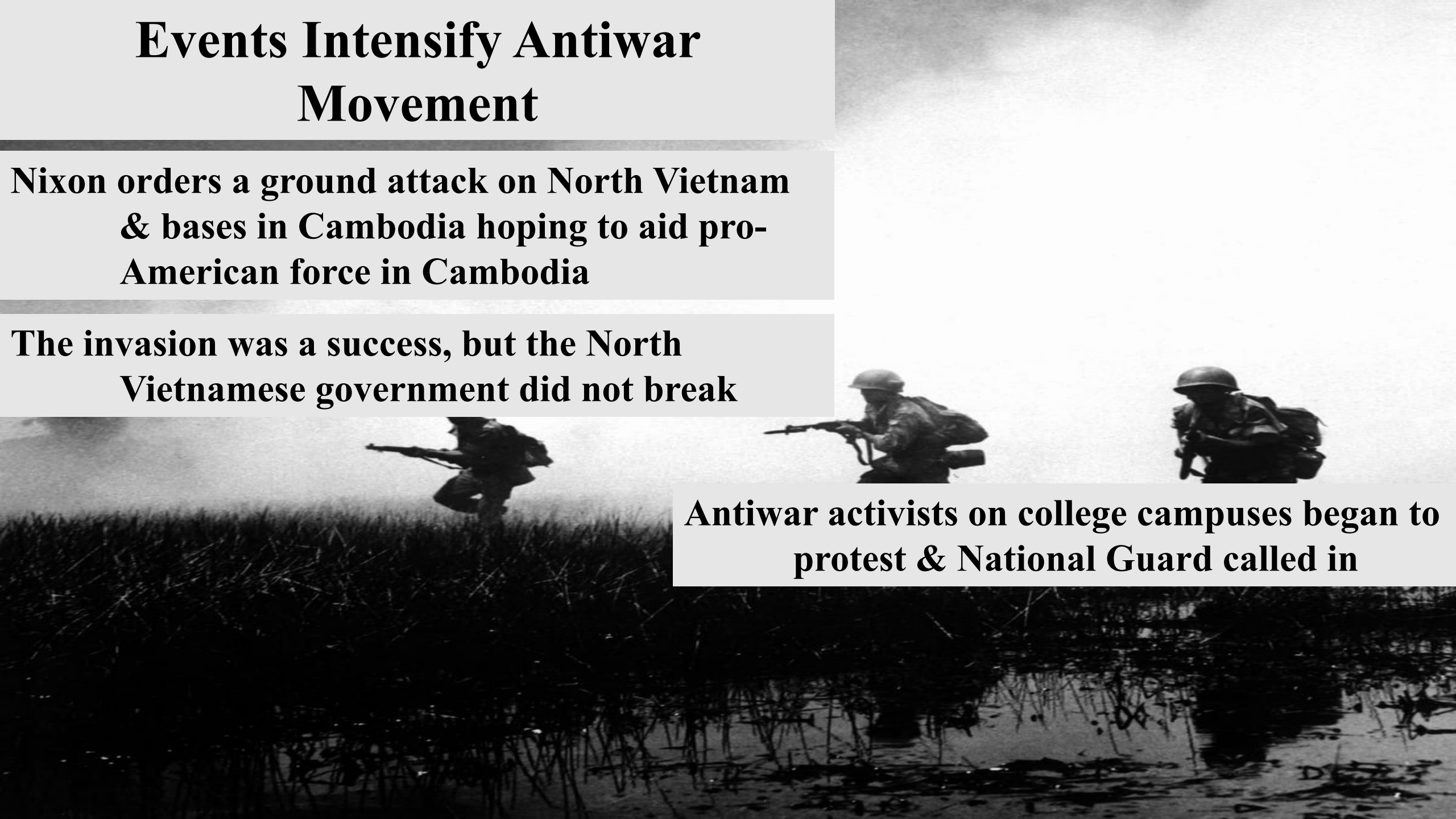


Events Intensify Antiwar Movement

Nixon orders a ground attack on North Vietnam & bases in Cambodia hoping to aid pro-American force in Cambodia

The invasion was a success, but the North Vietnamese government did not break

Antiwar activists on college campuses began to protest & National Guard called in



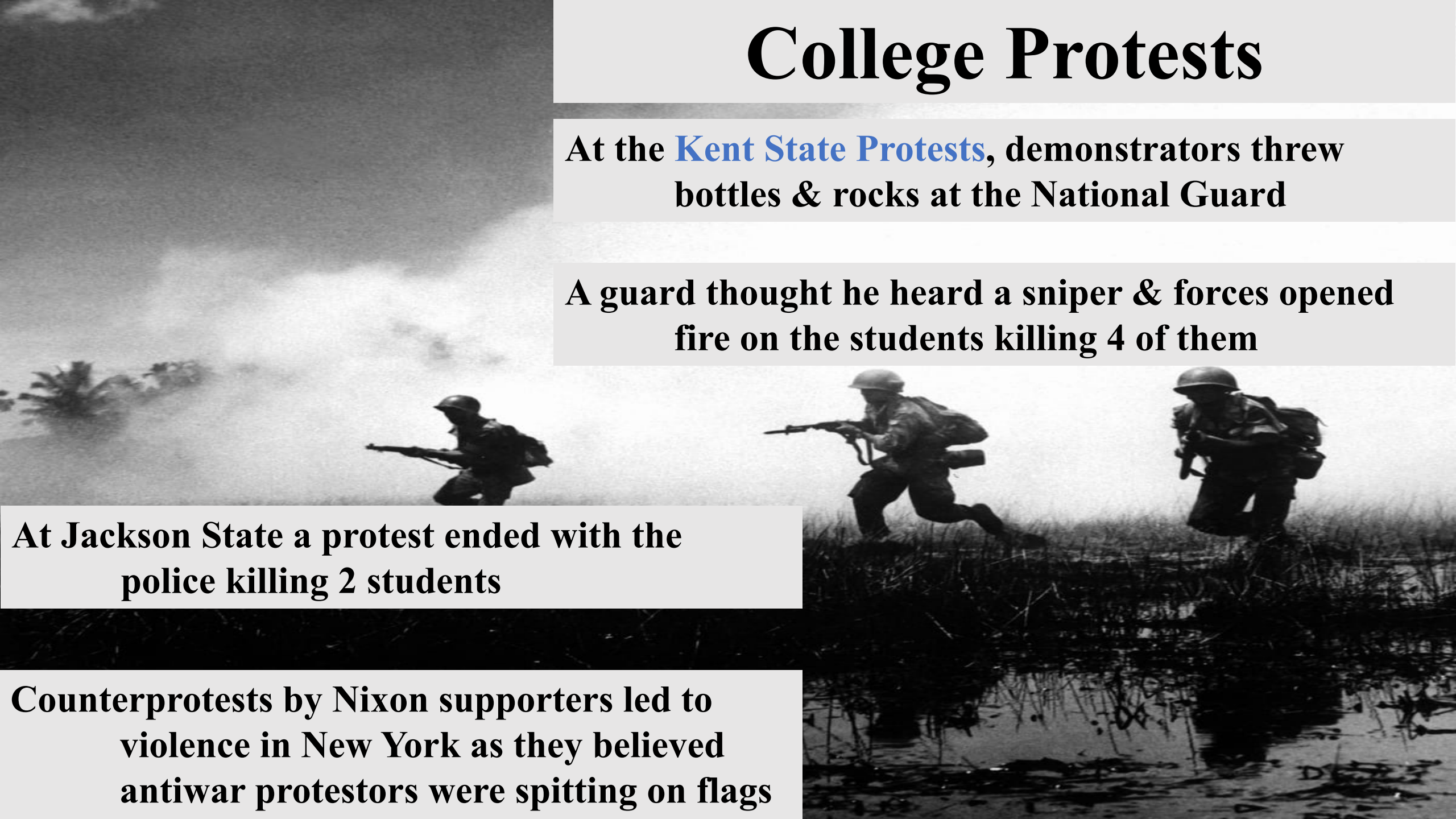
College Protests

At the **Kent State Protests**, demonstrators threw bottles & rocks at the National Guard

A guard thought he heard a sniper & forces opened fire on the students killing 4 of them

At Jackson State a protest ended with the police killing 2 students

Counterprotests by Nixon supporters led to violence in New York as they believed antiwar protestors were spitting on flags



My Lai Massacre & Pentagon Papers

March 16, 1968 American forces attacked & killing 500 unarmed civilians in **My Lai**

The cover up of the massacre was released in 1971 with Lt. Calley put on trial



The **Pentagon Papers** were released by the *New York Times* proving the U.S. government had been lying to the public

This added fire to growing antiwar sentiment in the nation

The War Ends

1971- a poll showed that 2/3rds of all Americans were in favor of withdrawing troops from Vietnam

1972- Peace negotiations were started, but bombing forced the North Vietnamese gov to keep negotiations

Paris Peace Accords- Parties agreed to a ceasefire & withdrawal of American troops

1975- Civil war between Vietnam continues until communists take Saigon & unite the country



***Effects of the War

58,000 troops were killed & 300,000 were wounded in the war

Cambodian Genocide- Communist Ruling Khmer Rouge kills 2 million Cambodians who had ties to the west

1978- Vietnam invades Cambodia & sets up a new government

Belief that Soviet Union was behind communist spread, when it was more about nationalistic tendencies in Southeast Asia



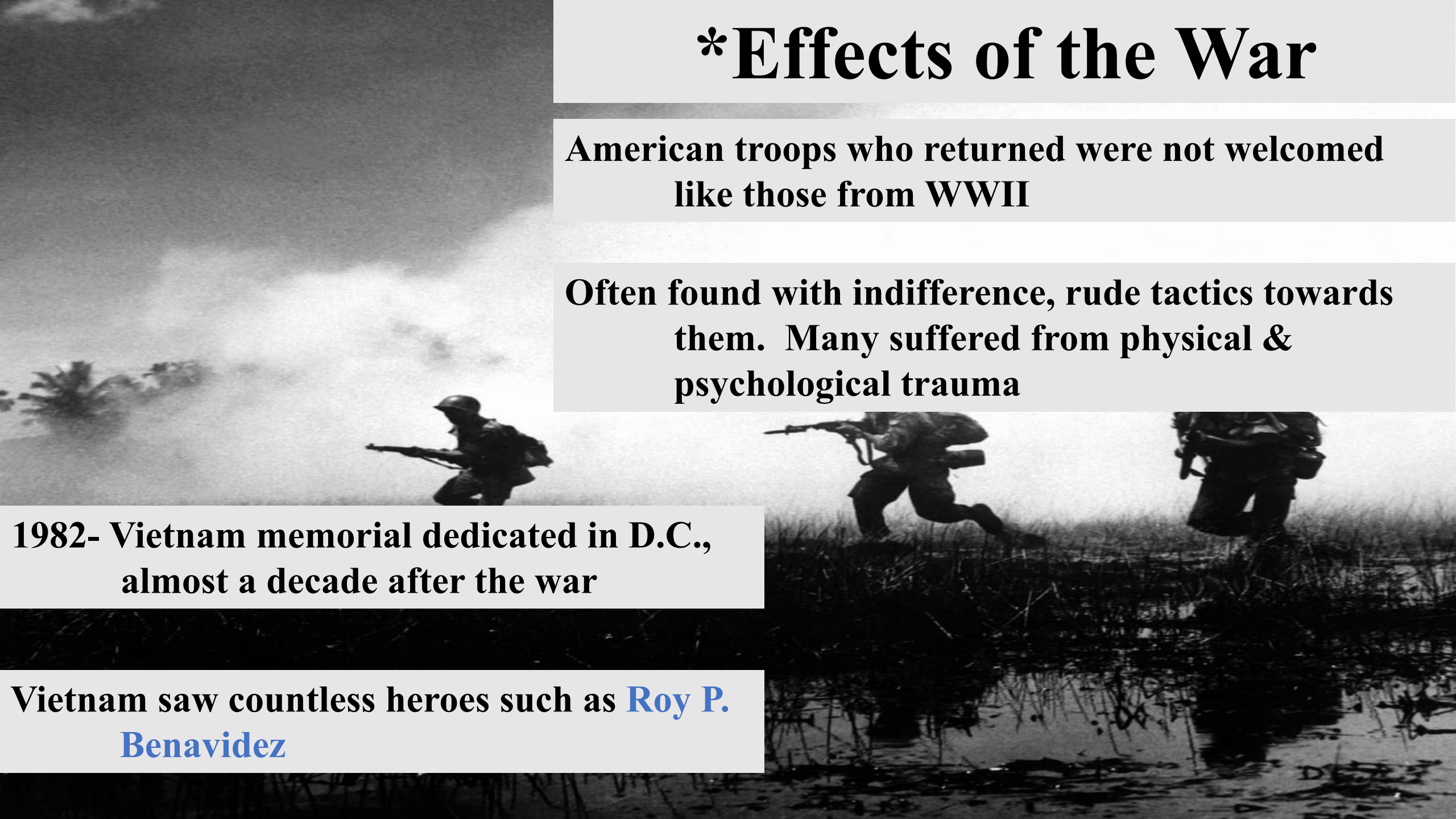
***Effects of the War**

American troops who returned were not welcomed like those from WWII

Often found with indifference, rude tactics towards them. Many suffered from physical & psychological trauma

1982- Vietnam memorial dedicated in D.C., almost a decade after the war

Vietnam saw countless heroes such as [Roy P. Benavidez](#)



***Effects of the War**

Paying for the war lessened the amount of money for Johnson's "Great Society"

Americans began to distrust leaders & foreign affairs



War Powers Act- President must consult with Congress within 48 hours of committing troops

The U.S. spent 1 trillion on the war, ending post WWII prosperity leading to economic crisis in the future