

19.4

War in Southeast Asia

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

- Describe events in Indochina after World War II.
- Explain how the United States became involved in the Vietnam War.
- Explore the end of the Vietnam War.
- Summarize the impact of the war on Vietnam and Cambodia.

Road to War

While the U.S. supported independence for countries, they were set on stopping the spread of communism

Sometimes they would help anti-communist leaders win power, even if unpopular

1946- France attempts to reestablish authority or Indochina & Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh leads the nationalists & communists of Vietnam to oppose France



Vietnam Divided

Guerrillas- Small groups of loosely organized soldiers making surprise raids

Battle of Dien Bien Phu- France is defeated & forced out of region. Cambodia & Laos win independence

Ho Chi Minh rules North Vietnam & **Ngo Dinh Diem** rules South Vietnam with help of U.S.

Elections are stifled, due to fear of communism, & South Vietnam begins to fall to North

Domino Theory

Domino Theory- U.S. belief that a communist victory in Vietnam would cause Southeast Asia to fall to communism

1963- Diem is killed & the U.S. becomes deeply involved to try & stop communism

Viet Cong- Communist rebels trying to defeat South Vietnam government

U.S. sends supplies to South Vietnam, but South Vietnam still kept falling



The Vietnam War

1964- American warship Maddox reports torpedo attacks on ship from North Vietnam

President Johnson signs Gulf of Tonkin resolution to station troops & order attacks in Vietnam

While no war was ever officially declared, more than 500,000 troops served in Vietnam

American soldiers had extreme difficulty telling friend from foe in the region

The Tet Offensive

Supplies for rebels came along the **Ho Chi Minh Trail** through rainforests & neighboring countries

U.S. sent bombers & troops across borders to widen the war

1968- Tet Offensive- series of attacks by Viet Cong in South Vietnam during Vietnamese New Year

While the U.S. was able to counter, public confidence in the war fell drastically



Vietnam War Ends

Anti-war opinion in the U.S. grew rapidly due to prisoners of war or those missing in action

Many viewed the war as a swamp that the U.S. could not escape

American T.V. showed the horrors of the war & many began to protest the military draft

1973- President Nixon arranges a cease-fire agreement & withdraws U.S. military support

Vietnam Reunited



**1976- North Vietnam captures Saigon &
renames it Ho Chi Minh City**

**South Vietnamese people flee the country,
becoming refugees in others**

**U.S. boycotted Vietnam, until the 1990s as
relations improved with free market
reforms**



Cambodia Genocide

In 1969, the U.S. briefly invaded Cambodia to stop Viet Cong

The **Khmer Rouge** overthrows the government in 1975 after the U.S. leaves

Pol Pot becomes dictator & begins reign of terror, working & starving 1/3 of population

1979 Vietnam invades & ends genocide, by 1993 the country began to rebuild