

The Vietnam War

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A Brief History of Vietnam

- Chinese Satellite
- French Colonialism-Including Laos & Cambodia
- Vietnamese Retain a Strong Desire for Independence

World War II

- Japanese Takeover
- Japan Rules Through a French Vichy-Like Government
- Ho Chi Minh & Viet Minh
- U.S. Allies Briefly With Viet Minh

French-Indochinese War

- Colonialism & Communist Containment
- French vs. Viet Minh, 1946-1954
- U.S. Funds 80% of French War Effort

Geneva Accords

- Vietnam Remains Divided; Now at 17th Parallel
- U.S. and SVN Do Not Sign or Agree to the Accords
- Nationwide Elections Called For in 1956-Never Held

Communist North/Non-Communist South

- Ho's Iron Hand & "Land Reform" in NVN
- NGO Dinh Diem Solidifies His Position in SVN

1956-1960- Insurrection

- Viet Cong
- Hanoi Control
- Diem Succeeding
- VCI-Shadow Government
- NLF

1960-1963

- The Country vs. The City
- JFK & U.S. Aid & Advisors
- The Buddhist Issue
- The Nov. 1, 1963, Coup & The U.S.

Post Diem Chaos

- VC Having Increasing Success
- Main Force Battles
- Late 1964-Early 1965-NVA Infiltration
- Ho Chi Minh Trail

U.S. Involvement In SE Asia

- Wars of National Liberation & Communist Containment
- The Truman Doctrine
- SE Asia-The Domino Theory

The United States Takes Over

- Tonkin Gulf Incident & Resolution, August 1964
- By Early 1965, SVN Government & Army on Verge of Collapse
- LBJ & McNamara
- Rolling Thunder
- U. S. Combat Troops

1965-1968

- Dec. 1965 >200K U.S. Troops in SVN
- Search & Destroy vs. Pacification
- Rolling Thunder-Limitations & Restrictions
- Men & Supplies Pour Down the Ho Chi Minh Trail

The Roads Not Taken-Dereliction of Duty?

- Cut Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos
- Take Out NVN Airfields & Air Defenses
- Mine Haiphong Harbor
- Eliminate Sanctuaries in Laos & Cambodia
- Bomb All Rail Lines & Air Bridges from China
- Limited ARVN Incursion into NVN

TET of 68-The Plan For “Final Victory”

- “Crack the Sky, Shake The Earth”
- Spontaneous Popular Uprising
- Mass Defections of GVN Troops
- U.S. Turns Tail & Withdraws

TET of 68-The Operational Plan

- Massive Movement Down Ho Chi Minh Trail
- 90,000 VC To Be The Point of The Spear
- Infiltration of VC into District & Provincial Capitals & Around Bases
- “Stashes”, Safe Houses & The VCI
- U.S. Intel Failure

TET of 68-The Attack & The Results

- Crushing Military Defeat For The Communists
- Immediate & Overwhelming U.S. & ARVN Response
- No Escape Routes For Enemy- Many Miles From Supply Lines & Sanctuaries
- VC Decimated
- HUE & Mass Slaughter

TET of 68-Aftermath

- Outrage of the SVN Population
- VC Military Forces Almost Ceased to Exist
- Almost 200,000 VC & NVA KIA in 1968
- VCI Largely Wiped Out

The TV War

- Negative Media Coverage for U.S. Efforts
- Stark Images & Video Footage of Violence
- Daily Depiction of U.S. Dead & Wounded
- Severe Psychological & PR Blow to U.S.