

Vietnam Notes Continued:

- '50's and '60's US sent people to Vietnam to assess the military situation, told them to not get involved, would only win if used tactical nukes.
- Vietnam was about becoming completely free, not about communism, US couldn't grasp this (US folly)
- Mid – '60's US had sent more troops, Viet Cong were losing, sent North troops in to support – US response w/ green berets to win countryside and create Defensive Hamlets
 - o Group people into defensible areas, keep all food so Viet Cong couldn't get a hold of it – did not work
 - o Most Vietnamese continued to support Viet Cong, would support anybody as long as they weren't a foreign country, US thought everybody would be willing to oppose communism
 - o Villagers resented US for forcing them to resettle
- Vietnam War began in 1964 with the Gulf of Tonkin incident
 - o 2 Viet Cong boats allegedly attacked a US Destroyer
 - o Linden Johnson (LBJ) pushed congress to pass the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution – stated LBJ could use “all necessary means, measures” to defeat the Viet Cong
- 1965 bombed Haiphong Harbour
- US realized that they would have to hit areas they were supposed to protect
- Operation Rolling Thunder, 1968, bombed Viet Cong strongholds in the South, and individual military targets in the North – heavy use of Napalm

- December 1968 there were 535,000 US forces in Vietnam
- 1969 they began bombing Cambodia
- Nixon introduces the Nixon Doctrine (reaffirmed US commitment to defend its allies, but called on developing nations to take the lead role to defend themselves) and Vietnamization, putting the fighting into the hands of South Vietnam = troop withdrawal in 1969

- Sept. 3, 1969 Ho Chi Minh dies
- 1969 March on Washington brought 250,000 anti-war protesters.
- 1970 Paris Peace talks between Kissinger and Vietnamese negotiators.
- May 1970, 4 Kent State University students killed by National Guardsmen while protesting against the Vietnam War
- 1972 bombers carry out the largest 24-hour bombing of the Vietnam War on North Vietnam
- 1973, Nixon announces war will end on January 28 and troops will be removed in 60 days.
- Paris Accords establish cease-fire and political settlement of the Vietnam War
- March 29, 1973 last US soldiers leave.
- April 30, 1975 Saigon falls to North Vietnamese troops.