

Snazzlefrag's History of the Vietnam War DSST Study Notes

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Han/Tang Dynasty ruled Vietnam for 1000 years. Buddhism
939 Independence from China (**1279** Repelled/**1407** Invaded(Ming)/**1428** Free)
1620 Vietnam **divided** b/n Trinh (North-**Hanoi**) Nguyen (South-**Hue**[fertile Mekong]).
1858 French invade. **1862** (treaty) Protectorate of **CochinChina** (Capital: **Saigon**, SV).
1887 Vietnam (Tonkin/Annam)/**Cambodia=French Indochina**. Catholicism.
1893 **Laos** added into Indochina.
1919 France ignores **Ho Chi Minh's** demands at **Versailles Peace Conference**.
Rep in Fr Parliament. Free speech. Political Prisoners.
1926 **Bao Dai** becomes last Vietnamese Emperor (supported by French).
1927 **Vietnamese Nationalist Party** (VNQDD). Vietnam Quoc Dan Dang. "Nguyen Thai Hoc"
1930 Ho founds **Indochinese Communist Party** (PCI)
1940 Japan occupies Vietnam (keeps Fr. bureaucracy in place to run Fr. Indochina).
1941 Ho Chi Minh founds **Viet Minh** League for Viet Indep. (Comm/soc/nats).
1941 **King Sihanouk** of Cambodia given throne by French. Overthrown in 1970 coup.
1945 Japs take complete control but Viet Minh takes Hanoi in **August Revolution** (not a rev).
China moves into NV (as planned by allies). Set up administration down to 16th Parallel.
Sept 2, **Emperor Bao Dai abdicates** in favour of Ho Chi Minh. Japan surrenders WWII
Ho takes power (president), establishes **Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV)**
Truman rejects DRV's request for formal recognition.
1945 Sept 26: OSS Lt Col Peter **Dewey** (repating US POWs) shot. **1st US Casualty in Vietnam**.
1945 Oct: British/Indian troops move in to SV. **Restore French control in SV** (free french POWs).
1946 Feb: French sign agreement with China to take control of NV. French give up Shanghai.
1946 Mar: French agreement with Viet Minh to recognize Vietnam w/in French Union.
1946 Dec: Negotiations (Fr/NV) breakdown. Viet Minh driven into countryside.
1946 **First Indochina War** begins (1946-1954).
French **Strategy** = Fortresses inside DRV(**Hedgehogs**).
Central base in **Dien Bien Phu**(NV mtns/brdr w/ Laos). Three artillery bases surround it.
Lure Viet Minh to attack base, kill with artillery crossfire.
1947 **Containment Policy** (USA) See Kennan. US must hold back communists in key locations.
1948-49 Berlin Wall, USSR tests atomic bomb, Mao Zedong (China).
1949: **China and USSR** supply weapons to Viet Minh (transform from insurgency to regular army).
1949 French re-install **Bao Dai** as a figurehead.

1950 May: Truman \$10m military assistance. **US support French against Viet Minh.**

1950 June: **Korean War** begins (until July 27, 1953). Not officially ended.

1950 Ho again declares **Democratic Republic of Vietnam**(in North).Sov/Chinese recogn.

1950 **NSC-68**. Memo to **Truman**. Increase military to defend against Communist Threats.

1953 Jul: **Korean War ends.**

1953 French occupy **Dien Bien Phu**. Put their strategy into action (see above).

1954 May 7: Viet Minh defeat French at **Battle of Dien Bien Phu**. Fr. humiliated/Pub Opinion.

Gen. **Vo Nguyen Giap** (40k troops): bicycles/artillery. Destroy Fr airstrip. NV lost 10:1 men.

1954 **Geneva Agreement**: France, Vietnam, US, USSR, UK, China, Laos, Cambodia. = 17th Parallel: **DRV**(Hanoi: Ho Chi Minh & Viet Minh), **South Vietnam**(Saigon: Bao Dai).

China/USSR support north. UK, US, France support south. **End of French Rule.**

= French w/draw from NV. Viet Minh w/draw from SV. Re-unify N/S after Free elect July 1956

*Agreement pushed through by USSR/China.

USA not happy with it (Sec of State Dulles). SV unhappy. Diem doesn't sign the Geneva Accord.

US = **Nation Building**. Support counter-rev alternative in SV (fix elections: Diem) > S.E.A.T.O

Build schools, roads, medical programs, build public support for Diem.

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam all gain independence from France.

1954 NV forms **Group 100** (HQ=Ban Nameo). To direct, organize, train, supply **Pathet Lao** in **Laos**.

1954 **Domino Theory** (See **Eisenhower**). If Vietnam=comm, all Indochina, SE Asia will follow.

Eisenhower feared free elections in Vietnam in 1956 would result in unified communist Vietnam.

1955 Summer: Diem begins arresting Communists & anti-govt.

1955 Ho Chi Minh begins **Anti-landlord Movement** in NV. Liquidate opponents in "**land reform**".

1955 **Fraudulent Elections**. **Diem**=98% vote. Removed Bao Dai. SV=Republic of Vietnam (RVN).

Lansdale=US advisor to Diem. US help build army (**ARVN**). SV Govt=**GVN**.

1955 Diem initiates ARVN-enforced **Land Redistribution** (reverse Communist redistrib.)

Change by Force. Villagers to Military settlements (afraid of Viet Minh rural popularity).

1955 Nov 1: Eisen deploys **Military Assistance Advisory Group** (train SV army). **Bgn US in Vietnam.**

1956 Apr: **Last French troops leave Vietnam.**

1957 **Eisenhower Doctrine**. Use of US military to protect Middle East against Communists.

Also, Economic support to anti-communist governments. Ended in 1959 (caused anti-USism).

1958 Dec: **NV invades Laos**. Occupies part of the country.

1959 Diem: **Rural Community Develmnt Prog (Agroville)**. Move peasants/leave Comms.

23 Agroville by 1960 w/ thousands of people in each. Based on UK in Malaya (1948)

1959 Diem regime passes brutal **Law 10/59**. Military root out communists (NLF/"Viet Cong").

1959 July 8: **Ovnand** and **Buis**. **1st US KIA**.

1960 SV Communists form **National Liberation Front** (Viet Cong). Insurgents fight against Diem.

b/c political attempts at re-unification between 1956-1960 had failed. NV hoped insurrection w/in.

NLF Leaders: Tan Phat, Huu Tho, Thi Binh. Received orders from Hanoi(Vietnam Workers Party)

1960 **Caravelle Manifesto**: Intellect call for mild reforms to Diem's corrupt regime. Jailed!

1960 **Attempted Coup** against Diem failed.

1960 **USSR** begins airlifting to Communist **Pathet Lao** forces in **Laos**. 1st domino?

1961 John F. Kennedy takes office.

1961 Kennedy secretly funded increase of Diem's army 150k to 170k. 400 Grn Beret military advisors.

This broke Geneva Agreement. So JFK kept it from US public.

1961 Jun: JFK meets Khrushchev (Vienna). Protests invasion of Laos. Both agree: Make Laos Neutral.

1961 **Strategic Hamlet**: Thompson(UK)+US Advisors+SV Gov. Devel of Agroville (<1k/town).

By 1962: 4.3m people in 3,225 hamlets. 2,000 more hamlets under construction.

By 1963: 8.5m people in 7,205 hamlets. **Ngo Dinh Nhu** in charge. "Labor Camps"

Failed: GVN unable to support/protect/provide for. VC takeover 80%. Public Opp.

End: 1963 (Diem death). Committee for Strategic Hamlets disbanded in early 1964.

1962 Kennedy negotiates **Declaration on Neutrality of Laos** (in Geneva).

3-part Coalition Govt (Pro-Soviet, Pro-US, Neutral). Weak Agrmnt. Civil War resumed soon.

1962 Aug: JFK signs **Foreign Assistance Act 1962**. Mil support to countries if communist attacks.

1962 US creates **Military Assistance Command of Vietnam (MACV)**. Train SV army (ARVN)

1962 US(MACV) sends **1,000 "military advisors"** to Vietnam. **16k by Nov 1963**.

Many of the 250k weapons for ARVN ended up in VC hands. Many ARVN=VC/NLF

1962 **Cuban Missile Crisis** increases Cold War tensions. 90mi from US. Khrushchev blinks.

1963 Jan: **Battle of Ap Bac**: Viet Cong beat ARVN. **1st major battle**. **US Media turns**

neg.

VC vastly outnumbered/outgunned but ARVN took more casualties. USMil Lie="ARVN wins".

But 2 US reporters on the scene report that "US in Vietnam=quagmire". **VC WON**

1963 May: Nhu: ARVN troops fire on Budd protestors in city of Hue. Outrage against Diem's regime.

1963 June: **Buddhist monk**(Quang Due) immolates himself (protest Diem's policies). Mme Nhu "BBQ".

Kennedy realised Vietnam could never unite with Diem in power in SV. Turned against him.

1963 Nov 1: **Diem overthrown** by ARVN Gens in **CIA-backed Coup**(Lodge).

Diem/Nhu executed.

Gen. **Duong Van Minh** (ARVN) temp took power. But unstable. Sided with Buddhists.

--> Gen **Khanh (Pentagon Coup)** Fled Vietnam for exile in France.

--> Gens **Thieu, Thi, & Ky** (after Feb 1965 coup. Corrupt. Military Triumvirate. US puppets).

Ky = PM (John Wayne). Thieu=US make him President. But very corrupt leadership. 7 in 63

1963 Nov 22: **JFK Assassinated**. **Johnson** becomes president (kept 16k advisors/"Continue").

Kennedy doubted his own Vietnam policy. Mentioned possibly pulling out.

1963 **US forces in Vietnam = 16,000 advisors.**

1964 USSR begins supplying **military aid to Laos** (after death of Kruschev).

1964 July 27: **US forces in Vietnam =21,000 advisors.**

1964 Gen **Westmoreland** takes over from Gen **Harkin** as **Commander of Vietnam forces**

1964 Aug 2: NV attacks 2 US Destroyers in **Gulf of Tonkin** (off coast of NV). b/c US spying.

1964 Aug 4: Supposed 2nd attack. A Johnson lie? J Admin used to push expanded war powers.

Tonkin Resolution: Congress allowed Johnson to take "**All necessary steps**" (**Escalation**).

Passed congress 533:2 in favor. (Opposed by Sen Morse, Oregon and Sen Gruening, Alaska)

1964 Nov: **Johnson** wins **Election v Goldwater** by landslide. Immediately escalates war.

"Great Society" =domestic reform. "Goldwater's aggressive may cause nuclear war".

"Govt will not supply US boys to do what Asian boys should do". "Guns and Butter"

1965 Johnson initially offered Ho Chi Minh "unconditional discussions". But also believed a grad

increase in US military presence would pressure Ho to negotiate or withdraw NVA from SV.

Johnson's "**Enclave Strategy**": US would maintain ONLY areas of Vietnam already under SV.

Westmoreland opposed. "take battle to enemy". Send more troops. (and Johnson did).

1965 Feb: **Pleiku** Raid (marine barracks). VC kill 8 US. Reprisal air strikes "**Flaming Dart**".

In response, USSR begins shipping anti-aircraft missiles to NV.

1965 **King Sihanouk (Cambodia)** allows NV est bases, use Pt Sihanoukville, HCM Trail (until 1970)

1965 Mar: US Begins **Operation Rolling Thunder**. =beginning of Johnson's "**Americanization**".

Constant bombing continued **until Oct 1968** to demoralize NV. Underestimated nationalism.

Attempt to encourage SV and to Push NV to negotiate, but it increased VC attacks.

Attempt to block NV supply chain. But **Ho Chi Minh Trail** (NV to SV via

Laos/Cambodia) open.

Attempt to destroy Industrial Bases and SAM's. Effective Targeting=impossible/SAMs in schools.

Also, Ho Chi Minh evacuated Hanoi to limit Rolling Thunder's effects even more.

1965 "**War of Attrition**" Westmoreland ordered US troops to "seek and destroy" VC.

Hoped to wear down VC by causing so many casualties they couldn't continue.

1965 Mar: 2 Marine batts (3.5k) sent to guard Da Nang base (Gen Westmrlnd). **1st Combat Troops**

1965 June: **US forces in Vietnam = 75,000 troops.**

1965 July: Johnson authorizes **additional 50,000 troops + 100,000 more in 1966.**

1965 Aug: **Operation Starlite.** 5.5k US v VC. **1st US ground battle of the Vietnam War. US WON.**

1965 Nov: **Battle of Ia Drang.** Central highlands/valley. **One of largest battles in war. US WON.** Thanh return to **Guerrilla Warfare** & Westmrlnd maintain "**War of Attrition**".

1965 End: **US forces in Vietnam = 184,000 troops.**

1966 Aug: US force in Vietnam = 429,000 troops.

1967 Jan Op Cedar Falls: Wmrlnd searches for **Central Office of South Vietnam (COSVN).**

Iron Triangle (60sq/mi North of Saigon). Precursor to larger **Operation Junction City**(Feb-May).

Hammer/Anvil. Destroy VC facilities, remove civs, free-fire zone, expose tunnels w/ bulldozers.

VC entrenched in tunnels. Impossible to find. Sign of things to come for US. 750VC d.

1967 Jun: CIA **Phoenix Program.** Assass VC leadership. 20k assass.

Corruption/misman/bad intel.

1968 Jan: NVA attack Base at Khe Sanh (just below DMZ/HCM Trail). 50k US reinforcements sent.

Trick by VC to weaken US forces further south. Pave way for bigger "Tet Offensive". **US WON (?)**

1968 Jan 30: NVA launches **Tet Offensive.** 50k US still at **Khe Sanh. US WON (political loss)**

Tet=New Year. Gen Giap. **US Tricked** (supposed to be Tet Truce for the New Year Holiday)

VC & NVA cells attack 27 different US Mil installations in SV at same time.

Lasted several weeks. US kill/capture most VC easily. VC ineffective after Tet so NVA did fighting.

Hue: 1 month. NVA occupied Hue, Massacred 2,800 civs. US eventually won Hue back.

Saigon: 3 days fighting in streets. SV Police Chief executed a VC Capt (on film).

Reason: "break the aggressive will" of Johnson Admin. Force them to the bargaining table.

Effects: VC quashed, but US people/congress knew Johnson was lying. War was not going well.

Split Dems and entire US into pro & anti war factions.

Low morale among US troops (Disillusioned: No support at home/no milit strategy to win).

1968 Feb: **McNamara resigns** as Secretary of Defense. Supported escal but later ? US involvement.

1968 Spring: **Johnson** and Hanoi. **Secret Peace Talks** in **Paris**. 3.5yrs. Nixon takeover after 8 months.

US want all NV troops out of SV. NV refuse provisional govt in SV if include Pres Thieu.

1968 Mar: **Westmoreland requests 200,000 more troops** after Tet Offensive. Causes uproar/30k dead!

Public and Policymakers(ex-Sec of State Acheson) denounce "War of Attrition". J fires Wmlnd

1968 Mar: **My Lai Massacre**. US kill 500 unarmed Vietnam civs (Lt Calley. Crt Mshl 71, parole 74)

Stopped by Andreotta, Colburn, Thompson.

1968 End: **US force in Vietnam = 500,000**. Johnson authoriz. chem weapons (**Napalm, Orange**)

1968 **October Surprise**. Johnson "end naval/air/artillery bomb in NV", but Paris Peace Talks brokedown.

1968 **Elections:** J didn't run. Dems=McCarthy, RFK, Hubert Humphrey. RFK shewin but assass.

With RFK dead, Humphrey won Dem nom. **Kent State, Chicago Riot** ruined his chances.

Police brutality linked to Democratic Party by US public. **Nixon WON**

Repubs capitalized. Nominated **Nixon** (Eisenhower's VP). Slow pullout. **"Peace with Honor"**

George Wallace ran as 3-party. Pro-war but Anti-Civil Rights. Too extreme conservative.

1969 Vietnamization: Gradual withdrawal, return control of the war to ARVN(SV).

Appease voters!

US would still supply, fund, train ARVN. Cover US troop withdrawal with expanded air strikes.

Nixon Doctrine: US=honor treaties, econ/mil aid, but not troops to defend allies (unless Nuke).

Effectively revoked Foreign Policy of Eisenhower, JFK, and Johnson. No more "containment"

1969-70): **Chieu Hoi** (Open arms). Encouraged defection of VC/NVA in SV. 80k

became 'Hoi Chanh'

Leaflets dropped in enemy locations. Possession of leaflet guaranteed safe passage if defected.

1969 Sept: **Ho Chi Minh dies**. Replaced by **Le Duan** (new head of NV Communist Party).

1970 Feb: **Kissinger** begins secret negotiations with NV (Le Duc Tho).

Tho=increasingly stubborn.

1970 **Lon Nol** (anti-communist) overthrows **King Sihanouk** (neutral?) of **Cambodia**. HCM Trail closed.

1970 Apr: US bombs VC sites in **Cambodia** (neutral). To cut NVA supply lines. No Cong. Op Menu.

Sent US and ARVN(SV) troops across the border into Cambodia. Bombing-1973. 30k-500k d.

May 1970 expose in NYT outraged Congress and Public. Nixon rescinded the order that summer.

1970 May 4: **Kent State Massacre** & other Antiwar Protests. Response to Cambodia (see Anti-war).

1971 Mar: Nixon sends ARVN(SV) troops into **Laos**. Despite outcry over Cambodia in 1970.

1971 Mar: **My Lai Massacre court-marshal** of Lt Calley begins. Life in prison. Paroled after 3.5 yrs.

1971 Oct: **SV Election**. Pres Thieu unopposed (90% of vote). VP Ky/Gen Van Minh drop out. Rigged?

1971 **Fulbright Hearings** (senate): More US soldiers admit to atrocities "US Govt/mil approval?" Kerry!

1971 **NYT "Pentagon Papers"**. (Ellsberg) From McNamara's study (1968). Secret missions (1940+)

1971 **Congress outraged** (My Lai, Pent Papers, Camb). Sen vote to **repeal Tonkin Res** (house=no)

1971 **26th Amendment** is ratified. Voting Age from 21 to 18 (if can fight and die, then can vote)

1972 Early: **US force in Vietnam =150,000 troops**.

1972 Feb: **Nixon in China**. China bad terms w/ USSR. US uses as bargaining chip (USSR & Vietnam).

1972 Mar: **NVA cross DMZ/invade SV**. "**Spring Offensive**". **Last US ground battle of Vietnam War**.

NV took Hue (old cap). NV takes **Quang Tri** (Northernmost province/DMZ border. Bloody battle).

Nixon orders bombing Hanoi/Haiphong. **Op Linebacker I**. No longer feared USSR/China intervention.

ARVN troops eventually pushed back the NVA and retook Hue/Quang Tru/An Loc.

SV/US WON

1972 May: **Nixon in USSR**. China visit worked. USSR tries to strengthen relationship with US.

1972 Aug 23: **Last US ground combat troops leave Vietnam**. A few advisors remain.

1972 **Watergate Scandal** begins. (Nixon orders burglary to find dirt on Democrat opponents).

1972 Oct: **Kissinger's Promise**: NV troops can stay in SV. Free POWs. NV agrees Thieu in govt.

1972 Oct: **Nixon suspends bombing**(north of 20 parallel). **Kissinger "peace is at hand"**.

Thieu angry (not consulted) demanded changes. **Caused NV to end peace talks.**

Nixon's Promise Thieu \$1b military aid & US support if NV broke cease-fire. (Nixon Lied).

1972 **Election**: Nixon wins re-election v Dem McGovern (antiwar). Landslide. **Nixon WON.**

1972 Dec: Nixon authorizes (2wks) **Christmas Bombing/Linebacker II** pressure NV to end the war.

2k sorties, 35k tons bombs on NV indus/military targets. 25% oil/80% electrical capacity.

1973 Jan: Christmas Bombing worked. **Cease-fire. Paris Peace Talks** (since 1968).

Kiss's '72 promise.

Remaining US troops to leave. NVA troops can stay in SV. US will intervene if NV attacks SV.

In return, NV=national elections,Free POW, SV="**Nixon agreement=surrender of SV**".

Thieu-Ky(SV) continue to fight Communists until Fall of Saigon (1975). Trying to save SV w/out US.

1973 Mar: **Remaining US military personnel leave.**

1973 Nov: Congress passes **War Powers Act**. b/c Cambodia. Restrict pres powers. Notify congress.

1973: **End of the Draft**. Congress says military must be paid volunteers.

1974 Watergate Scandal escalates.

1974 Le Duan (NV leader) assumes Nixon will not interfere in Vietnam now, due to Watergate Scandal.

NV invades SV. Nixon does nothing (despite cease-fire agreement).

1974 Aug: **Nixon resigns. VP Gerald Ford** becomes 38th president.

1974 Sept: **Congress refuses funding** of ARVN(SV). **Foreign Assistance Act of 1974**

USSR/CHINA actually increased funding of NV.

1975 Spring: SV Defeat imminent. NV force SV to retreat. **NV WON THE VIETNAM WAR.**

1975 Mar: Gen Phu(SV) abandons Hue(**Column of Tears**). NV attack, kill 60k ARVN in column.

1975 April 29: US launches **Option IV**. Helicopter airlift rescued 7k. Evacuate civs from Saigon.

1975 April 30: **Saigon falls to NV. President Van Minh** surrenders Saigon to NVA **Col. Bui Tin.**

Vietnam united under communist rule. **End of Vietnam War.**

1975 May 15: 18 US soldiers killed by Khmer Rouge. SS Mayaguez (Camb). **Last Official US KIA.**

1975-78 Kampuchea (Cambodia). Comm dict **Pol Pot/Khmer Rouge** kill 2m. "**Killing**

Fields".

1976 July: New unified Vietnam becomes **Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV)**.

Cap=**Hanoi**.

Saigon renamed **Ho Chi Minh City**. (largest city in Vietnam).

1978 **SRV invades Laos**.

1978 **SRV invades Kampuchea** to stop Khmer Rouge atrocities. **China** freaks out/border war.

SRV had 4th largest army in the world, but one of poorest economies.

1980s-1990s: Vietnam withdraws from Laos/Kampuch. Turns to Capitalism/more liberal economy.

Geopolitical: Much of Indochina fell to Communism (Domino). US as Superpower not affected.

Vietnam WON but postwar = more war, poverty, suffering.

Misc: 3 million tons of bombs dropped on Vietnam. More than all bombs dropped in Europe in WWII.

NV: 1.1m d. **SV**: 200k d. **US**: 58k d 153k w. **Civilians**: 2-4m d. **Camb** (US bombing): 30-500k d.

USA, SV, S.Korea, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines....v....**NV**, NLF (USSR,China).

500K US. 1.2m Allies total. 300K S.Koreans. 48k Aus. 552 NZ. 320k China(NV). 6k USSR(NV).

NV Strategy: Same 3-phase strat used v French. Tire US into negotiating acceptable settlement.

1. Survival and build up a support base.
2. Guerrilla Warfare (small grps behind enemy lines, boobytraps, ambushes). Hide: jngl, tnls.
3. General Counter-offensive (attempt to begin at Ia Drang but failed). Tet Offensive succeeded.

1959-70 US Anti-war Movement: (Quasi-revol period: Civil Rights, Baby Boomers, College).

1959 **Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)** founded. Semi-socialist movement.

1965 Frist **Draft Riots** occur on college campuses. (after Gulf of Tonkin Resolution).

1966 **Fulbright** publishes "**The Arrogance of Power**".

1967 Johnson authorizes CIA/FBI investigate antiwar protestors. 35k protest outside Pentagon.

COINTELPRO: FBI counterintelligence program. Used to track/arrest war protestors. ILLEGAL!

1967 Jun: **Vietnam Veterans Against the War**. NYC. Crumb, Donnelly, Braum.

Formed after Spring Mobilization to End the War (April). 400k protestors.

Apr 19-23, 1971: **Dewey Canyon III** (Laos) 4-day camp prot in DC, led by Gold Star Mothers.

Spokesman John **Kerry**. Testified to Sen For Relations Committee for 2 hrs. **Medal Toss**.

1968 Aug: Protest outside **Democratic National Convention in Chicago** turns violent.

1000's of cops attacked protestors with clubs and tear gas.

1969 Aug: **Woodstock**. 400,000 people on farm in upstate New York. Symbol of Antiwar movement.
1970 May: National Guard kill four protestors at **Kent State University** (OH). Other colleges protested.
1970 May: **Hard Hat Riot**. Construction workers beat up students in New York City.
100K Counter-student Pro-war rally. "Students=wealthy brats while working class die in Viet"
1970 May: **Jackson State University** (Mississippi). 2 more students killed.
1971 Apr: **Dewey Canyon III**. (See VVAW above). Named after battle in Laos.

Ho Chi Minh: Leader of NV (45-69). Communist/Socialist/nationalist; founded PCI and Viet Minh
Lived in France and England (1915-23). Established Democratic Republic of Vietnam in 1945.

Le Duan: Controlled DRV guerilla operations in S. Vietnam. Replaced Ho after his death."2nd Son".

Le Duc Tho: NV emissary. Led VC in SV. Cease-fire w/ Kissinger (Paris 1973). Refused Nobel Prize.

Nguyen Huu Tho: Chairman of NLF(in SV). Later became president of SRV (1980).

Nguyen Chi Thanh: a top VC commander. Urged general offensive in 1966.

Pham Van Dong: NV Negotiator. Represented Viet Minh in 1st Indochina War. PM (50-75).

Truong Chinh: Marxist. "Long March". Unsuccessful land reforms.

Tran Van Tra: Gen. Led attack on Saigon during Tet Offensive.

Vo Nguyen Giap: Viet Minh general; guerrilla tactics v Jap (World War II)
Orchestrated defeat of French forces at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. Tet Offensive.

Bao Dai: Last Vietnamese emperor; took power in 1932 (French figurehead until 1950s). Unpopular.

Duong Van Minh: ARVN Gen.. PM (1965 for 2 months) after ousted Diem. Ousted by Gen Khanh

Ky: Prime Minister (65-67) after ousted Gen Khanh. Vice-President (67-71). Corrupt. Arrogant.

Ngo Dinh Diem: US-backed PM of SV (54-63). Fraudulent elect 1955.
Cath/Confuc/trad.

Autocratic Ruler. Anti-Buddhist regime. Corruption/Nepotism.

Ngo Dinh Thuc: Diem's brother. Catholic Archbishop of Hue.

Ngo Dinh Nhu: Diem's youngest brother. Chief of **Can Lao (secret police)**.

Madame Nhu: Wife. SV's de facto First Lady. Francophile. Controversial/vocal.

Nguyen Khanh: General. Ousted Gen Van Minh. PM(64-65). Ousted by Gen Ky. Exiled to France

Thieu: Cerem Chief of State(65-67). President of SV (67-75). Corrupt. Rigged 1971 SV elections.

The Cao Dai: Eclectic cult. Eastern religion/Western Pop Culture.

The Can Lao: Brutal Secret Police (led by Nhu)

The Hao Hoa: Buddhism/Nationalism. Large army.

The Binh Zuyen: Chinese dominated. HQ=Cholon (suburb of Saigon). Viet Mafia.

Eisenhower: 34pres(R 53-61). **Domino Theory.** Expanded Containment to ALL locations.

Dulles: Sec of State (53-59). Support French in 1st Indochina War. Strong anti-communist.

Abrams: (68-72) Head of **MACV.** Replaced Westmoreland after Tet. Abrams=Westmoreland's deputy.

Fulbright: Ark sen. Critic Johnson/US war strategy in 1966 Senate Hearings."Arrogance of Power".

Goldwater: Hawkish AZ senator. Ran unsuccessfully against Johnson in 1964 election

Harkins: Head of **MACV.** "General Blimp". Inflated ARVN successes. Replaced by Westmoreland.

Kennan: State Department Analyst. Developed "**Containment**" Policy in 1947(crit locs).

JFK: 35pres(D 61-63). sent "military advisors" to Vietnam under auspices of MACV; assass in 1963

MA senator. "Best & Brightest" in cabinet. Break from old traditions.

Johnson: VP (also 36th pres.) **Rusk:** Secretary of State. **RFK:** AG.

McNamara: Secretary of Defense. "tit for tat"/Game Theory. Attack NV factories?

Bundy: National Security Advisor; advocated early escalation of U.S. involvement.

Taylor: US Ambassador to Vietnam (former General).

Johnson: 36pres(D 63-69)(VP-JFK). Contd JFK 'moderate' policy until Aug 1964. "**Americanization**"

Kept McNamara, Bundy. Gen Wheeler (Chairman of Joint Chief).

Lansdale: CIA op in Vietnam in 1954. Became advisor to Diem.

Nixon: 37pres(R 53-61)(VP in Eisenhower). "silent majority". "**Vietnamization**".

Kissinger: National Security Advisor (later Sec of State). Negot 1973 cease-fire with Le Duc Tho.

Fmr PolSci Professor. "War is a mistake". Pushed Nixon for disengagement. Nobel Prize.

Spiro Agnew: VP. Publicly denounced critics of war. Resigned 1973 (tax evasion).

Truman: 33pres(D 45-53) Rejected Ho Chi Minh's call for recognition of the DRV.

Acheson: Sec of State. Pushed Truman to aid French. Urged Johnson to negot peace.

Westmoreland: (64-68) Head of **MACV** after Harkins. Aggressive Strategy (more troops).