

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of these is NOT significant of the Vietnam War?
 - a. It was the first televised war.
 - b. It was the longest war the U.S. fought.
 - c. The government lied to the people about the progress of the war.
 - d. It was the 3rd divisive war. (correct)
2. Which of these statistics on the Vietnam War is correct?
 - a. It lasted twice as long as WWII.
 - b. It had three times the explosive power than WWII. (correct)
 - c. It cost \$523 billion dollars at the 2005 inflation level
 - d. There were 10 million craters in Vietnam caused by the war.
3. Which of these events began the chain of events leading to the Vietnam War?
 - a. Vietnamese independence from France (correct)
 - b. The Geneva Accords
 - c. Tet Offensive
 - d. Operation Rolling Thunder
4. What happened at the Geneva Accords?
 - a. Vietnam was divided at the 34th Parallel.
 - b. The North became Democratic
 - c. The South became Green Party
 - d. No free elections would be held in South Vietnam (correct)
5. Which of these is true of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War?
 - a. Kennedy escalated involvement in Vietnam
 - b. 5 presidents dealt with the war.
 - c. The number of troops increased from 128 to 537,000 from 1950-1968 (correct)
 - d. Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter dealt with the war.
6. Which of these is NOT a reason why the U.S. failed in the Vietnam War?
 - a. It was fought in the jungles.
 - b. We didn't have enough troops (correct)
 - c. Vietnamese were farmers by day and soldiers by night.
 - d. Vietnamese had a reason to fight
7. Which of these is true of Ngo Dinh Diem?
 - a. He was of a lower class
 - b. He was a pacifist
 - c. He was anti-French
 - d. He was Catholic (correct)
8. Which of these is true of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution?
 - a. The USS Maine was attacked at the Gulf of Tonkin

- b. There was unanimous support in the Senate
 - c. Johnson said they were attacked in international waters (correct)
 - d. It was a declaration of war
9. Which of these is true of Operation Rolling Thunder?
- a. It was a ground campaign
 - b. It lasted 2 years
 - c. It was meant to demoralize the Vietnamese (correct)
 - d. It did not change the nature of U.S. advisors in Vietnam.
10. Which of these did NOT happen as a result of the Vietnam War?
- a. The Paris Peace Accords
 - b. The Anti-war movement
 - c. Kent State Protests
 - d. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 (correct)
1. What did the Geneva accords not do?
- a. Divide Vietnam along the 17th parallel
 - b. Divide Vietnam at the 36°30 parallel
 - c. Attempt to end tensions with France
2. What form of protest did Buddhist monks use?
- a. self-immolation
 - b. peaceful protest
 - c. violent protest
 - d. they refused to fight
3. The following was not a group protesting the Vietnam war:
- a. Students for a Democratic Society
 - b. Student Non-violent coordinating committee
 - c. Weathermen
 - d. Hippies
4. Which of these was not a result of the Vietnam war?
- a. Nixon's resignation
 - b. Chaos at the Chicago DNC 1968
 - c. Discreditation of Nixon
 - d. Distrust of Johnson
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8. Which of the following incorrectly matches the anti-war group with their leader?
- a. Black panthers, Huey P. Newton
 - b. Weathermen, Bernadine Dohrn
 - c. SDS, Bernadine Dohrn
 - d. YIP, Abbie Hoffman
9. Which event most escalated US involvement in the Vietnam War?
- a. The Paris peace conference
 - b. The Geneva accords
 - c. The Tet offensive
 - d. The Gulf of Tonkin incident
10. Which battle was the Vietnamese resistance's first victory?
- a. Dien Vien Phu
 - b. Tet Offensive
 - c. Gulf of Tonkin
 - d. Battle of Hanoi

CONCEPTS, TERMS AND PEOPLE:

John M. Keynes – A British economist who created Keynesian economics where government should play a key role in regulating economy.

New Economics – The GNP is made up of consumer spending, investing new capital and government spending.

“fine tuning” – Making minor changes to control the economy

“Fair Deal” – A list of social and economic reforms created by President Truman that included a national health insurance plan, federal aid to education and civil rights program.

Cold War – A period of conflict, tension and competition between the U.S. and the USSR and their respective allies. The Vietnam War was a part of the Cold War's brush fire wars.

Brown V. Board of Education – This court case which overturned the decision that the establishment of separate public schools for black and white students was equal.

NAACP – A civil rights movement created by W.E.B. DuBois that worked on protecting the rights of African Americans.

Malcolm X – Was a Black Muslim minister and became the National Spokesman of the Nation of Islam.

Nation of Islam – A religious, social and political organization founded in the U.S. by Wallace Muhammad with an aim of resurrecting the spiritual, mental, social, and economic condition of the black men and women of America and the rest of the world.

Truman Doctrine – A proclamation by U.S. president Harry S. Truman on March 12, 1947 that the U.S. would support Greece and Turkey with economic and military aid to prevent their falling into the Soviet sphere and later proclaim containment of Soviet expansion. This is used as justification for the Vietnam War.

Martin Luther King, Jr. - one of the main leaders of the American civil rights movement, a political activist, a Baptist minister, and was one of America's greatest orators. He spoke out against the Vietnam War.

Containment – A policy of keeping Soviet expansion and the spreading influence of Communism within Communist countries. This is used as justification for the Vietnam War.

Cuban Missile crisis – A confrontation during the Cold War between the U.S., Cuba and U.S.S.R., which came the closest to turning the Cold War into WWII.

Bay of Pigs – An unsuccessful United States-planned and funded attempted invasion by armed Cuban exiles in southwest Cuba to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro.

OPEC – An international organization of oil-producing countries that try to stabilize the oil markets.

Glasnost – A Russian word for “openness” and a program of reform created by Gorbachev to fight corruption and abuse of privileges.

Perestroika – A Russian word for “restructuring” and a program to restructure the Soviet economy.

Warsaw Pact – An organization of Communist countries to counter the threat of NATO.

NATO – A military alliance where its member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party, and promote liberty around the world.

Lyndon B. Johnson – The 36th President of the United States who created the Great Society which would include civil rights laws, Medicare (health care for the elderly), Medicaid (health care for the poor), aid to education, and a major "War on Poverty" and escalated U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

“credibility gap” – A political term used to describe public skepticism about the Johnson administration's statements and policies on the Vietnam War.

Gulf of Tonkin Resolution - A joint resolution of the U.S. Congress passed in August 1964 in direct response to a minor naval engagement that gave Johnson authorization to use force in Southeast Asia which escalated involvement in the Vietnam War.

Pentagon papers – A top secret history of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War which revealed to the public that the U.S. was losing in Vietnam which made us question the veracity of the government.

Domino Theory – The theory that countries surrounding Communist countries would become Communist and continue affecting countries surrounding them until the whole world is Communist. This theory was one of the reasons behind the Vietnam War.

Viet Cong - An insurgent organization fighting the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) during the Vietnam War which was funded, equipped and staffed by both South Vietnamese communist sympathizers and the army of North Vietnam. This was one of the major players of the Vietnam War.

“Supply side economics” – An economic school of thought that argued that economic growth can be most effectively managed using incentives for people to produce goods and services, such as adjusting income tax and capital gains tax rates.

Richard Nixon – The 37th President of the United States who was most infamous for the Watergate scandal and resigned to escape impeachment.

Trade deficit – A negative balance of trade where a country is importing goods more than exporting goods.

Watergate – A break-in of the Democratic National Committee headquarters by member's of Nixon's administration which was covered up and led to Nixon's resignation as President.

John Kennedy – The 35th President of the United States who played a major part in many Cold War events like the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile crisis and was assassinated.

George H.W. Bush – The 41st President of the United States who is best known for leading the U.S. coalition in the Gulf War.

“zero sum” – A situation where one's losses are balanced by one's gains to equal zero.

Prime interest rate - The interest rate charged by lenders to borrowers whom they considered most creditworthy.

Consumer price index - A statistical time-series measure of a weighted average of prices of a specified set of goods and services purchased by consumers that tracks the prices of a specified basket of consumer goods and services, providing a measure of inflation.

Détente – An easing of tensions between previously hostile nations like the U.S. and USSR.

Gerald Ford – The 38th President of the United States who pardoned Nixon who advocated détente.

Robert Kennedy – The brother of John F. Kennedy who contributed to the civil rights movement and worked with President Kennedy during the Cuban Missile crisis and was assassinated.

Deficit spending - The amount by which a government, private company, or individual's spending exceeds income over a particular period of time.

“guns or butter” – A model of the relationship between a nation's investment in defense and civilian goods where a nation has to choose between one or the other or a little of both.

Monetary policy - The process by which the government, central bank, or monetary authority manages the money supply to achieve specific goals—such as constraining inflation or deflation, maintaining an exchange rate, achieving full employment or economic growth.

Fiscal policy - The economic term that defines the set of principles and decisions of a government in setting the level of public expenditure and how that expenditure is funded.

Ronald Reagan – The 40th President of the United States who helped bring a peaceful end to the Cold War.

Thomas Dewey - The Republican candidate for the U.S. Presidency in 1944 and 1948.

Hubert Humphrey – The 38th Vice President of the United States under President Johnson.

Barry Goldwater - The Republican candidate for the U.S. Presidency in 1964.

Dwight Eisenhower – The 34th President of the United States who ended the Korean War and kept up the pressure on the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Harry Truman – The 33rd President of the United States who helped end WWII by nuking Japan.

Conservative coalition - a coalition in American politics bringing together the conservative majority of the Republicans and a conservative, mostly Southern minority of the Democrats.

Adlai Stevenson – An American politician who served as ambassador to the United Nations and lost the presidential elections against Eisenhower.

Wendell Willkie - A lawyer in the United States and the Republican nominee for the 1940 presidential election against Franklin Roosevelt.

Jimmy Carter – The 39th President of the United States.

Vietcong: Also known as the VC or “Charlie” to the G.I.’s, this was the northern resistance group led by Ho Chi Minh.

Vietnamization: Nixon’s secret plan to teach the South Vietnamese to defend themselves, seen as an admission of defeat

Ngo Dinh Diem: An upper-class, catholic, pro-French, anti-communist whom the U.S. endorsed as leader of South Vietnam. Unpopular, anti-buddhist, assassinated.

Pentagon Papers: On June 13, 1971, Daniel Ellsberg released to the New York Times – exposed corruption and created distrust in the government

Geneva Accords: Divided Vietnam in half in 1954 at the 17th parallel to end Franco-Viet fighting

Daniel Ellsberg: Former Pentagon employee who released the pentagon papers

Ho Chi Minh: Communist leader of the North Vietnamese fighting the U.S.

SUMMARY

The Vietnam War, a brush war of the Cold War conflict, is the longest war the U.S. has been involved in. Being the 2nd most divisive war and the 4th bloodiest war the U.S. has fought, the Vietnam War, whose goal was to contain Communism, sparked a decade of violence on the home front. The Vietnam War began with Vietnam’s independence from France. Vietnam was originally a colony of French Indo-China. The Viet Minh, the nationalist resistance movement created in 1941 and led by Ho Chi Minh, fought for Vietnam’s independence from France. Minh asked the U.S. for help in their quest for independence, but President Truman refused because they did not want to insult their ally France. Minh then turned to Communism for help and beat France at the decisive Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, ensuring their independence. The Geneva Accords in 1954 divided Vietnam at the 17th Parallel. North Vietnam, led by Ho Chi Minh, would be Communist and South Vietnam, led by Ngo Dinh Diem, would be

Democratic. The U.S. began sending advisors to South Vietnam to help the fledgling country along, but more troops were deployed to Vietnam after the Tet Offensive. In 1968, Viet Cong forces launched surprise attacks and took several South Vietnamese cities during the Lunar New Year when there was supposed to be no fighting. The U.S. was able to take back those cities, but it showed that the conflict in Vietnam was going to be longer than previously believed. In 1964 the USS Maddox was attacked at the Gulf of Tonkin. President Johnson asked for support to escalate the war on the grounds that the Maddox was attacked in international waters. The Senate and House of Representatives almost unanimously agreed and gave Johnson a blank check to do what needed to be done in Vietnam. By 1968 there were 537,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam. In 1965, Operation Rolling Thunder, a U.S. bombing campaign of Vietnam, was launched and lasted three years. U.S. troops encountered many problems in Vietnam. For one thing, U.S. troops were fighting a guerilla war and there weren't enough of them to fight the Vietnamese equally. U.S. troops were also unsure of who among the Vietnamese civilians were part of the Viet Cong and they were unable to locate the elusive Ho Chi Minh Trail, a supply route for North Vietnamese soldiers. American support of the war dwindled as the top-secret Pentagon Papers were released to the public in 1971, showing the American's losing in Vietnam instead of winning like the media told them. The My Lai Massacre on March 1968, where an American helicopter prevented American forces from destroying a village with no men that was a suspected Viet Cong base, also helped destroy American support of the war. Finally the U.S. was able to pull out of Vietnam with the Paris Peace Accords of 1973, a ceasefire agreement and promise of U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. With the fall of Saigon in 1975, the Vietnam War was won by North Vietnam and Communism.

During the Vietnam war, there was also the "war at home." The generation gap widened with the counterculture as more and more college students protested the war, in peaceful and violent ways. It can be argued that the huge pressure placed upon the government by large-scale protests and draft dodging brought a swifter end to the conflict.