



Roots of the Vietnam War

- 1800s: French missionaries (attacked), colonization, new systems
- 1920s-40s: Dictator Ho Chi Minh's rise - communist Viet Minh, League for the Independence of VN, joins w/ China & Russia to overthrow French, terrorization & threats

- 1945/WWII: Japanese "heroic" → occupation to close off China's southern border
- Taking over homes, rice production sent to Japan → famine
- Withdraws forces at WWII end
- Viet Minh take over Hanoi, Democratic Republic
- 1949: French recoupation, villagers looted, raped, tortured, killed
- IndoChina wars, Ho wins against French



- Geneva Accord 1954
- Bao Dai overtaken by Ngo Dinh Diem: Republic of South Vietnam.
- Anti-communist U.S. supports South: training, equipment.
- Arrests, tortures, and/or kills 100,000 Viet Cong.
- 1957-59: Viet Cong and National Liberation Front fight back.
- U.S. increases support, domino theory

Flee

- Non-communist Northerners fled to the South, fear of execution
- South believe North brought war, French educated North looked down on South
- False propaganda of South being tortured heavily under colonialism
- Communists take clothes and food from North

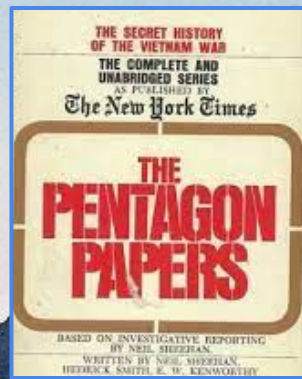


Gulf of Tonkin

- DRV torpedoes U.S. destroyers.
- Tonkin Resolution gives Lyndon B. Johnson war-making powers.
- CIA-led "Secret War" in Laos
- Johnson sends 82,000 combat troops to Vietnam.

Tet Offensive (February 1968)

- North declared their Tet was a day or two before actual Tet.
- Bombs masked by firecrackers, 100 (?)
- Radio station attacked
- Plan to assassinate blacklisted ARVN soldiers, National Police officers, government officials, and families.
- South Vietnamese President declared a state of martial law, the entire city was on fire.
- Impact on South Vietnam lost in representations of the war
- Hue Massacre
 - Took over the city, "liberated the people," held public trials & executions. Churches and pagodas shot up.
 - Murdered 3,000 hostages when Americans were about to take back Hue
 - No memorials, denial of killings



The Pentagon Papers

- a top-secret department of defense study on U.S. political involvement and how Nixon ramped up conflict in Vietnam was published in the *New York Times* 1971.

Buddhist Sacrifices

- Ngo Dinh Diem leader of South Vietnam was catholic and anti-Buddhist - suppressing Buddhist people.
- Buddhists really disliked Ngo Dinh Diem's practices. They began to immolate themselves in public against his rule.
- The communists helped to back the first Buddhist person who immolated himself.

My Lai Massacre (1968)

- U.S. slaughters 400+ unarmed civilians in the My Lai Massacre in 1968.
- Only seen as unique bc someone spoke up against it and took photos
- Anti-war protests build
- Found no Viet Cong, raped, mutilated villagers
- Passification programs to burn up villages in which communists dug tunnels and came up to terrorize cities

Agent Orange

- Sprayed throughout the country in jungles which allowed Viet Cong to hide
- Tried to kill plants but it killed the country and men who sprayed it
- Led to birth defects



Fall of Saigon

- Capital captured by VC
- Escaped from by boat, plane, helicopter, cargo planes.
- (1955-1975) estimated quarter million South Vietnamese soldiers killed.
- Memories erased, maligned, suppressed by American military-dominated war narratives.
- War cemeteries and memorials razed after the Fall
- Re-education camps: armed forces, teachers, government worker



Black Soldiers

- U.S. army was integrated, 12%+ Black soldiers
- Underaged people in the army, targetted low-income communities with a need for money
- Became a mark of patriotism for some
- Racism on the battleground
- Communists soldiers saw soldiers of color as allies, dropped down anti-colonialsit propropaganda flyers “soul soldier” to get them to join them
- Communists hesistated to kill soliders of color
→ Americans put more Black soldiers in the front lines leading to many deaths

Women's Armed Forces Corps (WAFC)

- Had South Vietnamese women's army
- Served unofficially in combat w/ guns, knives, recognized by the army.
- Faught in regional/state forces
- Provided official social services
- Many South Vietnamese female spies
- Infiltrating Viet Cong/communist strongholds, feeding information back