



# **AITCHISON COLLEGE**

## **MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE VI**

Historical Security Council



# **SPECIALIZED AGENCIES**

## Special rules of the Security Council

The right of veto decisions is one of the special rules applied in the UNSC and sets it apart from the other main bodies of the UN. The following rules, additional to the rules mentioned in the ACMUN Rules of Procedure guide, will be applied in the UNSC:

### 1.1. Veto power

The right to veto a decision of the body is the privilege of the permanent members. The veto is automatically in force if a permanent member votes against a substantial decision.

It is not necessary for a permanent member to announce the usage of the veto. However it is not possible to veto in procedural votes. Even if 11 states are in favor of a particular decision, one “no” vote from a permanent member of the UNSC is enough to fail the entire vote. You should use your veto wisely as it is quite easy not only to upset the nonpermanent members of the Council by reminding them of their “second class membership”, but also to damage relations with permanent Member States and quite possibly intensify the tensions of the Cold War.

### 1.2. Declare a vote substantial

Another privilege of the permanent members is to declare a procedural motion substantial: Directly after a specific procedural motion, (for example, to suspend the meeting), has been brought in by a Delegate, a permanent member may move to declare it substantial. This motion passes without a vote or debate. If the committee then votes upon the now substantial motion, (1) delegates may abstain if they are only present, (2) a member may declare a roll call vote on this motion, or (3) the permanent members may use their veto. As with normal motions, the chair will ask if there is any objection to declaring a motion substantial. If there is objection, there will be a vote to re-declare the now substantial motion into a procedural motion. But: This vote is a substantial vote with all outlined consequences, meaning that the permanent member who brought in the motion may use its veto and so prevent re-declaring it.

### 1.3. Status of observers

According to Article 31 and 32 of the UN Charter, states, which are currently not members of the UNSC, may participate in the debates of the Council as well. This is normally the case

when (a) a state feels specially affected by the outcome of the current topic, or (b) the UNSC invites a state, which is party to a dispute currently under discussion. However, the observer state will not be granted the right to vote in the Council, and its presence has always to be approved by the Council. States can also be requested to appear before the UNSC to answer questions. After the questioning is finished the state leaves, unless its continued presence as an observer is approved by the Council.

## History of the Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal UN organs. Its main function is the maintenance of international peace and security. It also endeavors to prevent, contain and settle conflicts, which pose a threat to peace. The first session of the UNSC was held on 17 January 1946. From 1946 until 1965 it consisted of five permanent members (China, France, USSR, United Kingdom, United States of America) and six non-permanent members.

Further functions of the Security Council are to investigate any dispute or situation, which might lead to international friction, to determine the existence of a threat to peace or of an act of aggression and to recommend what action, should be taken, including military action against an aggressor.

The Security Council is the only UN organ, which can adopt binding resolutions and can give a mandate for UN peacekeeping operations. Such a mandate contains specific information on the conditions under which it will be implemented. For peacekeeping operations the mandate also contains instructions on the circumstances under which the participating peacekeeping troops may use force in order to carry out their mission.

## Dual Delegate Committees

At ACMUN VI, the UNSC and HSC will be dual delegate committees. The rules of dual delegate committees are as follows:

## Procedure

In dual delegate committees, two delegates from the same team represent each country. When a particular country is recognized, either one of the delegates can speak. There may also be, depending on the discretion of the Chair, an informal unmoderated caucus taking place outside the committee, in which one delegate from each country takes part.

## Judging

The delegates will be judged together as one team, on the basis of the following, in addition to the normal judging criteria for single delegate committees:

- a) Their ability to debate and lobby
- b) How well they switch roles
- c) Their co-ordination



## Introduction to the Topic Area

The Vietnam War, also known as the Second Indochina War was fought in Vietnam, and the neighbouring states of Laos and Cambodia from 1st November 1955 to the fall of Saigon on 30th April 1975. The War was based on political ideologies and is seen as a war between communism and democracy with the United States of America supporting the

anti-communist South Vietnam, and the Soviet Union and other communist forces bolstering the North Vietnamese forces. The HSC at ACMUN will discuss the Vietnam War in the wake of the Gulf of Tonkin incident which occurred on August 2nd 1964. Since the Council has is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security, it is imperative that this issue be resolved and the loss of lives be minimized. For research purposes, this study Guide includes details of the entire War, including what happened after 1964. However, as delegates, you must remember that you are in 1964, and you must not cite incidents and treaties or charters that have not yet happened and do not yet exist. You must also be careful to not make the same mistakes that the United Nations actually made.

## History of the Issue

**Colonization and the First Indochina War:** The French started relations with Vietnam as early as the 17th century. This involvement soon turned into military occupation, as the French colonized Vietnam. After a long period of stay, the French eventually met resistance strong enough to force them to leave Vietnam. The Viet Minh, supported by the Soviet Union and China, fought against the French in the First Indochina War. Since two communist parties were supporting the Viet Minh, the United States of America took this as a possible sign of a rapid spread of communism in the area in the future, and decided to help France maintain control. The United States created a Military Assistance and Advisory Group in 1950 to this effect. Eventually, after the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, the French had been defeated, and on 7 May 1954, the French Union garrison surrendered.

**The Geneva Conference 1954:** Following the surrender of the French troops, the Geneva Conference of 1954 took place for to determine how the French forces could carry out their withdrawal in the most peaceful of manners. There were many parties present at the conference, and the result were the Geneva Accords. These called for a ceasefire, the division of Vietnam along the 17th parallel, and a democratic government to be elected in 1956. It is important to note that as far as the elections were concerned, the United States did not accept the need for them, as they were afraid that the communists might win.

**Elections and their consequence:** Although the United States opposed countrywide elections, it did support elections in South Vietnam. Through these elections, it installed a puppet-ruler, Ngo Dinh Diem. Diem had joined the civil service, before becoming province chief at 28, and Minister of the Interior to Bao Dai. When the French had exerted their



influence over the region, Diem had, due to his integrity, resigned. He held elections after defeating local adversaries in war.

**A Period of Unrest (1955-1963):** After the elections, the United States government used Diem to further their agendas. The Eisenhower administration turned South Vietnam into a hub for anti-communism activities. The South East Asian Treaty organization was formed in September 1954, which was not only restricted to Vietnam, but also extended to Laos and Cambodia. Furthermore, the US government provided military aid to the South Vietnamese army. Diem, who was often referred to as the "Winston Churchill of Asia" by US officials, readily accepted US aid. In Laos, the United States provided aid through the French, who were still allowed to maintain a training mission there.

Diem took advantage of the US support, and tried to suppress the communists in South Vietnam. He started the Denounce the Communists (To Cong) campaign in 1955, and this had the intended effect- about 25000 communists were arrested and 1000 were killed in the first year of the campaign. To repress political opponents further, Diem issued Public Law 10/59 in May 1959. This basically expanded the definition of political crimes to mean any opposition of the government.

In addition to these harsh measures, Diem was also infamous for nepotism. He favoured his relatives for high posts in the government. One of his brothers was his closest advisor, one was in charge of the secret service and the other of the foreign networks.

Political opponents were not the only people dissatisfied with Diem's regime. The Buddhists were also among the people who wanted change. They began immolating themselves publicly, in an attempt to bring about change. The most famous of these self-immolations was that of Thich Quang Duc in June 1963- it was also the first. Diem took repressive measures as far as these were concerned as well. Diem's troops raided the Xa Loi temple and many others, leaving at least 1400 people dead. In addition, he expanded martial law across the whole of South Vietnam.

**Diem's Death:** The Americans soon realized that Diem's unwillingness to ensure that peace was maintained in South Vietnam was detrimental in that it was preventing him from focusing on the more important threat, that of the Communists. So, the CIA contacted military officials in the South Vietnamese army, who were planning to stage a coup, and agreed to the idea. So, a coup was successfully staged, after which Diem and his brother, Nhu were assassinated.

The Future of Vietnam after Diem: After Diem's death, the situation deteriorated. In the two years from 1963 to 1965, South Vietnam was ruled by twelve different governments, one after the other. Future US involvement in Vietnam was also uncertain as Kennedy had been assassinated. China's relations with the Soviet Union were also become strained, as Mao Zedong objected to the de-Stalinization project. The Soviet Union wanted a peaceful solution to the Vietnam issue, while the Chinese were supporting Ho. Meanwhile, the NLF increased their activity in the South, and Johnson decided to stop this. Soon, the level of American involvement in Vietnam was to change considerably with the Gulf of Tonkin incident.

**The Gulf of Tonkin Incident:** The Gulf of Tonkin is a body of water that lies on the East Coast of North Vietnam and the West Coast of the island Hainan. This was the waters for the staging area of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, which included the American destroyers the Maddox and C. Turner Joy and the American aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ticonderoga. This was the site that would eventually lead the escalation and official documentation of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

On August 2, North Vietnamese troops attacked an American destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin. President Lyndon B. Johnson sent another destroyer in response. On August 4, the two destroyers reported that they were under attack once more. Johnson then authorized retaliatory air attacks against the North Vietnamese troops.



On August 7, the "Tonkin Gulf Resolution" passed, 416 to 0 by the House and 88 to 2 by the Senate. The resolution postulated that the President of the United States could "take all necessary measures to repel armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

In October of 1964 the first unit of North Vietnamese troops was sent to the South; by May 1965 they numbered 6,500 and the war was fully underway.

**Attack on Camp Holloway:** On 7th February 1965 the Viet Cong forces attacked a US base at Pleiku, South Vietnam. The raid lasted 5 minutes with 9 Americans killed, 126 wounded and 10 aircrafts destroyed and another 15 damaged.

**Operation Rolling Thunder:** Launched in response to the attack on Holloway, the operation was a bombardment campaign aimed at destabilizing North Vietnam's transport systems and industrial centers.

**Bombing Halt:** By October 1965 the USA was directly fighting in Vietnam and protests and demonstrations against the war had started worldwide. In December 1965 President Johnson ordered a bombing halt to help negotiations with North Vietnam. This would last just over a month and by the end of 1965 200,000 US troops were counted present in Vietnam.



**Tet Offensive:** On January 31st 1968, on the Vietnamese Tet holiday, Viet Cong Forces started a wave of attacks against the US troops. They were supported by North Vietnam and though they ultimately failed the US suffered heavy losses and lost much international support for the war effort.

**My Lai:** In March of 1968 American soldiers massacred hundreds of civilians in Vietnam. The event was condemned by protests world wide and the world was declared unethical and inhumane by many prominent people of the time.

**Johnson Seeks an End:** On March 25th 1965 President Johnson met with his military advisors to find an end to the war. A few days after this meeting he declares that "We are prepared to move immediately toward peace through negotiations. So tonight, in the hope that this action will lead to early talks, I am taking the first step to deescalate the conflict [in Vietnam]." He also declared that he would not contest in re-elections in 1968.

In April of that year preliminary talks between the US and Ho Chi Minh's government began.

**Nixon Takes Charge:** On 6th November 1968 Republican Richard Nixon took charge as president with a policy and offered a complete ceasefire and withdrawal under international supervision but alas at the end of that year S. troops in Vietnam numbered 535,100 VC and northern soldiers were about 600,000. During the year, more than 14,500 Americans died, the highest annual toll thus far.



**Nixon Doctrine:**The Nixon Doctrine (also known as the Guam Doctrine) was put forth in a press conference in Guam on July 25, 1969 by U.S. President Richard Nixon. He stated that the United States henceforth expected its allies to take care of their own military defense, but that the U.S. would aid in defense as requested. The Doctrine argued for the pursuit of peace through a partnership with American allies.

In Nixon's own words (Address to the Nation on the War in Vietnam November 3, 1969):[1]

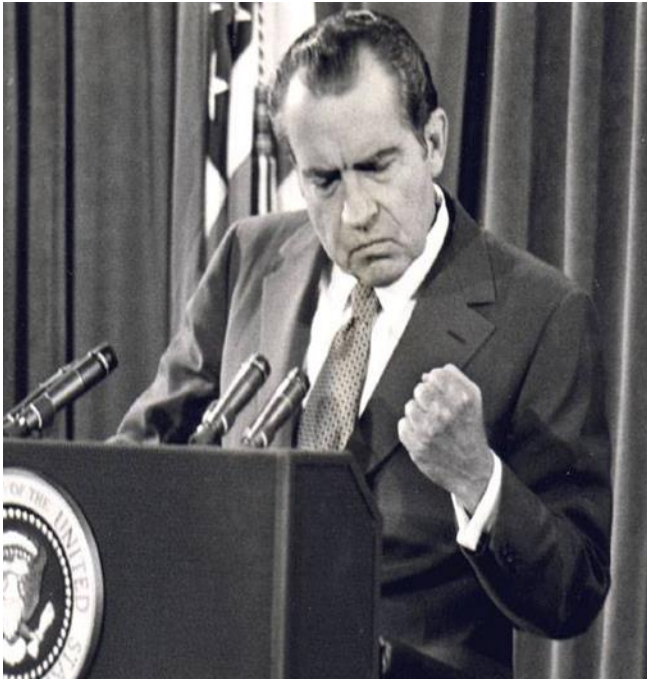
- First, the United States will keep all of its treaty commitments.
- Second, we shall provide a shield if a nuclear power threatens the freedom of a nation allied with us or of a nation whose survival we consider vital to our security.
- Third, in cases involving other types of aggression, we shall furnish military and economic assistance when requested in accordance with our treaty commitments. But we shall look to the nation directly threatened to assume the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its defense.

The doctrine was also applied by the Nixon administration in the Persian Gulf region, with military aid to Iran and Saudi Arabia.

**Paris Peace Accords:**The Paris Peace Accords of 1973 intended to establish peace in Vietnam and an end to the Vietnam War, ended direct U.S. military involvement, and temporarily stopped the fighting between North and South Vietnam. The governments of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), and the United States, as well as the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) that represented indigenous South Vietnamese revolutionaries, signed the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam on January 27, 1973. The agreement was not ratified by the United States Senate.

The negotiations that led to the accord began in 1968 after various lengthy delays. As a result of the accord, the International Control Commission (ICC) was replaced by International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS) to fulfill the agreement. The main negotiators of the agreement were United States National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger and Vietnamese politburo member Lê Đức Thọ; the two men were awarded the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts, although Lê Đức Thọ refused to accept it.

## Key Figures During The War



### Lyndon B. Johnson:

The 36th U.S. president, who promised to honor his predecessor John F. Kennedy's limited U.S. commitments in Vietnam but ended up escalating the war drastically after the U.S. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1964. Empowered by the resolution, Johnson authorized Operation Rolling Thunder in 1965 to bomb North Vietnam into submission. When this failed, he sent more than 500,000 U.S. troops to Vietnam and ultimately converted the conflict into a protracted and bitter war.

### Ho Chi Minh:

The primary Vietnamese nationalist and Communist leader during the twentieth century, who resisted French, Japanese, and American influence in Vietnam. Born in poverty in French-occupied Annam, Ho traveled widely and spent considerable time in Paris, London, and New York, gaining exposure to Western ideas, including Communism. On his return to Vietnam, he founded the Indochina Communist Party in 1930 and the Viet Minh in 1941. From its founding to his death in 1969, Ho was president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, serving as the primary North Vietnamese leader throughout much of the Vietnam War.



**Richard Nixon:** The 37th U.S. president, who orchestrated the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam in the early 1970s. First elected in 1968, Nixon claimed amid the rising din of antiwar protests that a “silent majority” of Americans still supported the war. Nonetheless, he engaged in a policy of Vietnamization to withdraw U.S. troops from Vietnam and hand over military authority to the South Vietnamese. Meanwhile, Nixon covertly expanded the scope of the war by secretly authorizing illegal military actions in Cambodia and Laos. By 1972, he and his national security advisor, Henry A. Kissinger, were pursuing secret negotiations with North Vietnam and engaging in diplomacy with both China and the Soviet Union in order to pressure North Vietnam into a cease-fire. Although Nixon was reelected in a landslide in 1972, his administration became dogged with scandals ranging from Watergate to the Pentagon Papers to the public revelation of the U.S. military actions in Cambodia. Despite his skilled diplomacy and success at removing U.S. troops from Vietnam, he resigned in 1974 to avoid impeachment over the scandals.



**Ngo Dinh Diem:** The U.S.-backed leader of the South Vietnamese Republic of Vietnam from 1955 until 1963. Diem came from a family that was both Confucian and Catholic, and though his Christianity endeared him to many U.S. policy makers, it alienated him from South Vietnam’s Buddhist majority. Diem’s regime quickly became corrupt and autocratic, cracking down viciously on Buddhist leaders and ignoring the Geneva Conference’s promise of free elections in 1956. Increasingly paranoid, he gave his family members important positions of leadership in the government, which they abused. Although the United States continued to support Diem, this support ultimately waned, and Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were assassinated in 1963 as part of a U.S.-approved coup.

**Bao Dai:** The last emperor of Vietnam, who ascended the throne in 1926. Bao Dai proved to be an ineffective ruler and was unable to exercise any of his powers without the support of the French colonial regime. He abdicated in 1946, after the Viet Minh drove out the Japanese occupation forces and took control of the government. In 1949, the French reinstalled Bao Dai as the premier of “independent Vietnam” but left affairs of state to his pro-French appointees. Only one year after the Geneva Conference created a republic in South

Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem outmaneuvered Bao Dai and took power; Bao Dai then retired to France.

## BLOC POSITIONS

### The Middle East:

**United Kingdom:** There is a very broad misconception that the Vietnam War was an all-American effort. It was actually fought by an alliance of anti-communist forces including troops from Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, the Philippines, the Khmer Republic, Laos and Thailand. But whether people recall the Vietnam War as an American war or a war of an international anti-communist alliance, most people believe that the Vietnam War was one of the major Cold War conflicts in which Britain was not directly involved.

In 1944 British members of the Special Operations Executive's Force 136 had begun conducting raids and sabotage operations throughout Japanese-occupied French Indochina and were increasingly joined by French Vichy defectors and members of the 'Maquis' or French Resistance.

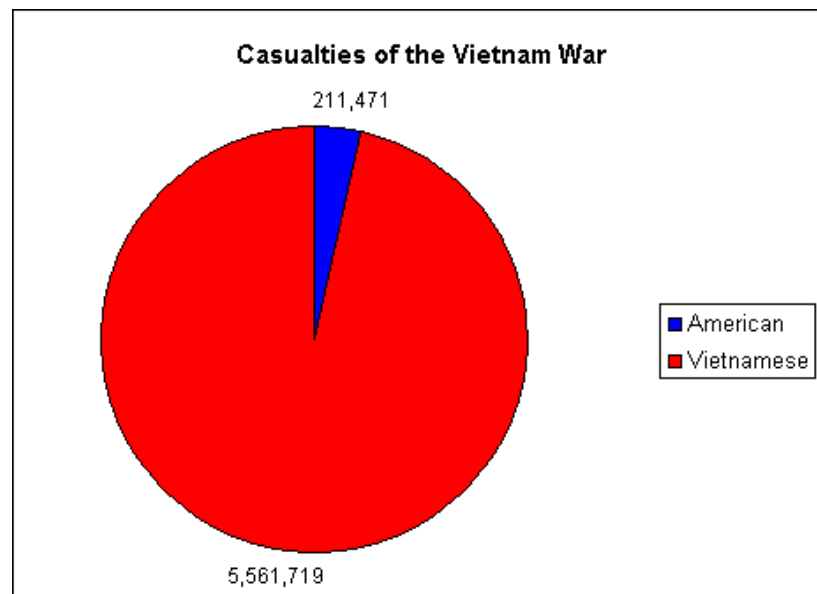
**China and USSR:** As the world's largest communist powers, both the Soviet Union (USSR) and the People's Republic of China also lent moral, logistic and military support to North Vietnam. Both Moscow and Beijing hoped to expand communism into the Asian hemisphere. Not only would Asian expansion tip the balance against the West, it would also serve Russian and Chinese national interests. Neither the USSR or China were frank or open about the materiel and logistic support they gave Hanoi. To this day there is much speculation about the exact level and types of support given to North Vietnam. What can safely be argued is that this support was vital to Hanoi and a major factor in the successes of its military and insurgency operations.

After World War II, Soviet Russia gave only marginal support for communist movements in Vietnam, which was then well outside Moscow's sphere of influence. Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin wanted to maintain his post-war alliance with the West, temporarily at least, and did

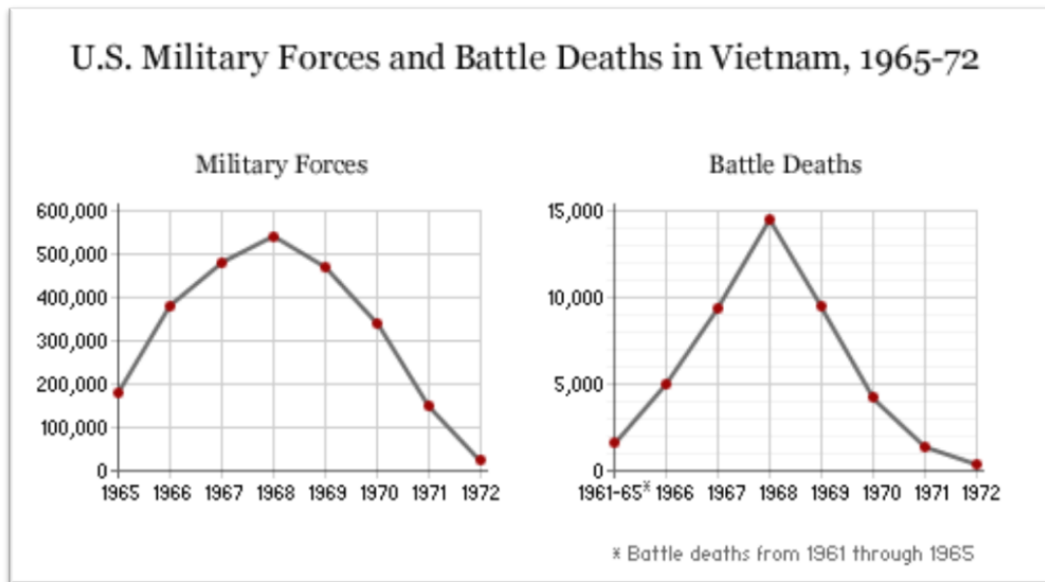
not wish to antagonise them by backing the Viet Minh in 1946-47. Stalin also had an immovable distrust of Asian communist groups, believing them to be weak, undisciplined and tainted by self-interest and nationalism. By 1949, the situation had changed markedly. US-Soviet tensions were rising; and Mao Zedong's victory in China (October 1949) projected the Cold War deep into Asia. In January 1950, Moscow belatedly recognised Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh as the 'official' rulers of Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh journeyed to Moscow and sought Soviet military backing for his war of independence against the French. But Stalin, whose attentions were concentrated on Europe, rejected this. Stalin instead encouraged Mao Zedong to support Ho Chi Minh in his quest to reclaim Vietnam.

**New Zealand:**Between June 1964 and December 1972 around 3500 New Zealand military personnel served in South Vietnam. In contrast to the First and Second World Wars, this country's contribution was modest. At its peak in 1968 the New Zealand force only numbered 543. Thirty-seven died while on active service and 187 were wounded.

New Zealand's involvement in Vietnam was highly controversial and attracted protest and condemnation at home and abroad. Few New Zealanders waved placards in the streets in 1965, but by the end of the decade thousands were marching against the war.

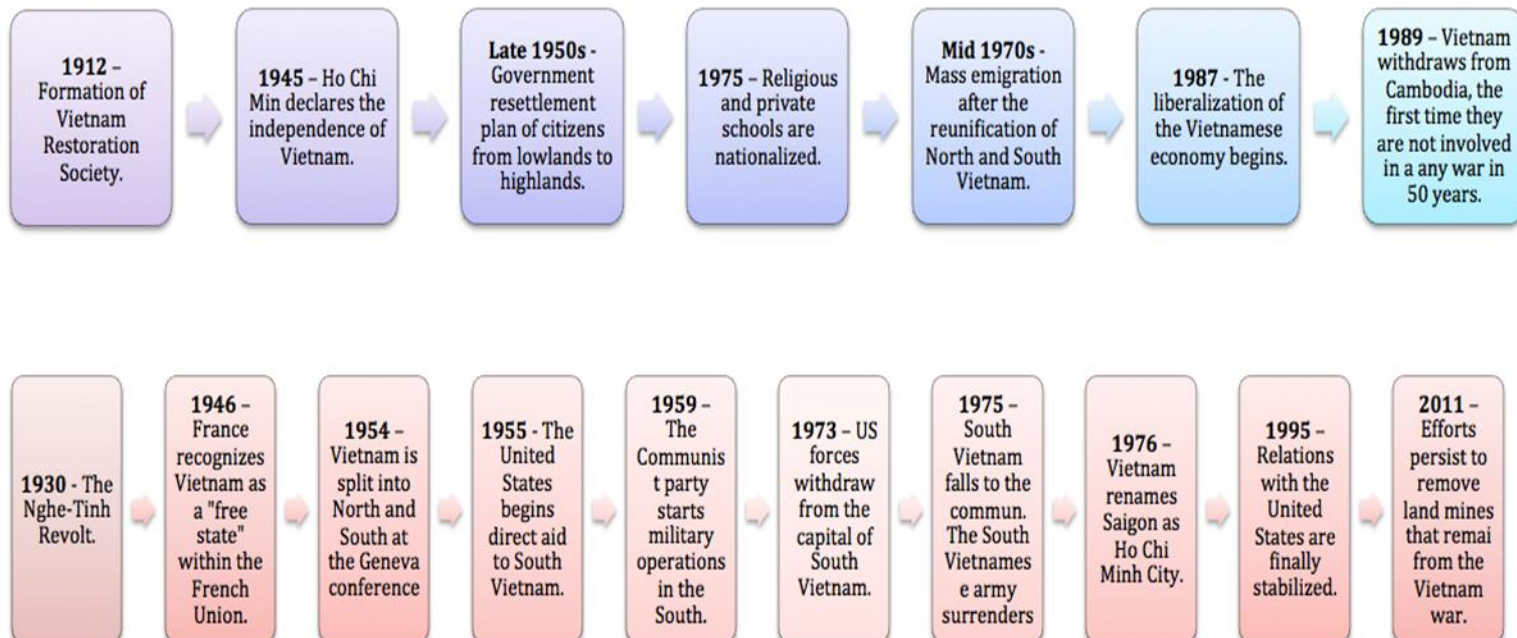






\*Note: only events that took place till August 7th , 1964 will be accounted in the Historical Security Council.

## Vietnam Timeline of Key Events (1911 - 2011)



Questions a resolution must answer:

- How can the violence in Vietnam be stopped immediately?
- Should external actors be prevented from intervening?
- How can the political crisis be resolved with regards to the division of Vietnam?
- How can the UN enforce the maintenance of peace?
- How can the state be rebuilt after the crisis?

## Closing Remarks

Delegates, you have reached the end of this guide, and you can now begin researching on your own. Remember, a well-informed delegate is a better delegate. There are many resources available on the internet, along with a numerous books on the subject. Use these to your advantage, so that you can come up with documents as comprehensive as possible during the committee sessions.

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