**WHY FIGHT THE VIETNAM WAR?**

***Directions:*** *Please review a variety of primary sources from people with their own perspective on the causes of the Vietnam War. For each source, consider both the perspective of each author and how that perspective has shaped his argument or actions. These do NOT need to be complete sentences Finally, speculate how each author would answer the question: Why fight the Vietnam War?*

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| Author and Title of Source | Personal information about author – who was he? What do we need to know about his life to understand his perspective? | Major points or argument of source | How would the author answer the question “Why fight the Vietnam War?” |
| Ho Chi Minh; Vietnamese Declaration of Independence | He ended up becoming the leader of North Vietnam | The French have been greatly mistreating the Vietnamese. | Because the imperialists have been taking advantage of Vietnam for far too long. |
| John Foster Dulles, Opposition to the Spread of Communism Speech | An American diplomat and Secretary of state under Eisenhower | If we don’t stand up to Communist spread now, then we won’t be able to later | Because we need to stop the Communists from spreading into vietnam |
| Dwight D. Eisenhower, Interview with Copley Press | President of the United States, former general | We need their products, We must prevent a dictatorship, and We need to keep Communism from spreading | For the sake of both the resources Indochina holds and to prevent the spread of communism |
| Ngo Dinh Diem, letter to President Kennedy | President of South Vietnam | Vietnam needs to preserve their heritage and must have their freedom, which they have had on and off for the past 2000 years. | So that Vietnam can stay free and keep their identity |