

## AP United States History

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### Vietnam Introduction

- Background to the War
  - France controlled "Indochina" since the late 19th century
    - Japan takes control during World War II
  - With US aid, France attempts re-colonization in the postwar period
  - France loses control to Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh
- Early US Involvement
  - Geneva Accords — 1954: country split in half
    - Communists got the North and democratic forces in the South
  - US sabotages the peace accord and supports Diem, a vicious leader
- JFK and Vietnam
  - Maintains policy of domino theory and sends troops to South Vietnam
  - US leads coup against Diem and has him killed
- Who is the Enemy?
  - Vietcong — Farmers by day, guerrillas at night
  - Very patient people willing to accept many casualties
  - US greatly underestimates their resolve and their resourcefulness
- Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
  - US ships were allegedly attacked in Tonkin Bay — August 1964
  - Congress passes measure to allow president to take any measures necessary to protect US interests
    - Johnson believes if he was seen as soft on Communism, his Great Society measures wouldn't pass