

# Historical Security Council

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## *Study Guide*

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## **Topic 1: Pinochet's Chile**

### **BIOGRAPHY:**

Augusto Pinochet Ugarte joined the Chilean army in 1935. Through his exceptionally high ranks, he was given the remarkable qualification as the Commander in Chief in 1973 by then President: Salvador Allende. Nearly a month later, Salvador was overthrown by the military coup, which was led by Pinochet. This act resulted in Pinochet becoming the head of the ensuing military regime. An eight year presidential term was endorsed by Ugarte in 1980 but a plebiscite held in 1988 voted against Augusto further enduring his authority in Chile. Though, Pinochet did manage to show his power as the commander-in-chief until 1998. In October 1998, Pinochet was arrested in London, after a request from Spain for his extradition to stand trial for “crimes of genocide and terrorism” as a direct response to the brutality faced by the Spanish nationals. This arrest resulted in a tension between Great Britain and Chile as well as turmoil in Chile between Pinochet’s supporters and opponents. By 2000, due to ill health, Pinochet was returned to his nation. Here, the Chile Court had ordered him to stand on trial. In 2001, the case against Augusto was suspended, stating that he was mentally unfit to stand on trial. In 2002, the court further stated to suspend all legal proceedings against him on his human rights abuses during his rule. Pinochet died in 2006, never having stood trial for the crimes for which he was accused, but that does not mean that he left with the estimation of the people.



### **TIME: 1974:**

June 1974, Pinochet has just adopted the title of President of the Republic. Exactly one year and three months after a violent coup, planned and led by Pinochet and assisted by United States’ CIA Agents, which lead to the supposed suicide of the elected president, Salvador which we believe is what the ex-president was willing to face, rather than forced exile or imprisonment. It has also been recently found out that the keen interest of The United States of America on helping Pinochet in this attack was mainly because of the fact that President Allende was the first Marxist to become the president of a Latin American country, through an open election.

As a capitalist dictator, Pinochet’s first year as head witnessed extreme oppression of any and all opposition as well as radical changes in economy. Economic inequality has now been well-defined in Chile. The country has grown, but not for everybody. In

fact, as a direct response to this event, the World Bank's GINI Index (which is the most commonly used measure of economic inequality) has ranked Chile worse than other developing countries such as Angola and Cambodia.



The regime has already arrested approximately forty-thousand people, large “disappearances” of opposition's political leaders as well as bans and exiles have been forced upon a significant percentage of the Chilean population, with large public places being used as places for torture. The junta has ruled the time after their victory ruthlessly, establishing immense fear in their citizens' hearts. Garfias, a Chilean

citizen who was only 15 when Gen. Augusto Pinochet overtook Chile's government stated: “We know that something is happening. People are extremely scared, even to step out of their houses. We are expecting an attack at any moment and we're well aware of the fact that they give no consideration to our age or gender. Sleepless nights were very common, especially amongst our parents. But we are trying our best to be brave”.

With Gen. Pinochet now the declared President and the constitution suspended, the public fear the upcoming regime with many citizens choosing to leave the country to neighbouring states such as Peru and Venezuela or even far away states like Australia or Europe. Pinochet has already been given the title of being the bloodiest dictator. A term called “desaparecido” [which is disappeared in Latin] is being used among the citizens of the country either due to the fact that many individuals are often running away from their country or because a large number of them, who have left their houses, have never come back home alive.

The question arises of the crimes that have been committed by Pinochet's regime against humanity. Will the regime escape with these violent human rights abuses? Should the international community let these violations go unnoticed or should they intervene? Should the junta, led by General Pinochet, be held responsible for these crimes? The committee should aim to answer these questions and look for a way to reestablish human rights in the state while upholding Chilean sovereignty in the most suitable manner.

Countries involved in this particular issue are Chile, United States of America, United Kingdom, Peru, Venezuela, Argentina, Russia & Spain.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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*The information above is mostly based on Chilean Citizens' view on Late President Pinochet, stressing on the events in 1974.*

## **Topic 2: The Vietnam War**

### **Introduction**

The Vietnam War is the commonly used name for the Second Indochina War, 1954–1973. Usually, it refers to the period when the United States and other members of the SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) joined the forces of the Republic of South Vietnam in contesting communist forces comprised of South Vietnamese guerrillas and regular-force units, generally known as Viet Cong (VC), and the North Vietnamese Army (NVA). The U.S. had the largest foreign military presence and basically directed the war from 1965. The Vietnam War was the prolonged struggle between nationalist forces attempting to unify the country of Vietnam under a communist government and the United States (with the aid of the South Vietnamese) attempting to stop them from doing so and hence preventing the spread of communism.



Vietnam occupies the eastern and southern part of the Indochinese peninsula in Southeast Asia, with the South China Sea along its entire coast. China is to the north and Laos and Cambodia are to the west. The Mekong River delta lies in the south.

### **Background:**

There had been fighting in Vietnam for decades before the Vietnam War began. The Vietnamese had suffered under French colonial rule for nearly six decades when Japan invaded portions of Vietnam in 1940. It was in 1941, when Vietnam had two foreign powers occupying them, the communist Vietnamese revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh arrived back in Vietnam after spending thirty years traveling the world.

Once Ho was back in Vietnam, he established a headquarters in a cave in northern Vietnam and established the Viet Minh, whose goal was to rid Vietnam of the French and Japanese occupiers. Having gained support for their cause in northern Vietnam, the Viet Minh announced the establishment of an independent Vietnam with a new government called the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on September 2, 1945. The French, however, were not willing to give up their colony so easily and fought back.

For years, Ho had tried to court the United States to support him against the French, including supplying the U.S. with military intelligence about the Japanese during World War II. Despite this aid, the United States was fully dedicated to their Cold War foreign policy of containment, which meant preventing the spread of Communism. This fear of the spread of Communism was heightened by the U.S. "domino theory," which stated that if one country in Southeast Asia fell to Communism then surrounding countries would also soon fall. To help prevent Vietnam from becoming a communist country, the U.S. decided to help France defeat Ho and his revolutionaries by sending the French military aid in 1950.

In 1954, after suffering a decisive defeat at Dien Bien Phu, the French decided to pull out of Vietnam. At the Geneva Conference of 1954, a number of nations met to determine how the French could peacefully withdraw. The agreement that came out of the Geneva Accords conference, creating a cease fire for the peaceful withdrawal of French forces and the temporary division of Vietnam along the 17th parallel (which split the country into communist North Vietnam and non-communist South Vietnam). In addition, a general democratic election was to be held in 1956 that would reunite the country under one government. The United States refused to agree to the election, fearing the communists might win.

With help from the United States, South Vietnam carried out the election only in South Vietnam rather than countrywide. After eliminating most of his rivals, Ngo Dinh Diem was elected. His leadership, however, proved so horrible that he was killed in 1963 during a coup supported by the United States. Since Diem had alienated many South Vietnamese during his tenure, communist sympathizers in South Vietnam established the National Liberation Front (NLF), also known as the Viet Cong, in 1960 to use guerrilla warfare against the South Vietnamese.

As the fighting between the Viet Cong and the South Vietnamese continued, the U.S. continued to send additional advisers to South Vietnam. When the North Vietnamese fired directly upon 2 U.S. ships in international waters on August 2 and 4, 1964 (known as the Gulf of Tonkin Incident), Congress responded with the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. This resolution gave the President the authority to escalate U.S. involvement in Vietnam. President Lyndon Johnson used that authority to order the first U.S. ground troops to Vietnam in March 1965.

President Johnson's goal for U.S. involvement in Vietnam was not for the U.S. to win the war, but for U.S. troops to bolster South Vietnam's defenses until South Vietnam could take over. By entering the Vietnam War without a goal to win, Johnson set the stage for future public and troop disappointment when the U.S. found themselves in a stalemate with the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong.

From 1965 to 1969, the U.S. was involved in a limited war in Vietnam. Although there were aerial bombings of the North, President Johnson wanted the fighting to be limited to South Vietnam. By limiting the fighting parameters, the U.S. forces would not conduct a serious ground assault into the North to attack the communists directly nor would there be any strong effort to disrupt the Ho Chi Minh Trail (the Viet Cong's supply path that ran through Laos and Cambodia).

U.S. troops fought a jungle war, mostly against the well-supplied Viet Cong. The Viet Cong would attack in ambushes, set up booby traps, and escape through a complex network of underground tunnels. For U.S. forces, even just finding their enemy proved difficult. Since Viet Cong hid in the dense brush, U.S. forces would drop Agent Orange or napalm bombs, which cleared an area by causing the leaves to drop off or to burn away. In every village, U.S. troops had difficulty determining which, if any, villagers were the enemy since even women and children could build booby traps or help house and feed the Viet Cong. U.S. soldiers commonly became frustrated with the fighting conditions in Vietnam. Many suffered from low morale, became angry, and some used drugs.

On January 30, 1968, the North Vietnamese surprised both the U.S. forces and the South Vietnamese by orchestrating a coordinated assault with the Viet Cong to attack about a hundred South Vietnamese cities and towns.

### **Situation on February 20, 1968:**

The fight between the North Vietnamese and the U.S/South Vietnamese forces are still continuing with the battles. The north Vietnamese are using a battle offensive known as the Tet Offensive. The U.S and the South Vietnamese forces are currently repelling the attack.

### **TimeLine:**

1930: Ho Chi Minh helped to form the Indo-Chinese Communist Party

1941: Vietminh formed to counter Japanese invasion of Vietnam

1945: Japan handed Vietnam to the Vietminh; Ho Chi Minh declared the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (September); French troops arrived back in Vietnam

1946: war broke out between the French and the Vietminh

1949: Communist China came into being allowing the Vietminh to train in China away from French attacks

1950: Truman refused to recognize the Democratic Republic of Vietnam  
Communist China + USSR did recognize Ho's state

1954: The Battle of Dien Bien Phu – Giap defeated the French force based there; a ceasefire was agreed at Geneva that split Vietnam at the 17<sup>th</sup> Parallel; France withdrew her military from Vietnam; US promises aid worth \$100 million to the anti-communist Diem

1955: The pro-American Ngo Dinh Diem became President of South Vietnam in October. America agreed to train Diem's army.

1956: Diem started to arrest anyone suspected of being in the Vietminh

1957: the Vietminh started a campaign of guerrilla warfare in South Vietnam

1959: American military advisors were killed in Vietnam – the first US casualties; the Ho Chi Minh Trail was first used

1960: the National Liberation Front (NLF) was formed in Hanoi though in the South, they were known as the Vietcong (VC)

1961: US President Kennedy pledged extra aid to South Vietnam

1962: The number of US military advisors increased from 700 to 12,000

1963: President Diem was killed in a military coup  
15,000 US military advisors were in South Vietnam

1964: the Gulf of Tonkin incident; Congress passed the 'Gulf of Tonkin Resolution'; America bombs targets in North Vietnam; NLF attacked US air bases

1965: 'Operation Rolling Thunder' started; first US combat troops were sent to Vietnam in March; by the end of the year there were 200,000 US troops there; first major conventional clash between USA and NVA at Ia Drang

1966: 400,000 US troops were in Vietnam

1967: 490,000 US troops in Vietnam; Nguyen Van Thieu became President of South Vietnam

1968: Tet Offensive; demonstrations against the war started in America; My Lai massacre; peace talks began in Paris; 540,000 US troops in Vietnam

### **Parties Involved:**

#### **U.S.A**

U.S.A's main objective is to stop the spread of communism. They are now currently supporting South Vietnam against the offensive tactic of the North Vietnamese

#### **South Vietnam**

South Vietnam is currently the war zone and the capitalist supporter of U.S.A. They are supporting the US because their forces are increasing the defenses of the country and giving them aid until they can take over.

#### **North Vietnam**

North Vietnam is using their "Tet Offensive" Tactic against the U.S./South Vietnam Forces, gaining the upper hand. They are strong supporters of communism and also have supplies due to the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

### **Previous Attempts:**

Conferences that were held to resolve the issue :

- 1) Geneva Conference of 1954: a number of nations met to determine how the French could peacefully withdraw and agreed on the partition of the
- 2) U.S Congress and Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964: This resolution gave the President the authority to escalate U.S. involvement in Vietnam. President



Lyndon Johnson used that authority to order the first U.S. ground troops to Vietnam in March 1965

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*The debate of this topic will be the stimulation of a conference on February 20, 1968. All future events of this situation after this point will be not be mentioned ,though it is recommended to know about them. The point of the conference if to find a peaceful solution to end the war and reunify the country if possible.*