

E-Content Resources in History (Secondary stage)

Resource 2

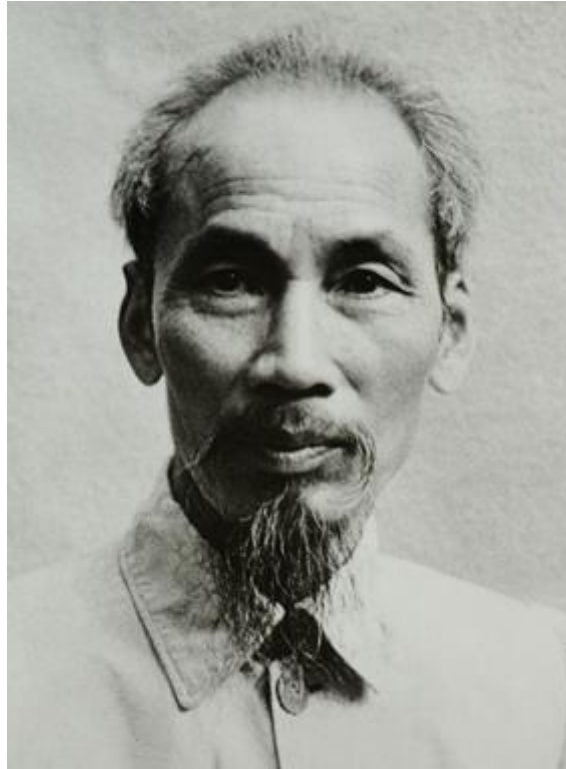
| S.No. | AREA OF META DATA | CONTENT |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | THEME | US VIETNAM WAR |
| 2 | SUBJECT | HISTORY |
| 3 | LINKAGE OF THEME WITH CHAPTERS (NAME) | INDO-CHINA |
| 4 | CLASS/LEVEL | X |
| 5 | OBJECTIVES | To make the reader aware of the U.S. interference in Vietnam |
| 6 | DESCRIPTION | The U.S. drive of democratisation backfired when the North Vietnamese forces against which it was fighting, performed exceptionally well using the limited resources available to it at the best of its capability. |
| 7 | KEY WORDS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• US• Vietnam• Domino theory• Biological weapons• Tet offensive• International Condemnation |
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| 10 | CIET COORDINATOR | |

The Vietnam War



<https://www.google.co.in/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiYidKk-qTPAhUCJZQKHf4fCb4QjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.flickr.com%2Fphotos%2F13476480%40N07%2F15747466870&psig=AFQjCNGtZNfigVmny93sH1-le5gWCmNosw&ust=1474701547831556>

The Vietnam War was not only one of the most bloody arenas of the Cold War, but it turned out to be the biggest mistake that the US could have made in its pro-democracy drive. It was fought between the communist regime in North Vietnam accompanied by its southern allies, collectively known as Viet Cong and Southern Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States.



Ho Chi Minh

https://www.google.co.in/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwimzq3ti6XPAhXBk5QKHd1FA0UQjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FHo_Chi_Minh&psig=AFQjCNFiLkdQkRKDgC-GkH9KhBFvijn6Q&ust=1474706462530956

Roots of the war...

Vietnam which had already been a French colony since the late 19th century, was invaded and occupied by Japan, during World War II.

Ho Chi Minh, inspired by Chinese and Soviet Communism formed Viet Minh or the League for the Independence of Vietnam that fought against French and Japanese accession.

Japan left in 1945, leaving French-educated puppet Emperor Bao Dai in control who faced an uprising from Minh's side which captured Hanoi in the north and declared a Democratic Republic of Vietnam.



Emperor Bao Dai

<https://www.google.co.in/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjy1qqnjKXPAhVInZQKHWNLDRIQjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.flickr.com%2Fphotos%2F13476480%40N07%2F10240779536&psig=AFQjCNG4xAwplZ4qnZT-dznP2cDcDz0HRQ&ust=1474706586697135>

French forces however seeking to get back to control, immediately backed Bao and a civil war broke out which ended in 1954 with French defeat in Dien Bien Phu and the splitting of Vietnam into North Vietnam (with Ho in control) and South Vietnam (with Bao in control).

Although elections were about to be held, Ngo Dinh Diem, a strongly anti-communist leader pushed Bao aside and became the President.



Ngo Dinh Diem

https://www.google.co.in/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiUolzhjaXPAhXLopQKHfMA9AQjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2Fngo_Dinh_Diem&psig=AFQjCNEVf90sPjTl3pT-pLsLCVldN7iqDw&ust=1474706968293814

Anyone seen to be even in mild support of communism was convicted as a part of Viet Cong (or Vietnamese Communist), captured and subsequently executed.

A body of communist and non- communist protesters formed a National Liberation Front that started gaining control around.

U.S. Involvement in the war

The U.S. was working on a 'domino' theory according to which one country becoming communist in the South East Asia could lead to several other countries following the path.

Thus it began by extending support in the form of training and equipments to Diem's forces. However, on realising that Diem's forces were still about to be defeated, John F. Kennedy started sending troops to Vietnam as well.



John F. Kennedy

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5e/John_F._Kennedy,_White_House_photo_portrait,_looking_up.jpg

Escalating of the War



Lyndon B. Johnson

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c3/37_Lyndon_Johnson_3x4.jpg

Diem was assassinated in a coup in November, 1963, three weeks before Kennedy was assassinated.

Kennedy's successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, decided to increase military and economic support to South Vietnamese forces.

In March, 1965, Johnson decided to send the U.S. combat forces to Vietnam and the number of troops increased infinitesimally. The US forces were following the policy of attrition, i.e. killing as many troops as possible rather than defending the Southern territories.

However the Viet Cong's retaliation was commendable since they succeeded in causing as many as 500,000 casualties in the U.S. army.

They were receiving support from the U.S.S.R. to a limited extent, thus converting Vietnam into yet another arena of the Cold War.



The Tet Offensive

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f1/Cholon_after_Tet_Offensive_operations_1968.jpg

Moreover the U.S. public began protesting against the prolongation of the war.

In March, 1968, Johnson, however, was realising that the war was turning out to be way too costly, especially after a big blow from Vietnam (the Tet Offensive) and he decided to start peace talks.

The End

The US started making efforts to bring an end to the war, or rather the US involvement in the war by the Vietnamisation, focussing on aerial bombing and war and a gradual withdrawal of troops began, so as to reduce American casualties.



Aerial warfare strategy as a part of Vietnamisation

https://c2.staticflickr.com/2/1567/23857317099_1697e1e2d6_b.jpg

However, after a series of unsuccessful offensives by both the US and Hanoi, the war ended on 30 April, 1975, with the DRV forces capturing Saigon, and renaming it as the Ho Chi Minh city.

The war led to the death of 2 million Vietnamese, 3 million casualties and about 12 million Vietnamese refugees.

As far as the US was concerned, it faced a dual shock of economic crisis, with about \$120 billion spent, and a loud piercing of the myth of American invincibility.

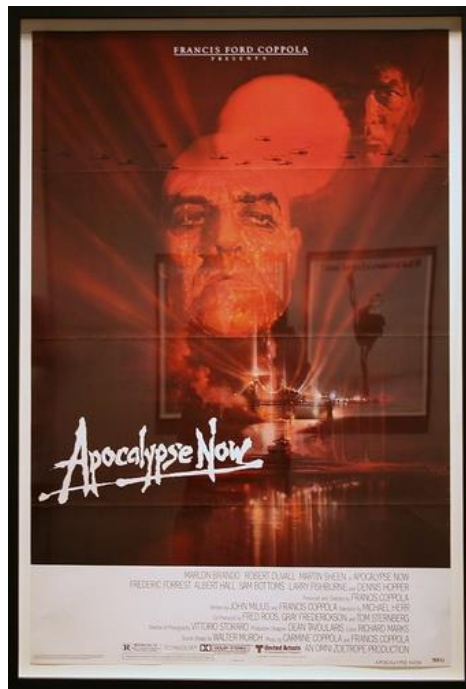


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Sai Gon Today...



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Theatrical release poster of 'Apocalypse Now', an American movie based on the ill impacts of the Vietnam War

https://c3.staticflickr.com/4/3011/2869509074_8575e7b8ba.jpg



A U.S. B-66 Destroyer and four F-105 Thunder chiefs dropping bombs on North Vietnam during Operation Rolling Thunder

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3c/Bombing_in_Vietnam.jpg



Vietnam War protesters. Wichita, Kansas, 1967

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/39/Vietnam_War_protesters._1967._Wichita,_Kans_-_NARA_-_283625.jpg



The American recruiting strategy focussed on selecting and sometimes coercing people from lower classes like the blacks and the economically backward sections

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1d/Unclesamwantyou.jpg>

An audio video clip

blob:<https://www.youtube.com/97632449-107b-483c-82e0-f02dd9c0ad63>

John Kerry gets emotional speaking about Vietnam



Oh no! My country expects me to give up on my life and join the army. I don't want to go away and die! I won't go!

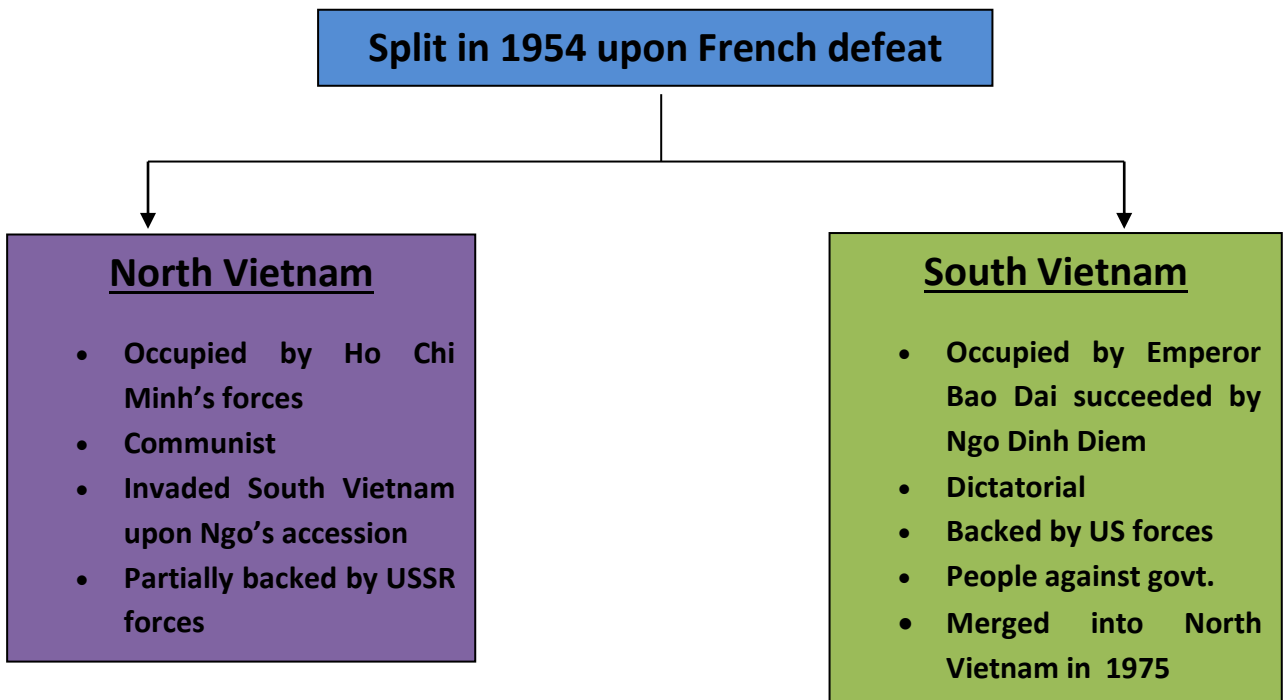
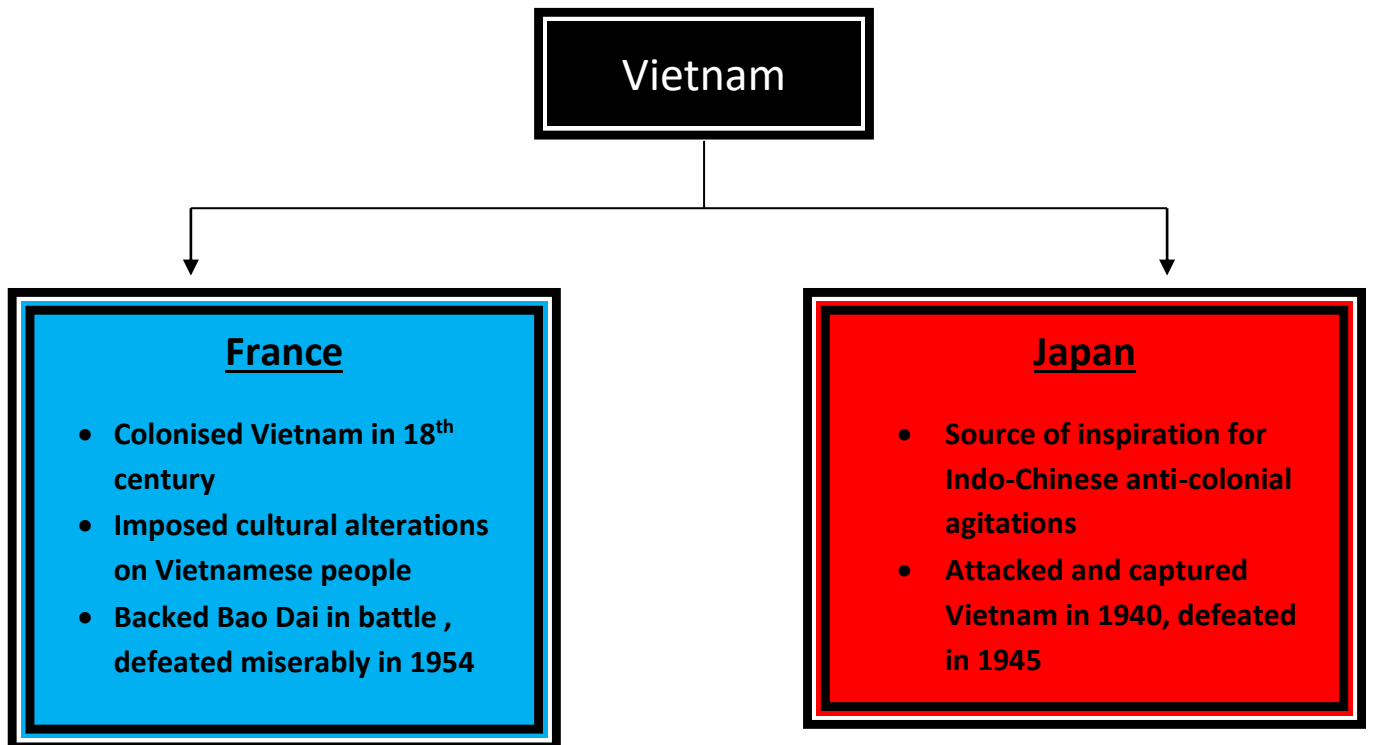
An American Lad



A Vietnamese Lad

You at least have a choice... even if I don't join the army, I'll probably die during the routine

U.S. Vietnam War



Arena of War

USSR Involvement

- Minor support to North Vietnam militarily
- Inspired Ho Chi Minh and other communists

US Involvement

- Involved in order to stop North Vietnam (communist) from making advances as a part of its pro-democracy drive
- Huge military investments made
- Supported South Vietnam
- Suffered huge losses both economic and in terms of human life
- War ended in 1975 with no side as a clear winner

US public opinion

FOR

- Justified on grounds of assault of South Vietnamese civilians

AGAINST

- Criticised for hypocrisy of supporting a dictatorial state, use of biological weapons, socially differentiating recruiting policy and drug indulgence of recruited personnel in Vietnam

QUIZ

Q.1. Who was the leader of South Vietnam in theory and a puppet emperor of the French in reality?

A. Emperor Bao Dai

Q.2. Name the bomb dropping which was a part of the US herbicidal warfare programme.

A. Agent Orange

Q.3. Name the three operations commenced by the US upon the attack on a U.S. marine barracks at Pleiku.

A. Operation Flaming Dart, Operation Rolling Thunder and Operation Arc Light

Q.4. Which U.S. President put forward the Vietnamisation plan?

A. President Richard Nixon

Q.5. As a result of which party's decision in North Korea did the country sent a squadron to back the North Vietnamese forces?

A. Korean Workers' Party