

17 – The Vietnam War

Essential Content: U.S. History, February 2009

The United States and the Soviet Union fought a proxy war in Vietnam from 1964 to 1975. Although the Vietnam War ended in an American retreat, it localized Cold War tensions for a decade.

Textbook Chapter 22. California State Standard 11.9. **Test Thursday, March 12.**

Learning Targets – Basic, essential information	Additional Basic	Proficient	Exemplary
1. France claimed Indochina as a sphere of influence during colonial era. Then Japan occupied Southeast Asia during WW Two. (pp. 730-731)	French reoccupied Vietnam after WW II.	Japanese slogan: “Asia for Asians.”	Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam Hmong people of Laos
2. War of national liberation, led by Vietnamese communist forces aided by Red China, drove French out of Vietnam in 1954. (pp. 731-732)	battle of Dien Bien Phu	U.N. partition of Indochina at 17 th N. parallel	
3. South Vietnam was controlled by nationalist businessmen, while North Vietnam was governed by communist party. (pp. 732-734)	Ho Chi Minh	Ngo Dinh Diem	Buddhist protests
4. Eisenhower, extending the policy of containment with Domino Theory, provided economic and military aid to South Vietnamese. (pp. 731-734)	U.S. supports Diem, opposed Ho	communists form Viet Cong	John Foster Dulles
5. The Kennedy administration provided military advisers as well as increasing military aid to South Vietnamese. (pp. 732-734)	Ho Chi Minh trail	Diem assassination	
6. Following the Gulf of Tonkin incident, August 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson pursued a huge escalation of U.S. forces and troops. (pp. 734-737)	Gulf of Tonkin Congressional Resolution	Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara.	
7. Faced with asymmetrical guerilla warfare, U.S. and South Vietnamese forces attempted to fight a war of attrition. (pp. 736-740)	Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) North Vietnam Army (NVA)	Napalm, agent orange, body counts search-and-destroy missions	“Light at the end of the tunnel,” General Westmoreland
8. Although U.S. citizens initially supported Vietnam War, rising soldier deaths and wartime budgets led to declining support. (pp. 739-742)	media coverage – the “living room war”	Fulbright hearings reveal “credibility gap”	
9. Escalating war led to protests, mostly by university students, in 1967. African Americans were drafted and died in disproportionate numbers. (742-747)	Selective Service adopts draft lottery	hawks and doves	Students for a Democratic Society.
10. When the Viet Cong and NVA staged the Tet Offensive on Jan. 31, 1968, American public opinion turned against the Vietnam War. (pp. 748-751)	Johnson withdraws from 1968 Presidential election	King and Kennedy assassinations	
11. Richard Nixon defeated Hubert Humphrey in the election of 1968. (751-753)	Chicago convention		George Wallace – American Independent Party
12. President Nixon pursued policy called “Peace with Honor.” While withdrawing American ground forces, Nixon expanded the air war into Cambodia and Laos. U.S. signed peace treaty with North Vietnam in 1973. (pp. 754-759)	Vietnamization the Silent Majority Fall of Saigon, 1975	Henry Kissinger Kent State, 1970 Pentagon Papers, 1971	1971 My Lai trial Jackson State shooting
13. Vietnam legacy – 58,000 dead, 303,000 wounded. The United States adopted a more cautious, isolationist foreign policy. (pp. 758-763)	Prisoner of War issue	War Powers Act, 1973 Vietnamese boat people	Killing Fields of Cambodia Hmong refugees from Laos