

CHAPTER 22 Section 1 (pages 730–735)

Moving Toward Conflict

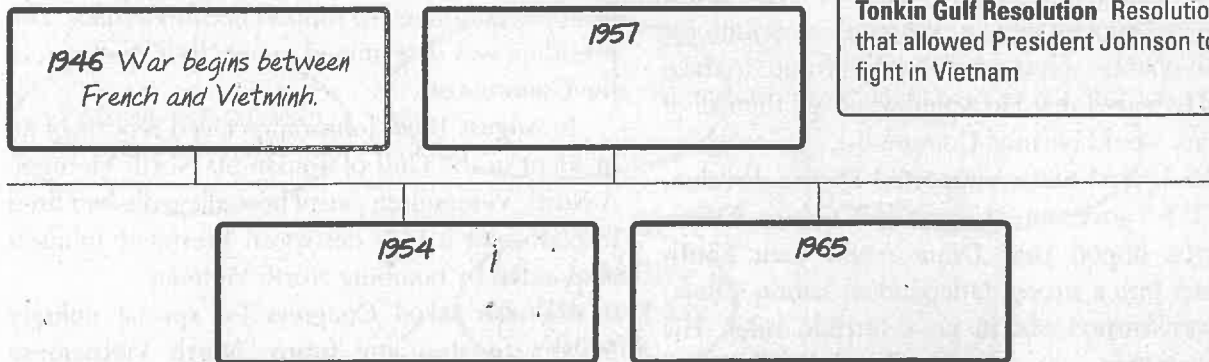
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the legacy of the civil rights movement.

In this section, you will read how the United States became involved in Vietnam.

AS YOU READ

Use the diagram below to take notes on the important Vietnam-related events during the following years.



TERMS AND NAMES

Ho Chi Minh Leader of North Vietnam

Vietminh Communist group led by Ho Chi Minh

domino theory Eisenhower's explanation for stopping communism

Dien Bien Phu Major French outpost captured by the Vietminh

Geneva Accords Peace agreement that split Vietnam in two

Ngo Dinh Diem Leader of South Vietnam

Vietcong Communist rebel group in South Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh Trail Network of paths running between North and South Vietnam

Tonkin Gulf Resolution Resolution that allowed President Johnson to fight in Vietnam

America Supports France in Vietnam

(pages 730–732)

Why did the U.S. get involved?

Vietnam is a long, thin country on a *peninsula* in southeast Asia. From the late 1800s until World War II, France ruled Vietnam. The French treated the Vietnamese badly. As a result, the Vietnamese often rebelled. The Communist Party in Vietnam organized many of the rebellions. The group's leader was **Ho Chi Minh**.

In 1941, Japan conquered Vietnam. That year, the Vietnamese Communists combined with other groups to form an organization called the **Vietminh**. The Vietminh's goal was to achieve independence for Vietnam. In 1945, Japan was defeated in World War II. As a result, the Japanese left Vietnam. The Vietminh claimed independence for Vietnam.

However, France wanted to retake control of Vietnam. French troops moved back into the country in 1946. They conquered the southern half of Vietnam. The Vietminh took control of the North. For the next eight years, the two sides fought for control of the entire country.

The United States supported France during the war. America considered the Vietminh to be Communists. The United States, like other western nations, was determined to stop the spread of communism. President Eisenhower explained his country's policy with what became known as the **domino theory**. Eisenhower compared many of the world's smaller nations to dominoes. If one nation fell to communism, the rest also would fall.

The Vietminh defeated the French. The final blow came in 1954. That year, the Vietminh conquered the large French outpost at **Dien Bien Phu**.

Several countries met with the French and the Vietnam to negotiate a peace agreement. The agreement was known as the **Geneva Accords**. It temporarily split Vietnam in half. The Communist controlled North Vietnam. The anti-Communist nationalists controlled South Vietnam. The peace agreement called for an election to unify the country in 1956.

1. For what reason did the United States support France in the war?

John Kennedy became president after Eisenhower continued America's policy of supporting South Vietnam. He, like Eisenhower, did not want to see the Communists take over Vietnam.

Meanwhile, Diem's government grew more *unstable*. The Vietcong rebels were gaining greater support among the peasants. The Kennedy administration decided that Diem had to step down. In 1957, a rebel group had formed in the South. The group was known as the **Vietcong**. It fought against Diem's rule. Ho Chi Minh supported the Vietcong from the North. He supplied arms to the group along a network of paths that ran between North and South Vietnam. Together, these paths became known as the **Ho Chi Minh Trail**.

By 1964, Johnson received reports of an incident in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam. A North Vietnamese patrol boat allegedly had fired torpedoes at a U.S. destroyer. President Johnson responded by bombing North Vietnam.

He also asked Congress for special military powers to stop any future North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces. As a result, Congress passed the **Tonkin Gulf Resolution**. The resolution granted Johnson broad military powers in Vietnam. In February 1965, President Johnson used his new power. He launched a major bombing attack on North Vietnam's cities.

He feared that Ho would win. And then all of Vietnam would become Communist.

The United States supported Diem's decision. The U.S. government provided aid to Diem. America hoped that Diem could turn South Vietnam into a strong, independent nation. Diem, however, turned out to be a terrible ruler. His administration was *corrupt*. He also refused to allow opposing views.

Ho Chi Minh ruled North Vietnam. **Ngo Dinh Diem** led South Vietnam. When it came time for the all-country elections, Diem refused to take part. He feared that Ho would win. And then all of Vietnam would become Communist.

Who were the Vietcong?

The United States Steps In

(pages 732-734)

3. What did the Tonkin Gulf Resolution grant President Johnson?

In August 1964, Johnson received reports of an incident in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam. A North Vietnamese patrol boat allegedly had fired torpedoes at a U.S. destroyer. President Johnson responded by bombing North Vietnam.

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Each one failed to bring stability. Johnson, however, continued to support South Vietnam. The president was determined to not "lose" Vietnam to the Communists.

Two months later, Kennedy himself was assassinated. Lyndon Johnson became president. The growing crisis in Vietnam was now his.

Who were the Vietcong fighting?

President Johnson Expands the Conflict

(pages 734-735)

What was the Tonkin Gulf Resolution?

CHAPTER 22 Section 2 (pages 736–741)

U.S. Involvement and Escalation

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read how the United States became involved in Vietnam.

In this section, you will read about the war America fought in Vietnam.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on why the United States had trouble fighting the Vietcong.



TERMS AND NAMES

Robert McNamara Secretary of defense under Johnson

Dean Rusk Secretary of state under Johnson

William Westmoreland Commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam

Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) The South Vietnamese military forces

napalm Gasoline-based explosive

Agent Orange Chemical that destroyed jungle land

search-and-destroy mission Tactic in which U.S. troops destroyed Vietnamese villages

credibility gap Situation in which the U.S. public no longer believed the Johnson administration

Johnson Increases U.S. Involvement

(pages 736–737)

Who supported Johnson's decision to send U.S. troops to Vietnam?

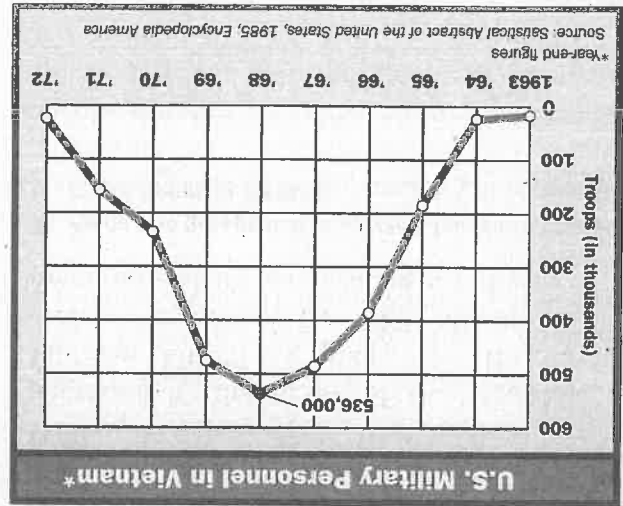
In 1965, Johnson began sending U.S. troops to Vietnam to fight the Vietcong. Some of Johnson's advisers had opposed this move. They argued it was too dangerous.

But most of the president's advisers supported sending in troops. They included Secretary of Defense **Robert McNamara** and Secretary of State **Dean Rusk**. These men believed that America had to help defeat communism in Vietnam. Otherwise, the Communists might try to take over other countries.

Much of the public also agreed with Johnson's decision. Many Americans believed in stopping the spread of communism.

By the end of 1965, the United States had sent more than 180,000 troops to Vietnam. The American commander in South Vietnam was General **William Westmoreland**. Westmoreland was not impressed by the **Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)** as a fighting force. He asked for even more troops. By 1967, almost 500,000 American soldiers were fighting in Vietnam.

1: Name two groups that supported Johnson's decision to use troops in Vietnam.



Skillbuilder

Use the graph to answer the questions.

1. What year saw the largest number of U.S. forces in Vietnam?
2. Between which two years was there a dramatic drop in the number U.S. troops in Vietnam?

morale of American soldiers to sink. Soldiers
The frustrations of fighting the war caused the
villages they believed supported the Vietnam.

missions. During these missions, soldiers destroyed
against them by conducting **search-and-destroy**
American soldiers also turned the peasants
weapons wounded villagers and ruined villages.

that destroyed the landscape. Both of these
Agent Orange. This was a leaf-killing chemical
Vietcong tunnels and hideouts. They also sprayed
that set fire to the jungle. They did this to expose
planes dropped **napalm**, a gasoline-based bomb
hurting the peasants as well. For example, U.S.
ants. In fighting the Vietnam, U.S. troops ended up
inability to win the support of the Vietnamese peas-

The third factor was the American troops
continued to fight on.
surrender. Throughout the war, the Vietnam suf-
fered many battlefield deaths. However, they con-
The second factor was the Vietnam's refusal to
troops.

of tunnels. These tactics frustrated the American
disappeared into the jungle or an elaborate system
Vietcong struck quickly in small groups. They then
result, they used hit-and-run *ambush* tactics. The
The Vietnam did not have advanced weapons. As a
The first factor was the Vietnam's fighting style.

into a bloody *stalemate*.
Vietcong. However, several factors turned the war
The United States believed that its superior
weaponry would lead to a quick victory over the

Why did the war drag on?

(pages 738-740)

2. Name two reasons why the U.S. failed to score a quick victory against the Vietnam.

endured great hardships, especially prisoners of war captured by the North Vietnamese.

How did the war affect Johnson's domestic programs?

(pages 740-741)

The Early War at Home

The number of U.S. troops in Vietnam continued to increase. So did the cost of the war. As a result, the nation's economy began to suffer. In order to pay for the war, President Johnson had to cut spending for his Great Society programs.

By 1967, many Americans still supported the war. However, the images of the war on television began to change that. The Johnson administration told the American people that the war was going well. But television told the opposite story. Each night, Americans watched the brutal scenes of the war on their television screens. This led to a **credibility gap** in the Johnson administration. A growing number of people no longer believed what the president was saying.

3. How did the war affect Johnson's Great Society?

CHAPTER 22 Section 3 (pages 742–747)

A Nation Divided

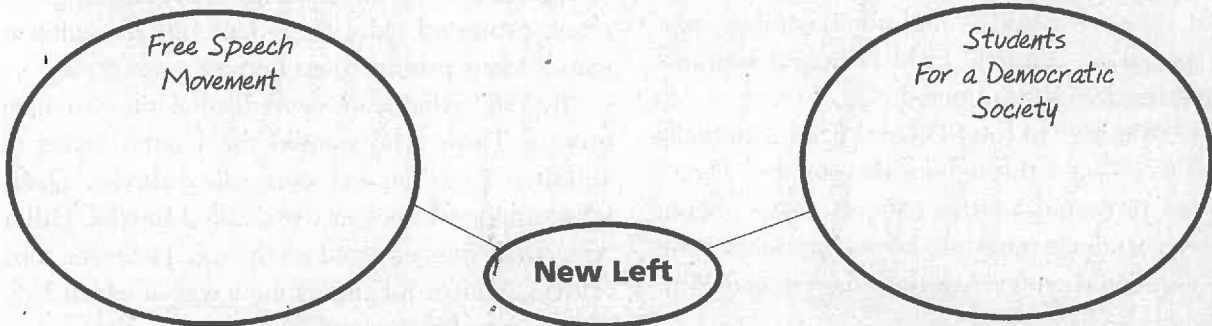
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about America's war effort in Vietnam.

In this section, you will read about how the United States became divided over the war in Vietnam.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the beliefs and actions of the New Left organizations.



TERMS AND NAMES

draft System for calling people to military service

New Left Name given to the youth movement of the 1960s

Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) Prominent group of the New Left

Free Speech Movement New Left group that attacked business and government

dove American individual who called for America to withdraw from Vietnam

hawk American individual who supported the war effort

The Working Class Goes to War

(pages 742–744)

Who fought the war?

Most soldiers who fought in Vietnam were called into combat under the country's Selective Service System, or **draft**. Because the war was growing unpopular, thousands of men tried to avoid the draft.

One of the most common ways to avoid the draft was to attend college. Most men enrolled in a university could put off their military service.

Many university students during the 1960s were white and financially well-off. As a result, a large number who fought in Vietnam were lower-class whites or minorities. Nearly 80 percent of American soldiers came from lower economic levels. Thus, Vietnam was known as a working-class war.

Early on, a high number of African Americans served and died in Vietnam. During the first sever-

al years of the war, 20 percent of American soldiers killed were black. Blacks, however, made up only about 10 percent of the U.S. population. This situation prompted protests from many civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Many African-American soldiers also endured racism within their units.

The U.S. military in the 1960s did not allow women to serve in combat. However, nearly 10,000 women served in Vietnam as army and navy nurses. Thousands more volunteered in the American Red Cross and the United Services Organization (USO). This organization provided entertainment to the troops.

1. Name two groups of Americans who did most of the fighting early on in Vietnam.



A parody of a U.S. World War I poster.
Credit: Peter Newark's American Pictures

Skillbuilder

Use this cartoon to answer the questions.

1. Who is the person pictured on the poster?

2. Which group do you think designed it, the hawks or the doves?

The Roots of Opposition

(pages 744-745)

What were the New Left groups?

By the 1960s, American college students had become politically active. The growing youth movement of the 1960s was known as the **New Left**. The group took its name from the "old" left of the 1930s. That movement had tried to push the nation toward socialism. The New Left did not call for socialism. However, it did demand sweeping changes in American society.

One of the better known New Left groups was **Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)**. This organization called for greater individual freedom in America.

Another New Left group was the **Free Speech Movement (FSM)**. This group was formed at the University of California at Berkeley. It grew out of a fight between students and administrators over free speech on campus. FSM criticized business and government institutions.

The strategies of the SDS and FSM eventually spread to colleges throughout the country. There, however, students around the nation found one issue they could protest together: the Vietnam War.

2. Name two New Left groups.

The Protest Movement Emerges

(pages 745-747)

How did the hawks and doves differ?

Across America, college students rose up in protest against the war. They did so for various reasons. The most common reason was that the conflict in Vietnam was a civil war between the North and South. Thus, the United States had no business being there. Others believed that the war kept America from focusing on other parts of the world. Still others saw the war as morally unjust.

In April 1965, SDS helped organize a march on Washington, D.C. About 20,000 protesters participated. In November 1965, a protest rally in Washington drew about 30,000 protesters. Eventually, the antiwar movement reached beyond college campuses. Small numbers of returning veterans protested. Musicians took up the antiwar cause. Many protest songs became popular.

By 1967, Americans were divided into two main groups. Those who wanted the United States to withdraw from the war were called **doves**. Those who supported the war were called **hawks**. Other Americans took no stand on the war. However, they criticized doves for protesting a war in which U.S. troops were fighting and dying.

3. Briefly explain the positions of the hawks and doves.