

Cold War Crises

Eisenhower eases American fears

The Vietnam Crisis

- 1886: France gains control
- 1941: Viet Minh (Independence League) est. by Ho Chi Minh
- Declares independence August 1945
- War begins (1946)
- Truman ignores Vietnam; France is ally
- Chinese Communist Revolution; Korean War; SU recognizes Ho Chi Minh
- U.S. recognizes Bao Dai (French backed), gives \$3 billion
- 1954: Viet Minh wins at battle of Dien Bien Phu (1954); Geneva Accords splits country in two regions; U.S. backs democratic leader Ngo Dinh Diem in S. Vietnam

Eisenhower's Domino Theory

- 1953: National Security Council warns that Vietnam is critical to U.S. security
- Eisenhower warns that if Vietnam falls, the rest of Indochina (Laos, Cambodia, etc.) would fall

Cuba and Latin America

- Guatemala: 1954 Eisenhower oversees overthrow of Jacobo Arbenz, democratically elected president (land reforms threatened United Fruit, a US company)
- Cuba: 1959 Fidel Castro overthrows US backed Batista, begins land reform that threatens American investments
 - Authorizes Bay of Pigs operation to overthrow Castro (JFK will carry out in 1961)

Conflict in the Middle East

- 1953: CIA engineers a coup to overthrow Mohamed Reza Pahlevi to protect U.S. oil interests in Iran (Operation Ajax)
- Egypt and the Suez canal: President Nasser wants to build a dam on the Nile River; US offers aid (Dulles) but repeals when communist ties come to light; nationalizes the Suez Canal (owned by Brits/France); Brit and France attack; Eisenhower plans to stay out and not offer oil

Eisenhower Doctrine

- Pledge military/economic aid to Middle Eastern nations threatened by Communists gov.

Space Race/Arms Race

- 1955: Geneva Summit Conference (US and Khrushchev)
- Brinkmanship/MAD: both countries have ICBMs by 1960s; “massive retaliation” (Dulles) Eisenhower admin supports FCDA in distributing literature about how to protect yourself from an attack
- 1957: Soviets launch Sputnik; Ike est. NASA (1958)
- 1958: US/SU agree to suspend nuclear testing
- U2 Incident: 1960 U.S. spy plane shot down in Russia; Ike assumes responsibility