

VIETNAM WAR



BEFORE THE WAR



KEY PLAYERS

- ✘ Ho Chi Minh-Western educated Nationalist leader of North Vietnam who fought Japanese, French, eventually US
- ✘ Ngo Dinh Diem-US backed leader of South Vietnam
- ✘ Geneva Accord 1954 agreed to hold unification elections
- ✘ Truman & Eisenhower send military advisors to shore up D. against guerilla attacks (domino theory)

“We have a
secret
weapon...it is
called
Nationalism”



HO CHI MINH

KEY EVENTS

- ✘ By 1963 K. increased American troops to 16,300 supporting D. despite his increasing repression of his people, esp. Buddhists
- ✘ Gulf of Tonkin Resolution-gave Johnson power to provide all necessary steps to assist S. Vietnam
- ✘ End of J. administration 536,000 troops under Gen. Westmoreland

CONTINUED

- ✘ National Mobilization Committee to End the War- 100,000 antiwar protesters in 1967
- ✘ Tet Offensive occurs in 1968 despite government assurances of American invincibility and success

My Lai Massacre enrages & disillusions



KEY EVENTS CONTINUED

Johnson
disillusioned
& chose not to
seek re-
election



KEY EVENTS CONTINUED

CONTINUED

- ✘ Nixon's Plan-Vietnamization (gradually turn the fighting over to S. Vietnamese); bombing N. Vietnam to the peace table

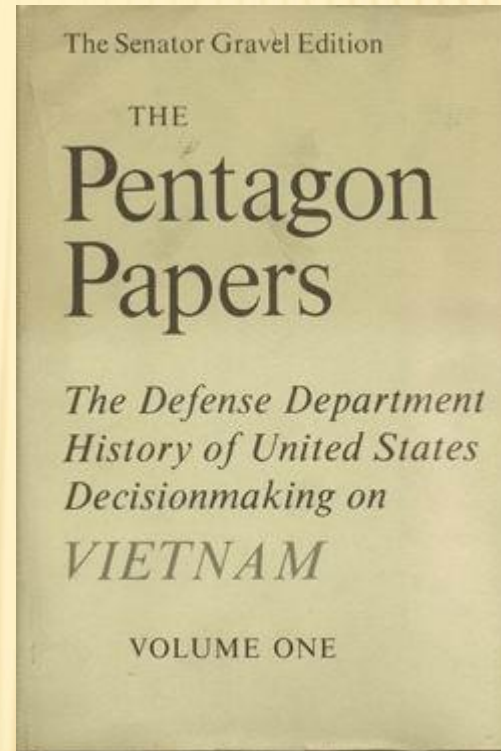


Kent State-at an
anti-Cambodia
bombing protest
four student
protesters killed
by National
Guard



KEY EVENTS CONTINUED

Pentagon Papers-
Daniel Ellsberg's
leak in Time
confirmed
blunders &
deceptions of K. &
J. administrations



KEY EVENTS CONTINUED

WAR ENDS

- ✘ Nixon called the “cease-fire” in 1973 a “peace with honor” which allowed rapid and critics claimed shameful retreat from Saigon
- ✘ 560 American prisoners of war were returned
- ✘ Elections were to be held
- ✘ N. Vietnamese soldiers remained in S. Vietnam

RETREAT FROM SAIGON-1975



CORBIS/Bettmann

Evacuees are helped aboard an Air America helicopter perched atop a Saigon building on April 29, 1975. The evacuation site was one of many from which Americans and foreign nationals were evacuated to waiting Navy ships.