

Vietnam and the Vietnam War



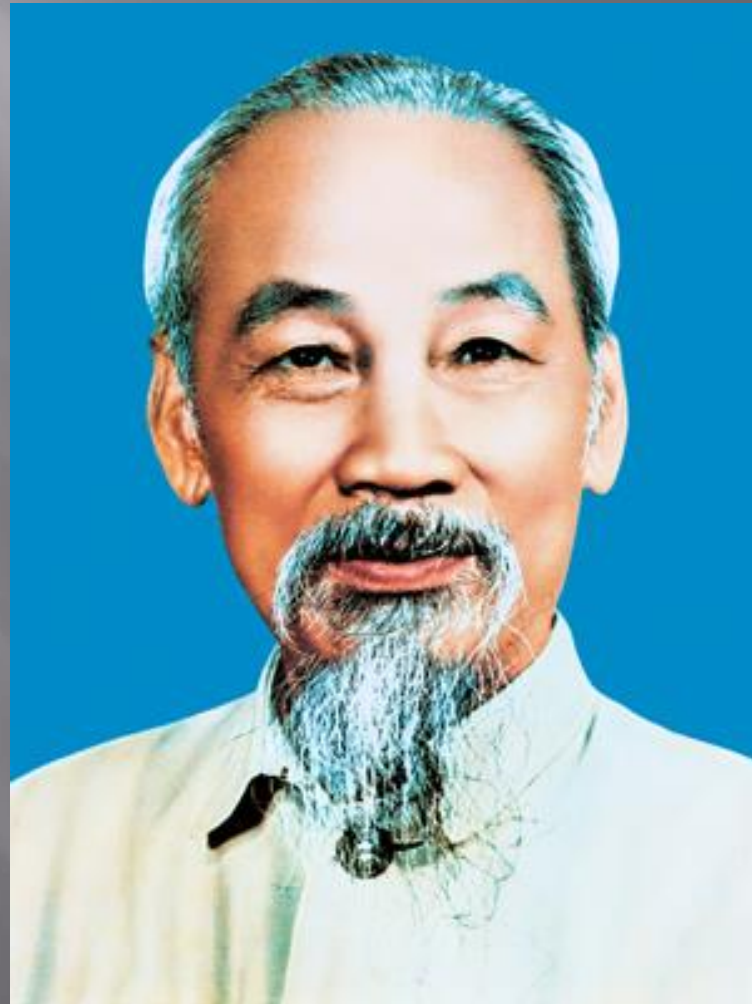
Geography of Vietnam



Indochina



Ho Chi Minh



Battle of Dien Bien Phu



Ngo Dinh Diem



1963-Buddhist monk's suicide



Gulf of Tonkin-*USS Maddox*



General William Westmoreland



Tet Offensive-Jan. 30, 1968



American soldiers-Tet Offensive



Vietnam- the first “television war”



“My Lai Massacre”-Mar. 16, 1968



THE DRAFT

-Selective Service System

-system was easily
manipulated

-deferments

-the lottery: a change from
the “draft the oldest man
first” method



Avoiding the War

- ▣ Medical/college deferments
- ▣ Looked for lenient draft boards
- ▣ Joined National Guard or Coast Guard
- ▣ Enrolled in college
 - A “working-class” war

A Divided Nation

HAWKS

Felt very strongly that America should use even more military force to win the war

DOVES

Strongly opposed the war & believed the U.S. should withdraw from Vietnam

-the **NEW LEFT**

-**SDS (Students for a Democr. Society)**

-**FSM (Free Speech Movement)**



America
Love It or Leave It

The Vietnam Lottery

December 1, 1969

- Highest number called was 195
- all men who were classified 1-A or 1-A-O were called upon for possible induction

The Vietnam Lottery

July 1, 1970

125

The Vietnam Lottery

1972

95

The Vietnam Lottery

1973

This lottery was conducted for men who would have been called in 1973; however no new draft orders were issued after 1972

Vietnamization



Ho Chi Minh Trail



Kent State



Last U.S. troops leave Vietnam- March 29, 1973



Fall of Saigon-April 30, 1975





Lessons of the Vietnam War

- some Americans believed in the “Vietnam Syndrome”: the nation’s reluctance in the wake of Vietnam to take decisive action overseas
- others believe the memory of Vietnam should keep the U.S. cautious about entering another war

Military Lessons

- some say the military's hands were tied by politicians and the U.S. could have won with more firepower early in the war
- others say America won every major battle, yet did not win the war
 - U.S. lacked a clear overall strategy & in any case could not crush the will of the North Vietnamese & the Viet Cong

Political & Moral Lessons

- look carefully at the implications of alliances
- be careful about trusting government statements
- only Congress can declare war
 - War Powers Act (1973)