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**THE ORIGINS AND CONSEQUENCES OF
AMERICAN –VIETNAMES WAR**

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Dedication

I didicate this modest work to my dear parents who provided me with the psychological and material comfort and to my sisters and brothers.

I also dedicate this work and give special thanks to all my friends, youssra, imane reguigue,ahlem loas, asma bouzwina ,ait abdelkader msouda, safia Kaddour guettaoui ,souaad snouci, hama sihem, bochra,marwa, ghaniya, mahjouba,asma ben omrane,dalale,chahra, karima,malika,karimasegh,aicha zaoui,aicha sgh,karima zehaf, ilhem meftah,

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Abstract

Abstract

The history of America made it the most powerful and great nation since it ever was discovered. In a way it has a strong political system as well as military reinforcements that made it win several wars a long time ago. This, however, would reveal one of the most historical events that contributed in letting America have partial position in the world. The Vietnam war, took a very long period, from 1944 till 1973. Moreover, many events can be summarized throughout the Vietnam war, thus the aim of this research is to reveal the causes of this war, and how America is considered as a powerful country, yet eventually failed in this war. Another aim is to shed light on the impact of this war on the Americans. Additionally, the research questions aimed to clarify the intention of the war on people's life. I.e. both the Vietnamese and the Americans, The present research is divided into three chapters; the first one is a historical background of the empire of Vietnam in ruling other nations. As far as the second chapter is concerned, the origins of American involvement are approached whereas the third chapter highlights the consequences, and lesson of America in the Vietnam War.

: America, Vietnam, War, Military, Causes, impact, lessons

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List of Acronyms

AD	Year Of The Lord (Anno Domini)
ARVW	Army of The Republic of Vietnam
BC:	Before Christ
DRV:	Democratic Republic of Vietnam
FDR:	Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Jfk :	John Fitzgerald Kennedy
MAAG:	Military Advisory Group
NATO :	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Nva :	North Vietnamese
Nlf:	National Libretion Front
S.U :	Soviet Union
U.S.A :	United State of America
Ussr:	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

General Introduction

America as a big country, a great state of a strong political system and military is identified by its history with wars. It witnessed many recognized wars, hardly, around all the world. Vietnam, for instance, was one of the most controversial and divisive wars that America lived. Also, Vietnam's war, the so-called Second Indochina, was one of the longest in American history, for thirty years approximately, precisely, from 1944 to 1973.

I always was interested in the American civilization. America, for me, is regarded as the most powerful state that never fails. Reading a lot about this country coined a kind of curiosity for me to discover the secret of this land. Moreover, I was surprised or disappointed with the Vietnam war. The latter, is regarded as an undignified war for American historiography. Therefore, I am motivated to investigate this historical event.

The aim of this research is to unveil the real reasons for this war and how America considered as the most powerful country, but it failed in this war, and to show the impact of this war for the Americans and how the American people think about this war.

The theme of this topic comes to be The Origins and Consequences of the American-Vietnamese War, the main idea I want to clarify across this dissertation is to show the real reasons behind the involvement of America in Vietnam. And to demonstrate the lessons of this war for the Americans.

Through this research, three questions are brought to the mind and supposed to be answered. First, how did the USA get involved in such war? Second, did it have any hidden motives behind such action? Finally, to what extent did the war against Vietnam affect both US and Vietnam?

General Introduction

I hypothesise that the involvement of America in Vietnam may appear as an aim to stop the spread of Communism and to desert Capitalism. And, concerning the effect of this war shook the America status and changed the opinion of Americans upon their state.

This study is divided into three chapters. Chapter one, a historical background of the empire that ruled the Vietnam, discuss the inside and outside Asia imperialism from 40AD to 1944. First, it demonstrates how Vietnam was it means the early days and the human residence in Vietnam. Also, it gives details about the imperialism countries that ruled the Vietnam such as china and french.

Then, it investigates to give bibliography for great leadership called ho chi Minh .moreover, it gives more details about Vietnam decision to tow part south and north and each one toke the system sought was capitalism and north was communism. Finally, it shows the final empiricism was united states of america, America saw France's provincial war in Indochina as a critical piece overall battle against socialist development.

the second chapter, causes of the US war in Vietnam 1950-1975 this chapter explores the main reasons of American battel , such as, the denomination or American system uses to settle the countries , also arvw's weakness was reason behind American involvement in Vietnam ,yet Containment and the Truman Doctrine, the increasing danger and support of the (NLF), the economic and military reason of the strategic importance of Vietnam and the political ego of president Lyndon johnson, this these reasons consider as main causes that America enter in war with the Vietnam.

General Introduction

Finally, chapter three, it demonstrates the consequence of America and Vietnam war and that seem in many titles such as the Vietnamese perspective, here in this title show the strong sense of nationalism according to Vietnamese, it also, show the human and economic losses and in last it talks about post-war problems.the second title in this chapter is from the American perspective, and their two scholars of though, it also about the media meddling and American public opinion.The last tittle is the lesson of Vietnam for the Americans.

Chapter One: Historical Background

Vietnam has a history as rich and suggestive as anyplace on the planet. Without a doubt, the American War in Vietnam caught the consideration of the West, yet hundreds of years before that Vietnam was rejecting with the Chinese, the Khmers, the Chams and the Mongols. The Vietnamese civilization is as complex as that of its compelling northern neighbor China, from where it drew a number of its impacts under a thousand-year occupation. Later came the French and the lowering time of Imperialism from which Vietnam was not to develop until the second half of the twentieth century. The Americans were basically the toward the end in a long line of trespassers who had traveled every which way as the centuries progressed.

1.1 The Early Days (7000 BC)

Late archeological finds propose that the most punctual human residence of northern Vietnam was around 500, 000 years prior. Neolithic societies were frolicking around a similar range only 10, 000 years prior and occupied with primitive agribusiness as ahead of schedule on 7000 BC. The advanced Bronze Age Dong Son culture, which is well known for its drums, rose at some point around the third century BC.

From the first to the sixth hundreds of years AD, southern Vietnam was a piece of the Indianite¹ Cambodian kingdom of Funan² –claimed for its refined workmanship and design. Known as Nokor³ Phnom to the Khmers, this kingdom was focused on the walled city of Angkor Borei, close cutting edge Takeo. The Funanese built a detailed arrangement of trenches both for transportation and the water system of rice. The chief port city of Fun and was Oc-Eo in the Mekong Delta and archeological unearthing here let us know of contact amongst Funan and China, Indonesia, Persia and even the Mediterranean.

The Hindu kingdom of Champa developed around present-day danangan in the late second century AD. Like Funan, it received Sanskrit as a consecrated dialect and obtained vigorously from Indian craftsmanship and culture. By the eighth century Champa had

¹ Indianite: A variety of the mineral anorthite found in India, where it forms the matrix of corundum. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/indianite>

² Funan : ancient state in Cambodia that arose in the 1st century AD and was incorporated into the state of Chenla in the 6th century. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Funan>

³ Nokor: Indigenous Khmer people inhabited Angkor or **Nokor** region, meaning "city" or "nagara" in Sanskrit, long before and after. <https://www.wordnik.com/words/Nokor>

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extended southward to incorporate what are presently Nha Trang and Phan Rang. The Cham were a feisty group who directed attacks along the whole shore of Indochina, and in this way ended up in an unending condition of war with the Vietnamese toward the north and the Khmers toward the south. At last this cost them their kingdom, as they got themselves pressed between two awesome forces.

1.2 Thousand Years of Chinese Domination (40 AD- 938 AD)

The Chinese vanquished the Red River Delta in the second century BC. In the next hundreds years, substantial quantities of Chinese pioneers, authorities and researchers moved south to force a concentrated state framework on the Vietnamese.

Obviously, neighborhood rulers weren't extremely upbeat about this and in the most popular demonstration of resistance, in AD 40, the Trung Sisters (Hai Ba Trung) aroused the general population, raised an armed force and drove a revolt that sent the Chinese senator escaping. The sisters announced themselves rulers of an autonomous Vietnam. In AD 43 the Chinese counterattacked and, as opposed to endure the disgrace of surrender, the Trung Sisters dedicated themselves completely to the Hat Giang River. There were various little scale uprisings against Chinese government – which was portrayed by oppression, constrained work and unquenchable requests for tribute – from the third to sixth hundreds of years, yet all were smashed.

Amid this period, Vietnam was a key port of approach the ocean course among China and India. The Chinese presented Confucianism, Taoism and Mahayana Buddhism to Vietnam, while the Indians brought Theravada Buddhism. Ministers conveyed with them the logical and restorative learning of these two incredible civilizations and Vietnam was soon creating its own particular awesome specialists, botanists and researchers.

The early Vietnamese gained much from the Chinese, including the development of embankments and water system works. These advancements made rice the 'staff of life', and paddy agribusiness remains the establishment of the Vietnamese lifestyle right up 'til today. As nourishment turned out to be more abundant the populace extended, constraining the Vietnamese to look for new terrains. The dismal Truong Son Mountains averted westbound development, so the Vietnamese traveled south.

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1.2.1 Liberation from China

In the mid of tenth century the Tang administration in China had given way. The Vietnamese grabbed the activity and propelled a long late rebel against Chinese lead in Vietnam. In 938 AD prominent loyalist Ngo Quyen ⁴at last vanquished the Chinese armed forces at a fight on the Bach Dang River, finishing 1000 years of Chinese run the show. Be that as it may, it was not the last time the Vietnamese would tussle with their compelling northern neighbor.

From the eleventh to the thirteenth hundreds years, Vietnamese freedom was merged under the illuminated sovereigns of the Ly administration, established by Ly Thai To. Amid the Ly tradition, numerous foes propelled assaults on Vietnam, among them the Chinese, the Khmer and the Cham, however all were repulsed. Then, the Vietnamese proceeded with their development southwards and gradually, however most likely started to solidify control of the Cham kingdom.

Mongol warrior Kublai Khan finished his victory of China in the mid-thirteenth century. For his next trap, he wanted to assault Champa and requested the privilege to cross Vietnamese region. The Vietnamese cannot, however the Mongol crowds – each of the 500, 000 of them – pushed ahead, apparently resistant. Be that as it may, they met their match in the amazing general Tran Hung Dao; he crushed them in the clash of Bach Dang River, a standout amongst the most praised scalps among numerous the Vietnamese has taken.

1.3 Hochai Minh Leadership

Ho Chi Minh, genuine name Nguyen Tat Thanh (1890-1969), a Vietnamese Communist pioneer and the chief constrain behind the Vietnamese battle against French provincial run the show. Ho was conceived on May 19, 1890, in the town of Kimlien, Annam (focal Vietnam), the child of an official who had surrendered in dissent against French control of his nation.

Ho went to class in Hue and after that quickly instructed at a tuition based school in Phan Thiet. In 1911 he was utilized as a cook on a French steamship liner and from there on

⁴Ngo Quyen : March 12, 897 – 944; r. 939–944) was a [Vietnamese king](#) who defeated the [Southern Han kingdom](#) at the [Battle of Bạch Đằng River](#) north of modern [Haiphong](#) and ended 1,000 years of Chinese domination dating back to 111 BC under the [Han dynasty](#). A [central district](#) in modern Haiphong is named after him.

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worked in London and Paris. After World War I, utilizing the pen name Ai Quoc (Nguyen the Patriot), Ho occupied with radical exercises and was in the establishing gathering of the French Communist gathering. He was summoned to Moscow for preparing and, in late 1924, he was sent to Canton, China, where he composed a progressive development among Vietnamese outcasts.

He was compelled to leave China when nearby specialists took action against Communist exercises, yet he returned in 1930 to establish the Indochinese Communist gathering (ICP). He remained in Hong Kong as illustrative of the Communist International. In June 1931 Ho was captured there by British police and stayed in jail until his discharge in 1933. He then advanced back to the Soviet Union, where he apparently put in quite a while recouping from tuberculosis. In 1938 he came back to China and filled in as a counselor with Chinese Communist military. At the point when Japan possessed Vietnam in 1941, he continued contact with ICP pioneers and served to establish another Communist-commanded autonomy development, famously known as the Vietminh that battled the Japanese. In August 1945, when Japan surrendered, the Vietminh seized control and broadcasted the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) in Hanoi.

Ho Chi Minh, now known by his last and best-known alias (implies the "Enlightener"), moved toward becoming president. The French were unwilling to give autonomy to their pilgrim subjects, and in late 1946 war broke out. For a long time Vietminh guerrillas battled French troops in the mountains and rice paddies of Vietnam, at long last crushing them in the definitive Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954. Ho, in any case, was denied of his triumph. Resulting transactions at Geneva partitioned the nation, with just the North doled out to the Vietminh. The DRV, with Ho still president, now gave its endeavors to developing a Communist society in North Vietnam. In the mid 1960s, notwithstanding, struggle continued in the South, where Communist-drove guerrillas mounted a rebellion against the U.S.-bolstered administration in Saigon. Ho, now in weakness, was decreased to a great extent stylized part, while approach was molded by others. On September 3, 1969, he kicked the bucket in Hanoi of heart disappointment.

In his respect, after the Communist triumph of the South in 1975, Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City. Ho Chi Minh was not just the originator of Vietnamese socialism, he was the very soul of the insurgency and of Vietnam's battle for freedom. His own characteristics of

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effortlessness, respectability, and assurance were broadly appreciated, inside Vietnam as well as somewhere else also.

1.4 The French Takeover (1847-1944)

France's military action in Vietnam started in 1847, when the French Navy assaulted Danang harbor in light of Emperor Thieu Tri's concealment of Catholic ministers. Saigon was seized in mid 1859 and, in 1862; Emperor Tu Duck marked a bargain that gave the French the three eastern areas of Cochin China. Be that as it may, throughout the following four decades the French pioneer wander in Indochina was completed aimlessly and with no biased arrangement. It over and again vacillated and, now and again, just the foolhardy enterprises of a couple of dissidents propped it up.

The following adventure in French colonization started in 1872, when Jean Dupuis, a trader looking to supply salt and weapons to a Yunnanese general by means of the Red River, grabbed the Hanoi Citadel. Skipper Francis Garnier, apparently dispatched to get control over Dupuis, rather assumed control the last known point of interest and started a triumph of the North.

Fourteen days after the demise of Tu Duc in 1883, the French assaulted Hué and forced the Treaty of Protectorate on the magnificent court. There then started a tragi-comic battle for imperial progression that was striking for its castle overthrows, bafflingly dead rulers and blundering French tact.

The Indochinese Union broadcasted by the French in 1887 may have finished the presence of an autonomous Vietnamese state; however dynamic resistance preceded in different parts of the nation for the span of French run the show. The expansionist time found some conclusion and the Vietnamese were compelled to return domain seized from Cambodia and Laos.

The French pilgrim experts did aggressive open works, for example, the development of the Saigon–Hanoi railroad, the administration exhausted the laborers intensely to support these exercises, destroying the rustic economy. Expansionism should be a productive suggestion, so operations wound up plainly famous for the low wages paid by the French and the poor treatment of Vietnamese laborers. Out of the 45, 000 obligated specialists at one Michelin elastic manor, 12, 000 kicked the bucket of illness and unhealthiness in the vicinity of 1917 and 1944. In the Shades of King Leopold's Congo.

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1.4.1 Independence Aspirations 1925

All through the frontier time frame, a yearning for freedom stewed under the surface. Fuming patriot desires frequently ejected into open rebellion of the French. This went from the distributing of enthusiastic periodicals to a sensational endeavor to harm the French army in Hanoi.

The Supreme Court in Hué, albeit very degenerate, was a focal point of patriot assumption and the French arranged a session of melodic positions of authority, as one sovereign after another betrayed their support. This diverting escapade finished in the promotion of Emperor Bao Dai in 1925, who was only 12 years of age at the time and considering in France.

At last, the best of the anticolonialists were the communists, who could tune into the dissatisfactions and goals of the populace – particularly the laborers – and successfully channel their requests for more pleasant land dispersion.

The tale of Vietnamese socialism, which from numerous points of view is likewise the political life story of Ho Chi Minh, is entangled. Keeping it basic, the principal Marxist gathering in Indochina was the Vietnam Revolutionary Youth League, established by Ho Chi Minh in Canton, China, in 1925. This was prevailing in February 1930 by the Vietnamese Communist Party. In 1941 Ho framed the League for the Independence of Vietnam, much also called the Viet Minh, which opposed the Japanese and did broad political exercises amid WWII. In spite of its patriot program, the Viet Minh was, from its beginning, overwhelmed by Ho's communists. Ho was practical, devoted and populist and comprehended the requirement for national solidarity.

1.4.2 War with the French (1946-1956)

The French had figured out how to recover control of Vietnam, at any rate in name, when the French shelled Haiphong in November 1946, executing many regular people, the persistence of the Viet Minh snapped. Just half a month later battling softened out up Hanoi, denoting the begin of the Franco–Viet Minh War. Ho Chi Minh and his powers fled to the mountains, where they would stay for the following eight years.

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Despite decided Vietnamese patriotism, the French demonstrated not able to reassert their control. In spite of enormous US help (a push to end the comrade domino impact all through Asia) and the presence of huge indigenous anticommunist components, it was an unwinnable war. As Ho said to the French at the time, “You can kill 10 of my men for each one I kill of yours, yet even at those chances you will lose and I will win.”

Following eight years of battling, the Viet Minh controlled quite a bit of Vietnam and neighboring Laos. On 7 May 1954, following a 57-day attack, more than 10, 000 starving French troops surrendered to the Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu. This was a cataclysmic annihilation that conveyed a conclusion to the French provincial enterprise in Indochina. The next day, the Geneva Conference opened to arrange a conclusion to the contention. Resolutions incorporated a trade of detainees; the transitory division of Vietnam into two zones at the Ben Hai River (close to the seventeenth Parallel) until across the country decisions could be held; the free section of individuals over the seventeenth Parallel for a time of 300 days; and the holding of across the country races on 20 July 1956. Throughout the Franco–Viet Minh War, more than 35, 000 French warriors had been murdered and 48, 000 injured; there are no correct numbers for Vietnamese losses, yet they were positively far higher.

1.5 Geneva Conference

The day after the surrender at Dien Bien Phu, peace chats on Vietnam were taken up at the Geneva Conference, which had started on April 26 and went to by U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and agents from eight expresses: The Democratic Republic of Vietnam, France, the Soviet Union, Britain, the People's Republic of China, the United States, Cambodia and Laos, in addition to the Bao Dai government. The foremost mediators were France, Vietnam and China. The US was there basically to attempt to undermine the gathering.

The Geneva Accord was a trade of understanding comprising of two reports: a truce and a last assertion. The truce assention, which was marked just by France and the DRV, built up a temporary military division line at about the 1

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of the boundary line. The truce assentation likewise accommodated a 300-day time frame, amid which all regular folks were allowed to move from one zone to the next, and an International Control Commission, comprising of Canada, India, and Poland, to direct the truce. The last presentation was embraced through recorded oral consent by the DRV, France, Britain, China, and the Soviet Union. It accommodated the holding of national races in July 1956, under the supervision of the International Control Commission, and expressed that the military division line was temporary and "ought not at all to be deciphered as constituting a political regional limit." Both the United States and the Associated State of Vietnam, which France had perceived on June 4 as a "fully independent and sovereign state," refused to approve the final declaration and submitted separate declarations stating their reservations. (Source: Library of Congress).

The consented to arrangements included military and political provisions. Militarily, it was chosen that the strengths from each side would be regrouped into two unique zones, north and south of the seventeenth parallel, in order to isolate the armed forces which, given the exceptional way of the war, had been interlocked like "two brushes". A 300 days due date was concurred on for accomplishing this re-groupment. Politically, the assentations perceived the freedom, power, solidarity and regional respectability of the three nations of Indochina.

(Source: Vietnam tourism. com, Vietnam National Administration of Tourism)

Nguyen Cao Ky).

1.5.1 Partition of Vietnam into North and South

Vietnam was partitioned with a "military outline line" at the seventeenth parallel at the Ben Hai River into north and south. The division was a face-sparing measure for the French to fight off aggregate thrashing by the Viet Minh. The seventeenth parallel later turned into the focal point of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a region five kilometers on either side of the outline line, in fact untouchable to the military.

The guerilla drives that vanquished the French were requested to move over the line and the French-lead powers were told to stay in the south. Pending reunification, Vietnam's two zones would cease from joining any military union. No remote army installations could be set up and no new outside military hardware or staff could be gotten either.

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The division line was not expected to be a political limit. The division should be impermanent until free decisions could be held in 1956 to reunify Vietnam. Be that as it may, not long after the Geneva Conference North Vietnam and South Vietnam came to fruition on either side of the seventeenth parallel with Ho Chi Minh the pioneer in the north and Ngo Dinh Diem turning into the pioneer in the south. Neither Vietnam nor the United States had marked the understanding. Diem, trusting that Ho Chi Minh would win a well known vote, declined to consent to races. The segment wound up plainly changeless.

Eisenhower bolstered the division fo North and South Vietnam. There was a mass migration of around 1 million northerners, huge numbers of them Catholics, to South Vietnam. Around 100,000 individuals moved in the other heading.

Map 1: The two parts of Vietnam



source: [http:// travel.voyagevietnam.co/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Vietnam-War-Timeline.png](http://travel.voyagevietnam.co/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Vietnam-War-Timeline.png)

1.5.2 Aftermath of Geneva Conference

The Geneva Agreements were seen with uncertainty and disappointment on all sides. Worry over conceivable United States mediation, ought to the Geneva talks fizzle, was most likely a main consideration in Hanoi's choice to acknowledge the trade off understanding. The United States had separated itself from the last affirmation, despite the fact that it had expressed that it would cease from the danger or utilization of compel to exasperate the

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understandings. North was driven by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam where the recreation of the country would begin. In the South, the war for national freedom proceeded for another for a long time.

There were three determinable stages amid the period between 1954 when the French were tossed out of Vietnam after Dien Bien Phu and 1975 when the Americans were removed after the Fall of Saigon: 1)1954-1965: the foundation of a communist government in the north, and the southern Vietnamese individuals' battle with the bounds of the degenerate Diem administration. against suppression and the neo-colonialist war; 2) 1965-1973: the Vietnam War, which finished with the consenting of the Paris Arrangements of January 1973; and 3) 1973-1975 the fall of the South Vietnam government.

1.5.3 South Vietnam after Partition in 1954

South of the boundary line after segment in 1954, the social framework stayed unaltered aside from that power returned to a Vietnamese world class. The South's urban-provincial system of parts, intensely subject to the worker economy, stayed in place in spite of the deluge of almost a million displaced people from the North; and land change, started apathetically in 1956, had minimal financial effect even with deterrent by the landowning class. Rather than the North, there was no inflexible, sorted out endeavor to rearrange the general public on a very basic level or to embed new social qualities and social approvals. The administration of Ngo Dinh Diem was more worried with its own prompt survival than with progressive social change, and on the off chance that it had a dream of sociopolitical change by any stretch of the imagination, that vision was diffusive. Besides, it did not have a political association practically identical in enthusiasm to the gathering contraption of Hanoi keeping in mind the end goal to accomplish its objectives.

In the 1960s, delayed political insecurity set social structures in the South under expanding stress. The comrade uprising, which kept the administration from extending its power to a few zones of the wide open, was incompletely dependable, yet significantly more problematic were simply the arrangements of the legislature. Secluded in Saigon, the Diem administration distanced huge parts of the populace by acting to stifle Buddhists and different minorities, by compelling the movement of laborers to ranges ostensibly controlled by the legislature, and by methodically pounding political restriction. Such strategies powered a developing disappointment with the administration that prompted Diem's death in November 1963 and his substitution by a progression of military strongmen.

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In the urban territories, the little privileged first class kept on being constrained to high-ranking military officers, government authorities, individuals in the callings, truant landowners, learned people, and Catholic and Buddhist religious pioneers. The tip top held a solid individual enthusiasm for France and French culture; many had been taught in France and many had children or little girls living there. Notwithstanding riches, Western training - especially French instruction - was esteemed exceedingly, and French and English were generally talked.

The urban white collar class included government employees, lower and center positioning officers in the military, business workers, teachers, shop proprietors and directors, little dealers, and ranch and industrial facility chiefs. Couples were school graduates, despite the fact that the lion's share had just an optional school training. Not very many had possessed the capacity to concentrate abroad. At the base of the urban culture were incompetent, generally uneducated breadwinners and trivial trades people. While semiliterate themselves, they in any case could send their youngsters to elementary school. Optional instruction was less normal, be that as it may, especially for young ladies. These kids tended not to continue sufficiently far in school to secure a basic learning of French or English, and most grown-ups of the lower class knew just Vietnamese unless they had functioned as domestics for nominatives.

Town society, which grasped 80 percent of the populace, was made for the most part out of agriculturists, who were positioned in three financial gatherings. The tip top were the wealthiest landowners. On the off chance that they cultivated, the work was finished by enlisted workers who planted, flooded, and gathered under the proprietor's supervision. In the off-season, landowners occupied with money lending, rice exchanging, or rice processing. Typically the well-to-do proprietors were dynamic in town issues as individuals from the town boards. After the mid-1960s, be that as it may, enthusiasm for looking for such positions wound down as town pioneers progressively were focused by Viet Cong guerillas.

The less prosperous, center level villagers possessed or sufficiently leased land to inhabit a level well above subsistence, however they tended not to get a surplus sufficiently substantial to put resources into different endeavors. They worked their own fields and enlisted cultivate hands just when required amid planting or reaping. A couple supplemented their pay as craftsmen, yet never as workers. On account of their more unassuming monetary

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conditions, individuals from this gathering tended not to accept the same number of collective duties as did the wealthier villagers.

At the base of town life were proprietors of little cultivating plots and sharecroppers. Compelled to invest about the greater part of their energy squeezing out a living, they couldn't bear to take part in town undertakings. Since they couldn't develop enough land to bolster their families, a large portion of them worked likewise as low maintenance workers, and their spouses and youngsters helped with the field work. Their youngsters every now and again went to class just sufficiently long to take in the fundamentals of perusing and composing. This gathering likewise included specialists in an extensive variety of other administration occupations, for example, craftsmen, experts of oriental pharmaceutical and little trades people.

1.6 Americans within the Cavalry 1950

The Americans saw France's provincial war in Indochina as a critical piece of an overall battle against socialist development. Vietnam was the following domino and couldn't topple. In 1950, the US Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) shook into Vietnam, apparently to educate neighborhood troops in the effectiveness of US capability; there would be American fighters on Vietnamese soil for the following 25 years, first as counsels, and after that the fundamental drive. By 1954 US military guide to the French topped US\$2 billion.

A definitive defining moment in US system accompanied the August 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Incident. Two US destroyers, the Maddox and the Turner Joy, asserted to have gone under "unjustifiable" assault while cruising off the North Vietnamese drift. Resulting research demonstrates that there was a lot of incitement; the main assault occurred while the Maddox was in North Vietnamese waters helping a mystery South Vietnamese commando attack and the second one never happened.

Nonetheless, on US President Johnson's requests, 64 forays sprinkled bombs on the North – the first of thousands of such missions that would hit each and every street and rail connect in the nation, and in addition 4000 of North Vietnam's 5788 towns. Two US flying machine were lost and Lieutenant Everett Alvarez turned into the principal American captive (POW) of the contention; he would stay in bondage for a long time.

Chapter One: Historical Background

A couple days after the fact, a resentful (and misdirected) US Congress overwhelmingly passed the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, which gave the president the ability to 'take every vital measure's to 'repulse any outfitted assault against the strengths of the United States and to avert advance animosity'. Until its annulment in 1970, the determination was dealt with by US presidents as unlimited authority to do whatever they picked in Vietnam with no congressional control.

As the military circumstance of the Saigon government achieved another nadir, the principal US battle troops sprinkled shoreward's at Danang in March 1965. By December 1965 there were 184, 300 US military work forces in Vietnam and 636 Americans had passed on. By December 1967 the figures had ascended to 485, 600 US warriors in nation and 16, 021 dead. There were 1.3 million men battling for the Saigon government, including the South Vietnamese and different partners.

By 1966 the popular expressions in Washington were 'assuagement', 'seek and devastate' and 'free-fire zones'. Placation included building up a genius government non military personnel foundation in every town, and giving the warriors to protect it. To shield the towns from VC attacks, versatile inquiry and-devastate units of fighters moved around the nation chasing VC guerrillas.

At times, villagers were cleared so the Americans could utilize substantial weaponry, for example, napalm and tanks in territories that were pronounced free-discharge zones.

These methodologies were just halfway fruitful: US powers could control the wide open by day, while the VC typically controlled it by night. Indeed, even without substantial weapons, VC guerrillas kept on causing overwhelming losses in ambushes and by utilizing mines and booby traps. Albeit free-shoot zones should anticipate regular citizen losses, a lot of villagers were by and by shelled, besieged, strafed or napalmed to death – their surviving relatives soon joined to join the VC.

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The Vietnam War was a conflict that started in the 1950s and ended in the early 1970s. During this time, the United States became increasingly involved in Vietnamese political, economic and military affairs. There were combinations of reasons as to why the United States became more involved.

2.1 DOMINION THEORY

The domino hypothesis, which administered a lot of US. remote arrangement starting in the mid 1950s, held that a socialist triumph in one country would rapidly prompt a chain response of comrade takeovers in neighboring states. In Southeast Asia, the United States government utilized the domino hypothesis to legitimize its support of a non-comrade administration in South Vietnam against the socialist legislature of North Vietnam, and eventually its expanding association in the long-running Vietnam War (1954-75). Truth be told, the American inability to keep a socialist triumph in Vietnam had substantially less of a worldwide effect than had been expected by the domino hypothesis. In spite of the fact that comrade administrations arose in Laos and Cambodia after 1975, socialism neglected to spread all through whatever remains of Southeast Asia.

2.1.1 ORIGINS OF THE DOMINO THEORY

In September 1945, the Vietnamese patriot pioneer Ho Chi Minh broadcasted Vietnam's freedom from France, starting a war that hollowed Ho's socialist driven Viet Minh administration in Hanoi (North Vietnam) against a French-upheld administration in Saigon (South Vietnam). Under President Harry¹ S. Truman, the U.S. government gave incognito military and money related guide to the French; the reason was that a socialist triumph in

¹Harry S. Truman (May 8, 1884 – December 26, 1972) was an American politician who served as the 33rd President of the United States (1945–53), assuming that office upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt during the waning months of World War II.

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Indochina would encourage the spread of socialism all through Southeast Asia. Utilizing this same rationale, Truman would likewise offer guide to Greece and Turkey amid the late 1940s to help contain socialism in Europe and the Middle East.

By mid 1950, producers of U.S. remote arrangement had solidly grasped the possibility that the fall of Indochina to socialism would lead quickly to the crumple of different countries in Southeast Asia. The National Security Council incorporated the hypothesis in a 1952 cover Indochina, and in April 1954, amid the conclusive fight between Viet Minh and French strengths at Dien Bien Phu, President Dwight D. Eisenhower explained it as the "falling domino" standard. In Eisenhower's view, the loss of Vietnam to comrade control would prompt comparative socialist triumphs in neighboring nations in Southeast Asia (counting Laos, Cambodia and Thailand) and somewhere else (India, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and even Australia and New Zealand).

2.1.2 The Domino Theory and Growing U.S. Involvement in Vietnam

After Eisenhower's discourse, the expression "domino hypothesis" started to be utilized as a shorthand articulation of the vital significance of South Vietnam to the United States, and additionally the need to contain the spread of socialism all through the world. After the Geneva Conference finished the French-Viet Minh war and split Vietnam along the scope known as the seventeenth parallel, the United States led the association of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), a free union of countries focused on making a move against "security dangers" in the district.

John F. Kennedy², Eisenhower's³ successor in the White House, would expand the dedication of U.S. assets in support of the Ngo Dinh Diem administration in South Vietnam

² John Fitzgerald "Jack" Kennedy (May 29, 1917 – November 22, 1963), commonly referred to by his initials JFK, was an American politician who served as the 35th President of the United States from January 1961 until his assassination in November 1963.

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and of non-socialist strengths battling a common war in Laos in 1961-62. In the fall of 1963, after genuine local resistance to Diem emerged, Kennedy moved in an opposite direction from support of Diem himself however freely reaffirmed faith in the domino hypothesis and the significance of containing socialism in Southeast Asia. Three weeks after Diem was killed in a military overthrow toward the beginning of November 1963, Kennedy was killed in Dallas; his successor Lyndon B. Johnson would keep on using the domino hypothesis to legitimize the acceleration of the U.S. military nearness in Vietnam from a couple of thousand warriors to more than 500,000 throughout the following five years.

2.2- ARVW'S WEAKNESS

The South Vietnamese Army (SVA) had been financed by America all through the late 1950's, 1960's and accordingly of Vietnamisation, to a considerably more noteworthy degree from 1970 to 1975. The South Vietnamese Army first came to fruition after the 1954 Geneva Agreement when the American Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) ordered by Lieutenant General John O'Daniel started making a cutting edge military constrain, financed by the US, that was equipped for protecting South Vietnam against an attack by troops from North Vietnam.

The SVA, on paper, was an imposing power. By the mid-1950's it numbered 150,000 men and had all the present day hardware that an armed force could require. Prepared to battle a regular war, in any case, it soon wound up noticeably clear that it would require full US military support if it somehow happened to get by against the strengths from North Vietnam. In spite of both Kennedy and Johnson pouring increasingly US 'military guides' into South Vietnam to support and prepare the SVA, US Marines arrived in South Vietnam in 1965 to successfully prompt battle against the North while the SVA helped it.

³ Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower (October 14, 1890 – March 28, 1969) was an American politician and Army general who served as the 34th President of the United States from 1953 until 1961.

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By 1968, the SVA was a powerful compels – 250,000 men equipped with present day tanks and mounted guns. It could likewise approach both South Vietnamese and US ethereal support and, if battling close to the expanded South Vietnam coastline, maritime support. A safe civilian army of around 250,000 men likewise bolstered the SVA. This local army compel was comprised of little rifle units and it was outfitted with current radios, vehicles and little arms.

The association of the SVA and the local army was fundamentally the same as the association of the American military. A military general staff ordered the South Vietnam military however this was liable to the Ministry of Defense that was staffed by regular people. In 1964, the civilian army – actually known as the Territorial's – was made a formal piece of the military of the South. They were distributed out to commonplace boss – forty-four of them – who was the principle chairman of South Vietnam.

In principle, South Vietnam was exceptionally all around prepared to shield itself. In the mid-1960's it had a huge, present day and very much prepared armed force and a comparable volunteer army both of which were prepared and subsidized by the world's most capable country – America. In 1965, the Americans added their tremendous military ability to help South Vietnam. In spite of this, by 1975, the SVA was shredded and the North had vanquished the South. What, in this way, had the SVA neglected to do notwithstanding its clear qualities.

2.3 Containment and the Truman Doctrine

Amid the last phases of WWII the United States and Britain had gotten promises from Premier Stalin of the Soviet Union that the countries of Eastern Europe that were freed by the Soviets from German control would be permitted to decide their future governments by method with the expectation of complimentary races. As time passed, it turned out to be more

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obvious that Stalin was not going to experience this promise as each of these countries were transformed into satellites and manikin countries of the Soviet Union. America started to see the Soviets as a forceful, expansionist power twisted on global control. American outside arrangement started to figure teachings to counter this risk.

The teaching of regulation was articulated by George Kennan and turned into a general approach of the organization of President Harry S. Truman and many succeeding presidential organizations. The strategy of regulation was to assemble circumstances of quality around the outskirts of the Soviet Union to keep comrade control inside existing limits. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Central Treaty Organization (Cento), the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), and an assortment of different settlements were made by the U.S. ;furthermore, different countries assisted to circle the Soviet Union and later Communist China to stop the outward spread of socialism.

As one with the advancement of control was the articulation of the Truman Doctrine. This precept essentially expressed that the U.S. would help any free individuals or country oppose inward or outside enslavement by another nation or non-vote based belief system. Interpreted this implied the U.S. would oppose socialist takeovers in different nations. The Truman Doctrine and control were initially tried in Greece and Turkey as comrade radicals (accepted to be under the heading of the Soviets) attempted to assume control over these nations. American military guide streamed to these nations and the guerillas were vanquished. America considered this to be the principal achievement and triumph for the arrangements of control and the Truman Doctrine.

Toward the finish of WWII Korea had been separated into two zones of occupation, a Soviet zone in the north and an American zone in the south. In the long run two nations rose, a socialist nation in the north and a non-comrade nation in the south. The separating line

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between the two was the 38th parallel. On June 25, 1950 the socialist north attacked the non-comrade south trying to take it over.

The U.S. under the protection of the United Nations went to the barrier of South Korea. American impression of the war was that the North Korea exertion was coordinated by the Soviet Union. Socialist Chinese passage into the war on the North Korean side in 1951 further persuaded the U.S. this was solid worldwide socialism on the walk coordinated by the Soviets and helped by the Chinese. The war endured until a truce in 1953 and was stalemated at about the 38th parallel. The U.S. felt that regulation and the Truman Doctrine had likewise prevailed in Korea as socialist development was halted in its tracks.

Regulation and the Truman Doctrine had worked in Greece and Turkey and had worked in Korea moreover. In Western Europe outskirts stayed solidified where they had been in the late 1940's and West Berlin, which was situated amidst a socialist East Germany, had stayed free and connected to vote based in West Germany. By all measures socialist progress had been adequately stopped by control and the Truman Doctrine, and it was felt that these arrangements would be successful wherever the free world was try by comrade animosity. That test arrived in a region of the world known as Indochina.

France had effectively set Indochina (Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia) under provincial control by the 1890's. Amid WWII Indochina turned out to be a piece of the Japanese Empire, as French power was crushed here of Southeast Asia. After WWII and the annihilation of the Japanese Empire, France wanted to reimpose frontier control over Vietnam and whatever remains of Indochina. The Vietnamese instantly started equipped resistance against the French and shaped the Vietminh as the resistance party. The U.S. was at first antagonistic to helping France reestablish pioneer control. In the general setting of the Cold War, including the way that China had gone comrade by 1949, France could persuade the U.S. that Vietminh

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imperviousness to frontier administration was comradeship propelled and some portion of the general Soviet and Chinese ground breaking strategy for socialism to lead the world. America chose to bolster the French and help them with military guide.

American guide or not the French were definitively crushed by the Vietminh at a place called Dien Bien Phu in 1954 and lost frontier control over Vietnam. A meeting was brought in Geneva and it was chosen to briefly separate Vietnam into two sections, socialist north and non-comrade south at the seventeenth parallel. It was concurred at Geneva that reunification decisions for Vietnam were to be held in 1956.

Furthermore, South Vietnam never consented to these races and the decisions were never held. It was the position of the U.S. that really free decisions couldn't be held unless the United Nations was there to regulate these races. The North Vietnamese rejected the possibility of U.N. directed races and the U.S. at that point took the position that Vietnam was to remain forever isolated into two nations, comradeship North and non socialist South. America vowed itself to the survival and military safeguard of South Vietnam.

By the early 1960's the southern socialist Viet Cong started a military battle to topple the administration of the South. By the mid 60's it was clear to the U.S. that this revolt was supported and helped by North Vietnam who thus was supported and bolstered by Communist China and the Soviet Union. By 1965 the North Vietnamese had effectively joined the Viet Cong in a military endeavor to assume control South Vietnam.

Given the way that the U.S. had built up the approach of regulation to end the spread of socialism and embraced the Truman Doctrine to help free people groups oppose oppression by others, it ended up plainly intelligent to confer American troops to the guard of South Vietnam, as was done enormously starting in 1965. North Vietnam and the Viet Cong militarily moving against the legislature of South Vietnam were seen as in opposition to the

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arrangement of regulation and the Truman Doctrine. America saw this assault as another endeavor to spread worldwide socialism supported by the Soviet Union and Communist China. American past victories with control and the Truman Doctrine made its military responsibility to the barrier of South Vietnam a legitimate stride given American outside strategy as it had advanced in the post WWII world.

2.4 The Increasing Danger and Support of the (NLF)

The NLF frequently alluded to as the Vietcong by their American partners, were a comrade guerrilla⁴ association that utilized non-regular strategies to assault Diem's industrialist government and the United States in South Vietnam. They were an equipped gathering to counter the disagreeability of the South Vietnamese tyrant, President Diem and meant to reunify Vietnam under a comrade government. Baffled by the changes that Catholic Diem was actualizing in South Vietnam—abuse of the Buddhist lion's share, detainment of grown-up and youngster's adversaries to Diem's manage, minimal expenditure on social change the NLF chose to threaten the South Vietnamese government.

The Americans reacted by furnishing the South Vietnamese with military and monetary help so that the South Vietnamese themselves could manage the NLF. In the end, in any case, an upset toppled the President, who was prevailing by ten frail entrepreneur governments over a time of two years who couldn't represent adequately. This constrained the Americans to send in their own military to battle the North Vietnamese and NLF (supported by the disputable "Gulf of Tonkin" occurrence). Be that as it may, American troops demonstrated disagreeable with the worker towns because of their strategies of utilizing napalm on honest regular folks and the US "zipper raids", where the Americans would torch whole towns associated with being partnered with the NLF. This enhanced support, and along

⁴ Guerrilla: warfare in the Vietnam War was an extremely deadly strategy used by the North Vietnamese forces.

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these lines the quality of the NLF, as they had the co-operation and enlistment of an expanding number of local people with respect to concealing NLF supplies.

Due to the inability of the Americans in guerrilla battle, the NLF were likewise utilizing booby traps and sharpshooters to cause overwhelming US setbacks, while additionally accepting compelling weapons from the USSR and China. The NLF likewise had a better information of the landscape than the Americans. This made it all the more difficult and embarrassing for the Americans to free, so troop numbers expanded.

The NLF in this manner turned out to be more viable in their endeavors to overcome the Americans, and propelled the somewhat fruitful Tet Offensive in 1968 against the US in South Vietnamese urban areas, including the capital, Saigon. The NLF guerrilla fighting effort, which undermined to mortify America in their convictions of the Domino Theory and the conviction that America may lose the Cold War, in addition to the overwhelming losses caused on the Americans, are accordingly an essential reason with reference to why the Americans turned out to be progressively required in the war in Vietnam.

2.5 The Economic and Military Reason of the Strategic Importance of Vietnam

Vietnam flanked southern China, a comrade and atomic furnished enemy of the United States. Having a partner like South Vietnam would be of principal significance if atomic war broke out and the United States had atomic warheads introduced simple several miles underneath China and inside scope of south eastern Russia. In addition, South Vietnam would be a decent military partner to have if ordinary fighting broke out-boats and planes from US introduced maritime and air bases would have the capacity to explore to China without lifting a finger because of the two countries' closeness.

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The financial significance of Vietnam was additionally essential to US interests. Without Vietnamese co-operation in the South China Sea, the United States would lose access to imperative transportation paths that permitted the import and fare of merchandise from the United States to South East Asia, India and the Middle East. If America somehow happened to lose Vietnam, it would need to consider elective exchange courses, which may demonstrate too exorbitant as far as cash, fuel and time. It was not simply Vietnam's key significance that decided US inclusion in Vietnam, additionally the key significance of South East Asia overall, which the Americans thought they would lose to socialism if Vietnam turned comrade (because of the Domino Theory).

The military and monetary vital significance of Vietnam (and South East Asia all in all) is hence an imperative long haul reason with reference to why the United States turned out to be progressively required in the war in Vietnam.

2.6 THE POLITICAL EGO OF PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON

Johnson⁵ was gone before by Kennedy and Eisenhower, two awesome American war saints, and expected to demonstrate to the US open that he was similarly as solid as his trailblazers. Johnson considered Vietnam to be an opportunity to show his quality, while likewise containing the spread of socialism in Vietnam and South East Asia because of his confidence in the Domino Theory. Besides, getting progressively included in Vietnam may secure US financial and military interests in the area, because of its key significance, and could in the end prompt US triumph in the driving rain War.

Johnson needed to win the war at the earliest opportunity, so as to keep it well known with the US open by guaranteeing as few lives were lost as could be expected under the

⁵ Lyndon Johnson (August 27, 1908 – January 22, 1973), often referred to as **LBJ**, was an American politician who served as the 36th President of the United States from 1963 to 1969, assuming the office after serving as the 37th Vice President of the United States under President John F. Kennedy from 1961 to 1963.

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circumstances, while additionally communicating something specific of narrow mindedness of socialism to the USSR to exhibit US quality and in this manner reliably expanded troop numbers in Vietnam. Be that as it may, because of the expanded support and quality of the NLF by the Vietnamese individuals, the Americans endured significantly a greater number of losses than Johnson foreseen. Johnson struck back by expanding troop numbers with an end goal to indicate exactly how solid a pioneer he was, and how intense America was.

The yearning for Johnson to demonstrate he was a solid President responsible for the Cold War is accordingly an imperative motivation behind why the US turned out to be more required in Vietnam.

Chapter 3: The Consequences and Lessons of the War

3. 1. The Vietnamese Perspective

When the United States fought in Vietnam, it was organized modern technology versus organized human beings, and the human beings won. In the course of that war, the United States faced the greatest antiwar movement the nation had ever experienced, a movement that played a critical part in bringing the war to an end.

Vietnamese revolutionists fought against the Japanese, and when they were gone held a spectacular celebration in Hanoi in late 1945, with a million people in the streets, and issued a Declaration of Independence. It borrowed from the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, in the French Revolution, and from the American Declaration of Independence, and began: "All men are created equal. They are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Just as the Americans in 1776 had listed their grievances against the English King, the Vietnamese listed their complaints against French rule. The U.S. Defense Department study of the Vietnam war described Ho Chi Minh's work as the only Vietnam-wide political organization capable of effective resistance to either the Japanese or the French. He was the only Vietnamese wartime leader with a national following, and he assured himself wider support from north to south.

Ho Chi Minh wrote eight letters to President Truman, reminding him of the self-determination promises of the Atlantic Charter. One of the letters was sent both to Truman and to the United Nations:

« I wish to invite attention of your Excellency for strictly humanitarian reasons to following matter. Two million Vietnamese died of starvation during winter of 1944 and spring 1945 because of starvation policy of French who seized and stored until it controlled all available rice. ... Three- fourths of cultivated land was flooded in summer 1945, which was followed by a severe drought; of normal harvest five-sixths was lost. ... Many people are starving. . . .

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Unless great world powers and international relief organizations bring us immediate assistance we face imminent catastrophe... »

His message received no reply whatsoever. And later when The United States moved quickly to prevent the unification and to establish South Vietnam as an American sphere, the Vietnamese sense of nationalism grew quickly

3.1.1. the Vietnamese Sense of Nationalism

If the War was a personal failure on an American national scale. From its covert beginnings, through the bloodiest, darkest days and finally to the bitter end, the ten-year period of American history was a national disgrace. In Vietnam it was an impossible victory.

It represented a unified and cohesive Vietnam. It contributed to the formation of a Vietnamese identity.

Nationalism deals with community -- what people share or are thought to share. In fact, while lines of status, class, locality, and ethnicity may help define a nation, they only superficially divide the nation as it is a homogeneous group whose perceived size dwarfs

Any concrete community. (Liah Greenfeld, *Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity*, 3). When a group of people realizes their connections with others like them, a dominant consciousness is formed that begins to define them. The awakening of this national consciousness serves as a powerful unifying force for the people of a nation. Benedict Anderson explains this in *Imagined Communities*. The nation is imagined as a community of people whose bonds run so deep that these bonds are powerful enough to convince a nation's members to die for it. (Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* 6-7).

There is some connection between nationalism and communism. The French themselves played an unknowing role in helping nationalism gain a foothold among the

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Vietnamese people. The stability of the bureaucracy that the French installed in Vietnam enabled nationalism to take root and spread throughout the country. The goals of the French led to the education of the indigenous peoples who would form the backbone of the bureaucratic districts set up to govern the colonies. The French imperialists believed the Vietnamese were “merely bandits without any sentiment of patriotism. (Stanley Karnow, Vietnam: A History, 1983.98) to examine Ho Chi Minh’s life and thoughts in greater detail is to concentrate on how he ended up in Paris where he continued his educational pursuits. It was here that Ho became exposed and greatly influenced by the teachings of Lenin. Despite the fact that Ho was a

communist, there is ample evidence to suggest that he was a nationalist first. Ho freely admitted that « it was patriotism and not communism that originally inspired me ». (Stanley Karnow, Vietnam: A History. 122).

Indeed, many of the new nationalist and Communist movements in Vietnam were urban-based militant insurgencies, and none met with much success. However, the movements did create several enduring organizations, including the Vietnamese Nationalist Party (VNQDD), formed in 1927, and the Indochinese Communist Party (PCI), founded in 1930 by Ho Chi Minh himself. During World War II, when France fell to Germany, Japan occupied Vietnam from 1940 to 1945. Ho saw the Japanese invasion as a chance to build up a new nationalist force, one that appealed to all aspects of Vietnamese society. Therefore, in 1941, he founded the Viet Minh (the League for Vietnamese Independence). Americans opposed the Japanese in World War II, so Ho was able to convince U.S. leaders to secretly supply the Viet Minh with weapons to fight their new Japanese oppressors. Upon Japan’s defeat, Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam to be independent, naming the country the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV).

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The Vietnamese became one of the few peoples to successfully resist foreign rules. For many Vietnamese the American-Vietnamese War was essentially a continuation of the First Indochina War to expel the French and reconstruct a maimed society. This view strengthened by the massive U.S. military aid to the French forces in the early 1950s and U.S. sponsorship (in many accounts, actual creation) of the separate South Vietnamese state. Scholars argue that U.S. involvement constituted a twenty-year extension of the "civilizing mission" pioneered by the French decades earlier, thus ratifying the revolutionary struggle as an effort at decolonization. Many believe that despite their resolve, technological power, courage, and military advantages, the Americans and their Vietnamese allies never had much chance to win the war.

3.1.2. Human and Economic Losses

The war in Vietnam had a major impact on both South and North Vietnam. The combination of America's massive military might and the tactics employed by the NLF all but ensured that the civilian population suffered appalling losses. During the air war, America dropped 8 million ton of bombs between 1965 and 1973. The type of bombs used varied and ranged from high explosive bombs used to blanket bomb a target to napalm used on clinical air strikes on a village, for example that were thought to be harbouring the NLF.

The impact of high explosive bombs continued after the war ended as many failed to explode on impact and have caused considerable problems since. America also dropped anti-personnel mines by the thousands. One plane could drop a thousand of these in one flight. These mines could be made out of either metal or plastic and had the potential to inflict major injuries on anyone who trod on them.

In an effort to take away from the NLF their ground coverage whereby they used the natural vegetation to avoid detection from the air, America used defoliants. The chemical

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most used for 'Operation Ranch Hand' was known as 'Agent Orange'. In 1969 alone, 1,034,300 hectares of forest was destroyed using 'Agent Orange'. 'Agent Blue' was sprayed on crops in an effort to deprive the North of its food supply. Between 1962 and 1969, 688,000 acres of agricultural land was sprayed – primarily on paddy fields.

The stress of fighting an unseen enemy also took its toll on American troops. They took their anger and frustration out on villages that may or may not have been helping the NLF. The most famous of these took place in an area code-named 'Pinksville' where the villages at My Lai were massacred. This massacre was filmed and the US military had little opportunity to cover it up. It is generally accepted that there were other massacres, probably on a smaller scale, but these were never recorded and would have been viewed as what goes on in warfare.

However, villages in South Vietnam were very much vulnerable to NLF atrocities. Any village that did not provide the NLF with shelter or food – in fear of US retaliation – could expect punishment. This could be the arbitrary execution of the village elder and his family, for example.

In the South, the largely peasant population suffered from the military activities of both sides. Caught in between, there was also the real possibility of having to deal with unexploded bombs that had fallen in working areas but had not exploded. 'Agent Orange' left its mark on the environment and it also had a serious human impact as it had the potential to damage the chromosomes of a foetus. No one is quite sure how many children were born with physical deformities post-war nor do we know how many infants died prematurely from the impact of 'Agent Orange'. In the North, US bombing had to have an impact on the people living there and the basic infrastructure of the North was all but destroyed – however primitive it may have been when compared to the West.

3.1.3. Post-War Problems

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On March 8, 1965, the first combat troops landed in Vietnam. The war ended few decades ago, but not before about one million people died. Parts of the country still bear traces of Agent Orange, the chemical used to burn away parts of the jungle. Agent Orange still poisons the environment in Vietnam. In addition to that problem, the people of Vietnam have had to cope with unexploded ordinance, which has killed about 40,000 people and maimed 65,000 since the end of the war.

The Agent Orange has lingered in Vietnam, and several generations of children have been born with birth defects. No one, however, has spent the money to do an epidemiological study to discover conclusively whether the birth defects were in fact the result of Agent Orange. Both sides of the war should be approached with sympathy, both the Americans—close to three million of them—who served in Vietnam and the millions of Vietnamese people who suffered through the war, including many who died.

During the war, the U.S. sprayed nearly 20 million gallons of Agent Orange on parts of Vietnam. The U.S. has spent money on clean-up, but probably not enough. The Da Nang airport was the central point of spraying operations, and \$84 million has already been spent cleaning up dioxin contamination at that one base. It is said there are dozens of these “hot spots” where Agent Orange was loaded onto planes and where some of it spilled, and other hot spots where the civilian population lives. There were 4.8 million civilians who were in the path of the spraying, and there has been no restitution to them.

Unexploded ordinance is still a very big problem in a small area, particularly the Quang Tri province. The estimate is that 10% of the ordinance that dropped is unexploded and that 84% of the area is still contaminated by the munitions. It is a daily problem. Searcy’s Project Renew operation has a hotline that citizens can call when they encounter munitions that need to be removed. (Chuck Searcy, a Vietnam War veteran, who believes that the U.S.

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government should make Americans worthy of the extraordinary forgiveness offered by the Vietnamese.)

Apart from the problems of Agent Orange, there were many political problems. The victorious North Vietnam government was suddenly faced with the task of reunifying and rebuilding a new country physically decimated and bitterly divided by war. There was bitterness and suspicion on both sides. The economy was in ruins. Damage from the war included villages and rice fields littered with mines and a large swath of the country poisoned by Agent Orange. On top of that you had a population—including an entire generation—bruised, exhausted and battered by war, that had more or less been going on non-stop since World War II. And as it would turn out, more conflict lay ahead in Cambodia and with China.

After the Vietnam War, Vietnam became isolated from the world and ranked for many years as one of the world's poorest nations. Even though it sat on some of the richest agricultural land in the world, it had difficulty feeding itself. David Lamb wrote in the Los Angeles Times, "In its revolutionary zeal, the party collectivized farms. Without incentives, productivity went down and Vietnam became a rice importer. The party confiscated property and wealth. Overnight, millionaires became paupers. Children of South Vietnamese soldiers were denied access to the best colleges and the good jobs, and the spirit of reconciliation withered. Newspapers disappeared, movie theaters closed, bank safe-deposit boxes were sealed. Ordinary Vietnamese were forbidden to have contact with foreigners. More than 400,000 South Vietnamese were sent off to reeducation camps, some to languish for years. (David Lamb, Los Angeles Times, April 30, 2005)

Vietnam had to overcome the severe consequences of 30 years of war and started rebuilding the country. After that it focused on economical development and is striving to raise the

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annual income per capita, solidify the economy. The first postwar decade was marked by a continuation of the wartime subsidy system, the regimentation of daily living and the same hard-line ideology that had reigned during the war. In the South, people were imprisoned, property was seized, intellectuals were purged. Careers -- and lives -- were ended. This period was also marked by military conflict on the western border with Cambodia and on the northern border with China. Newly achieved national independence turned into international isolation and transformed the recently unified country into a territory riddled with poverty, backwardness and repression. There were hard years; only after a decade was the "Doi Moi" policy of economic liberalization introduced. In 1994, the U.S. embargo on Vietnam was lifted and the normalization process between Vietnam and the United States began to accelerate. Today, for most Americans, the Vietnam War belongs to history. It is rarely raised, and usually only as a point of comparison with other wars the U.S. is fighting or ones it probably will fight in the future

3.2. The American Perspective

Early assessments of the Vietnam war were for the most part highly critical of U.S. policy. Most widely read works concerned with the conflict during the late 1960s and early 1970s designated the policy of U.S. government mostly quite rudely and in non-discriminative way. There existed the broad agreement among many writers that the Vietnam War represented a colossal mistake for the United States, and that U.S. statecraft was beleaguered repeatedly by deficiencies, errors, misperceptions, and by miscalculations

3.2.1. Two Schools of Thought

At the beginning of the formation of public opinions on the Vietnam War two different views predominated. The first view characterized American involvement in the war as an avoidable tragedy. In accordance to the liberal realist perspective, American politicians

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assessed that a true value of Vietnam's importance to the United States was connected with the economic and security interests of the United States. Simultaneously, these policymakers held an opinion that if the government had been aware of the limits of American power, then this tragedy might have been averted. The view represented the dominant interpretation of the Vietnam War. Experts such as George C. Herring, Stanley Karnow, Gary R. Hess, George McT. Kahin, William S. Turley, Neal Sheehan, and William I. Duiker take as a basic point of departure the notion that the Vietnam conflict was a tragic misadventure that could have been avoided had American leaders only been wiser, more prudent, and less wedded to the assumptions of the past.

The other major view was related to a more radical critique of American involvement. It characterized the United States as a global dominion that is responsible for its own economic expansion and that must oppose to expanding communism. Authors that tried to characterize American intervention in Indochina from this perspective usually emphasized the logical necessity of each superpower to struggle for world dominance. In accordance to Gabriel Kolko's work *Anatomy of a War*, there was formulated the most sophisticated and comprehensive definition of the radical standpoint. Kolko sees "U.S. intervention in Vietnam as a predictable consequence of the American ruling class's determination to exert control over the world capitalist system.

The U.S. political economy's need for raw materials, investment outlets, and the integration between capitalist core states and the developing regions of the periphery set Washington on a collision course with revolutionary nationalist currents throughout the Third World."

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Much of the debate about the impact of the war revolved around whether it was a predictable consequence or an avoidable tragedy, it must be mentioned that this question oppressed both the media world and the general public for the following time to come.

3.2.2. Media Meddling and American Public Opinion

Being part of the US global struggle with the authoritarianism, the question went up to whether the United States, as a free and self-contained state, should have incorporated itself to suppress communism in such a long-distanced region. The other question of many political debates is related to the fact whether the problems in Vietnam were primarily political and economic rather than military.

U.S. foreign policy was largely concentrated on suspension of spreading communistic regime. Therefore, it was based upon so-called the domino effect theory. If Vietnam fell, then suddenly Thailand and Indonesia would fall, and this in turn would cause more and more countries to fall victim to communism.

Opinion about the war was divided, because there was no consensus on a course of action in Vietnam. Furthermore, the longer the war lasted the more the nation shared negative and pessimistic feelings about it. People could have seen only little progress both at the course of the war and later on at the peace talks. Wars, like other large-scale events, need a justification-which is inherently a political process. So the combination of Americans' feelings and the racial division which already existed in the country and the skepticism toward the anti-war movement pressed U.S. government to persuade the American nation that the principle of the war in Vietnam was rightful. Perceptions and representations of the war cannot be seen only in the political context, but the mass media portrayal of the conflict has also invoked the memory of the war.

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The media had an immense effect on many individuals during the war. The public were informed about the war's progress through the media, television, and newspapers. Consequently, much of their opinions and beliefs about war and American soldiers were shaped by how the media viewed the war. Photographers were very influential in forming, changing, and molding public opinion. Some photographers were interested in showing the suffering and anguish of the soldier, whereas others wanted to emphasize the dignity, strength, and fearlessness of the American soldier. Those at home had no experience of how the soldier lived or what he had to deal with during the war. The media built up a stereotype of the soldier's life. These stereotypes are formed, directed, and censored for military and political reasons, which were designed to build up morale at home or show that there was progression and production of the war. When the soldier returned home, he was confused and annoyed to have seen that his family and friends did not understand what he had experienced and how he had changed. What the people at home had learned and discovered about the war, they had seen mostly through the media. Thus, whatever the media portrayed was what the public believed, but this did not necessarily agree with what the soldier actually experienced. Psychologists found that it was important not only to prepare the veteran for the necessary process of adjustment, but it was also important to prepare the people at home. "They have to learn through the media, that the man whom they await will be somebody different from what they imagined him to be", as it was highlighted by (6) In order to have facilitated the process of re-adjustment for the veteran, the public should have been told the truth as to what these men endured.

Surprisingly, many of the films portrayed how the media played a part in shaping the War and how the media had its own agenda. Some of the movies actually had film crews on the battlefields taking pictures and rolling live footage. In *Good Morning Vietnam*, the main character is a popular Vietnam radio disc jockey with thousands of soldiers as everyday

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listeners. In *Full Metal Jacket* the main character is both a soldier and also a journalist for a newspaper.

The films illustrate how media is as a tool to shape how the War was portrayed for both the soldiers and civilians back in the U.S. These portrayals of the War could either be in favor of the War and American involvement, or against our soldiers and the War. For example, a film crew in *Full Metal Jacket* interviews the soldiers for a program to show to the public back in the States. They ask the soldiers, "Does America belong in Vietnam?" A soldier responds, "I don't know." By showing this type of answer to society back at home, people would feel that even the soldiers are uncertain as to why they are at war. It would promote people to be against American involvement. The newspaper editor in *Full Metal Jacket* acknowledged how the War was being portrayed back at home. "This is not a popular war." He then explained to his journalists that their job was to try and portray the War as positive as possible. He said, "We run only two kinds of stories here: Stories which win the hearts and minds of society, and combat action that results in a kill-winning the war." *Good Morning Vietnam* also portrayed this concept of the media selectively picking and choosing which news it wants to report. Before the disc jockey is permitted to read the news over the air and inform the soldiers in Vietnam of the latest developments, he had to first give it to radio officials who checked its content. The officials would censor negative events out of the report, thus shaping the truth about what was really happening in the War. Though films are media in themselves, these Vietnam War movies seem to feel that, in order to give the most accurate portrayal, they should illustrate how the media at that time effected the way in which the War was viewed and accepted.

3.2.3. A Costly War

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The Vietnam War is perhaps the most harrowing event for American society since the Second World War. There was no official beginning, no glorious ending or celebrations in the streets, and there were no heroes. Instead there was guilt, confusion and shock. It was difficult for America to understand how they had lost when \$174 billion had been invested in a war that at its height had 526,000 American personnel stationed in Vietnam. The frostiness that the Veterans received on returning highlights the bewilderment of the public. The America collective ego, inflated after the success of World War II, was shattered by the seemingly impossible defeat at the hands of an insurgent army with little or no major hardware.

For those that fought, it was a revolutionary experience, and when they came home, it scarred their remaining lives. In battle, the American army was completely unable to contain or defeat the NLF and NVA. Only rarely did open warfare breakout, and when skirmishes erupted, they were mostly defensive actions by the American military. As for the South Vietnamese troops, the ARVN, they were unwillingly to engage in combat with their guerrilla counterparts and were more interested in surviving than winning.

For those that were fighting, the war – particularly from 1968 – seemed pointless. Douglas McCormac wrote to his friend in August 1968 concerning his pessimism towards events:

"Of course, Americans are now dying, and I would not belittle anyone who served 'with proud devotion' and faith in this enterprise. It may not have been a terribly wrong theoretical idea at one time. But the foreign, introduced offensive, the consequent corruption and then the contempt that developed between people and groups – it makes a mockery of the 'noble' words used to justify this war. It's now a war of survival...." (Dear America. P.216.)

The situation that the GIs found themselves in was a demoralising routine of long periods of boredom, mixed with sharp periods of frustrating combat in which friends lost

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other friends or suffered casualties. Bob Muller's anger spilled over when he lectured to a group of students in August 1971: "Perhaps you think I'm just a bitter person – and only because I got hit in Nam. I am bitter. You're damn right I'm bitter!" (Bob Muller. 'A Veteran Speaks Against the War.')

Not only was defeating the enemy impossible, but they also had to deal with an antagonistic relationship with those they were supposed to be defending: "We saw the hate in the eyes of the local villagers who never welcomed us as 'liberators' bringing us bouquets of flowers as we had seen in World War II movies. The only Vietnamese who seemed to want us there wanted greenbacks in return for damages, booze or women, or all three." (P. Zastro. 'A History of the Vietnam War.')

The willing stayed at home, while the unwilling – the poor, the blacks, the Latinos – were sent to the front. At home, the anti-war movement was huge, but amongst the GIs who fought in the jungles of Vietnam and who were stationed at bases around the rest of the world, there was resistance too. There was passive resistance in Vietnam in the form of drug abuse. That was originally just cannabis usage, but later widespread heroin abuse; and there was active resistance in the form of the murder of unpopular officers, the publication of anti-war journals, the formation of anti-war groups, and various spontaneous outbursts and confrontations with superior officers.

3.3. The Lessons of the Vietnam War for Americans

After devastating the country of Vietnam, the rich United States has not even considered paying reparations. In fact the US was the only nation out of 141 that refused to endorse a United Nations resolution urging priority economic assistance to Vietnam.

Another result is the terrible injuries, both physical and psychological, which the Vietnam veterans have suffered. The moral problems have caused severe psychological disturbances.

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Hundreds of thousands of Americans were trained to kill and did kill hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese. When they discovered it was for no good reason, the remorse, grief, guilt, anger, frustration, and resentment erupted. By 1980 the number of veterans, who had committed suicide, was already larger than the number of Americans killed in Vietnam. The veterans bear the heaviest psychological burden. Yet all Americans were responsible, especially the politicians and officers who gave the orders.

The only restraints on US military escalation were the fear of a conflict with China or the Soviet Union and the conscience of the American public as represented in the peace movement. During the Vietnam War about 170,000 young American men were granted Conscientious Objector (CO) status by their draft boards or from the military, and some 300,000 applied but were denied the deferment. The number of men who illegally avoided the draft has been estimated at 600,000, and about a third of these were formally charged. About 40,000 fled to Canada, while another 20,000 escaped to other countries or hid from authorities in the United States. The number of COs increased from 18,000 in 1964 to 61,000 in 1971, and the number of prosecutions went from 340 in 1965 to 5,000 for the year 1972. About 17,000 in the military applied to be Conscientious Objectors.

Noting that anti-war demonstrators did not kill a single person during the period the US Government killed hundreds of thousands in Indochina, Fred Halstead summarized the accomplishments of the anti-war movement as breaking the spell of anti-Communist hysteria, increasing healthy skepticism of political leaders, changing the stereotype of soldiers as obedient pawns, becoming reluctant to engage in military adventures abroad, and expanding social reform movements to issues of foreign policy. For the first time in American history the people successfully challenged the government's right to wage war.

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Why, then, did America get bogged down in the quagmire of Vietnam for so long at such great cost? After World War II the United States became the greatest power in the history of the world. The abuse of greatness is the abuse of the power. America thought it could do no wrong. At the same time Americans had a tremendous fear of Communism. Historically, it took a decade and a half before the US even recognized the Soviet Union and more than two decades before it recognized nearly a billion people in China. With a world-wide military force the United States was arrogant enough to think that it could stop Communism by force of arms. Psychologically there was the irrational fear that if America did not intervene, somehow Communism would take over the world. The Soviet empire was likewise afraid of encroachment through Korea or eastern Europe and therefore took steps to place a protective ring around itself, while the United States has protective military bases all around the world.

Because of this combination of American power, fear of Communism, and self-righteous concepts about capitalist democracy, the US foolishly tried to set up a non-Communist government in a country that was trying to free itself from French colonialism by a combination of nationalistic independence and Marxist ideology. Politicians apparently believed that only by the influence of its military power could the United States try to hold back the tide of political revolution and national independence in Vietnam.

What are the lessons for the future that Americans and others can learn? Military methods ultimately do not solve political and social problems. Independence and self-determination are best attained without military interference. Military methods only militarize the opposition and escalate violence so that peaceful solutions are more unattainable. The security of the United States and its allies is not really threatened by what goes on in small underdeveloped countries. Nuclear weapons are of no use in these situations. Armed intervention will eventually backfire. The US has no legal right to be a policeman in another country. The veterans can teach others of the horrors and agonies of war. The American

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people must not allow the President to go astray while intoxicated with power. An effective peace movement can dramatically influence political policies. Finally, every person has the responsibility to refuse to support an illegal and immoral war.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

America is a great nation that has a very interesting history which contributes in giving her a big position in the world, yet throughout the domination and controlling other countries, it reveals one of the most well-known wars that the history has ever written. The Vietnam War is considered as the pillar of its military reinforcement. Moreover, the Vietnam War is called the second Indochina that took a long period of time, almost thirty years.

The present work tackles the American vs. Vietnam' war, highlighting its fundamental aspects and consequences on both nations. However, the Vietnam society is a complex society that has rejected the norms of other nations like the Chinese, the Khmers and the Chams, Another issue of letting Vietnam committ the unplanned war is the imperialism of the French since they played an unknown role in distributing education because their aim was to create colonies.

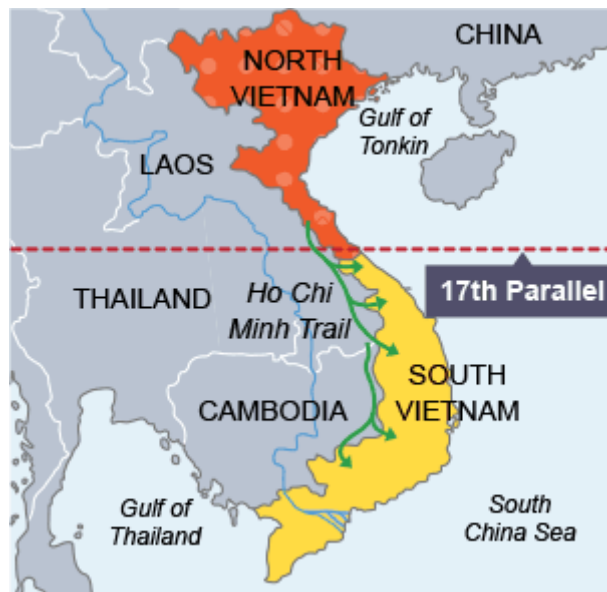
The ongoing process of this reaserch is divided into three chapters. The first chapter is a historical background aiming to shed light on the most relevant information about the imperialism of china, the French and finally America, yet all these countries wanted to invade Vietnam all across the past years. Moving along to the second chapter which aimed of discuss the causes of the American involvement in the Vietnam War, the causes of the Vietnam War are as follow: dominant theory, ARVWS weakness and the policy of containment. As far as chapter three is concerned, the consequences of the America and Vietnam War perceived on the on public opinions, the contribution of media in reaching the voices of the Americans in making end of this cruel war, consuming the financial sources as well as reducing the minimum cost lives as well economic losses.

General Conclusion

The media was and still is an effective tool in reaching and providing essential events to people. That is what happened during the Vietnam War; its contribution, was in putting end to this long period of bloodiest war that the history ever known. The lessons the war gave to Americans range from their need for, a counter-insurgency plan attention to public opinion.

Appendix

The map found it in page 16 in chapter one



source:<http://travel.voyagevietnam.co/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Vietnam-War-Timeline.png>

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