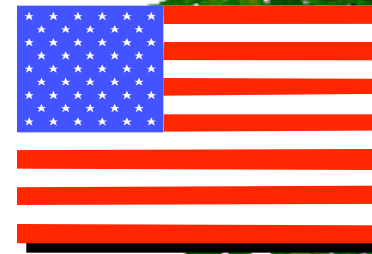


The Vietnam War 1954 - 1975

Ms. Susan M. Pojer
Horace Greeley H. S.
Chappaqua, NY



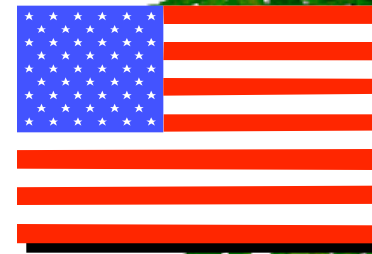
Background to the War

- z France controlled "Indochina" since the late 19th century
- z Japan took control during World War II
- z With U.S. aid, France attempted re-colonization in the postwar period

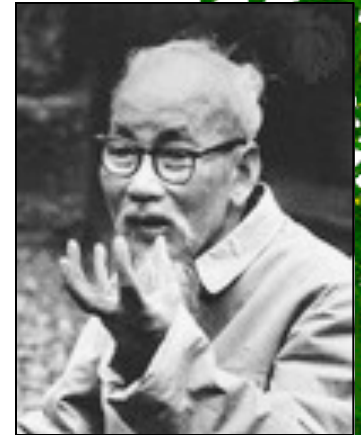




Background to the War



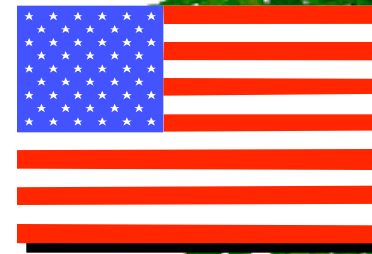
z The French lost control to
Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh
forces in 1954 at **Dien Bien**
Phu



z President Eisenhower declined to
intervene on behalf of France.

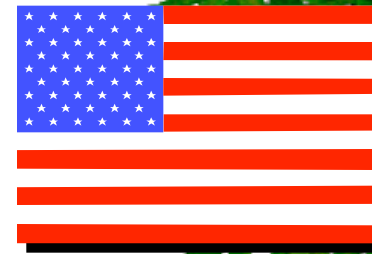


Background to the War



- z International Conference at Geneva
 - p Vietnam was divided at 17th parallel
 - o **Ho Chi Minh's** nationalist forces controlled the North
 - o **Ngo Dinh Diem**, a French-educated, Roman Catholic claimed control of the South

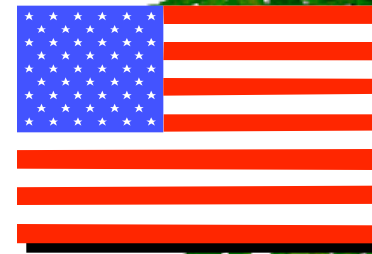




Background to the War

- z A date was set for democratic elections to reunify Vietnam
- z Diem backed out of the elections, leading to military conflict between North and South





U.S. Military Involvement Begins

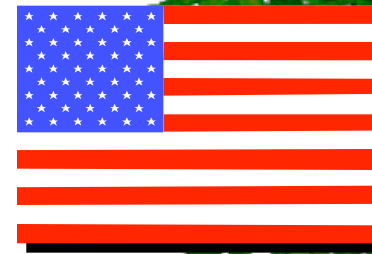
- z** Repressive dictatorial rule by Diem
 - p** Diem's family holds all power
 - p** Wealth is hoarded by the elite
 - p** Buddhist majority persecuted
 - p** Torture, lack of political freedom prevail

- z** The U.S. aided Diem's government
 - p** Ike sent financial and military aid
 - p** 675 U.S. Army advisors sent by 1960.

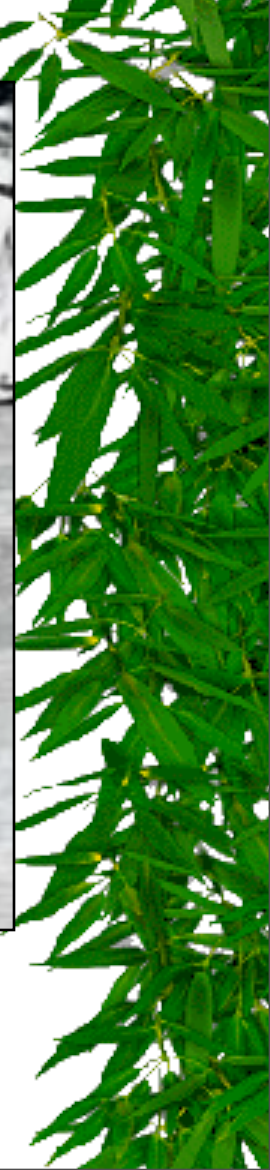




Early Protests of Diem's Government

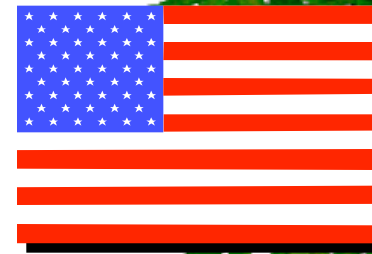


Self-Emolation by a Buddhist Monk





U.S. Military



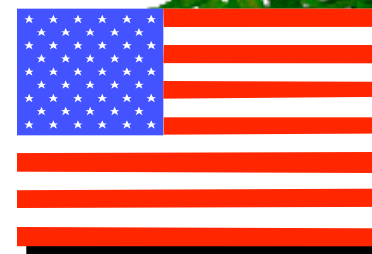
Involvement Begins

- z Kennedy elected 1960
- z Increases military "advisors" to 16,000
- z 1963: JFK supports a Vietnamese military coup d'etat - Diem and his brother are murdered (Nov. 2)
- z Kennedy was assassinated just weeks later (Nov. 22)

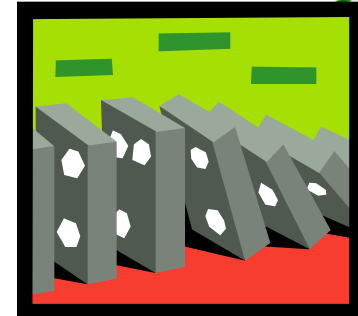




Johnson Sends Ground Forces



z Remembers Truman's "loss" of China → **Domino Theory** revived

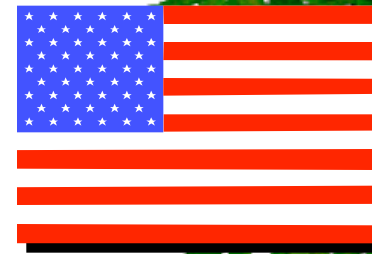


I'm not going to be the president who saw Southeast Asia go the way China went.



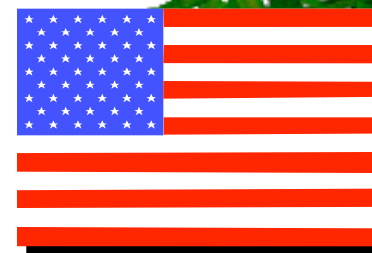


Johnson Sends Ground Forces

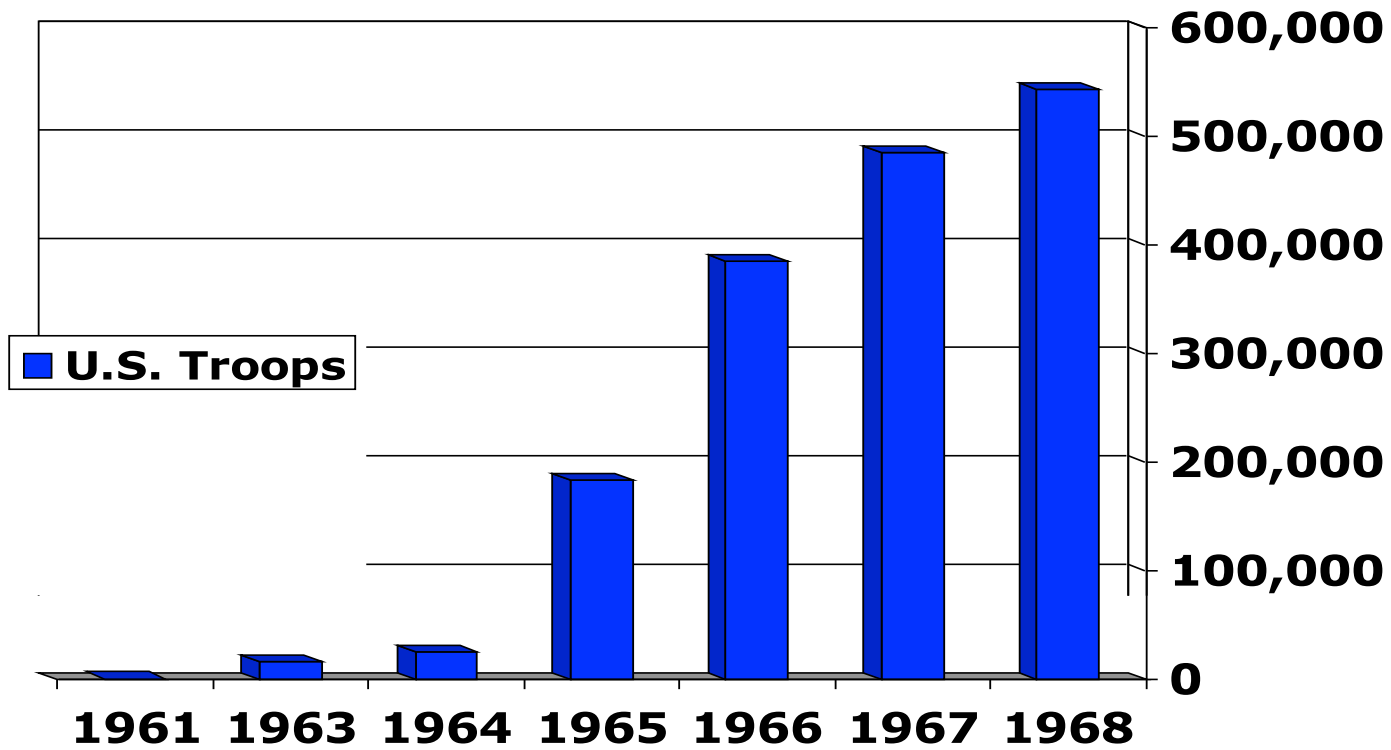


- z Advised to rout the communists by Secretary of Defense, **Robert S. McNamara**
- z Tonkin Gulf Incident → 1964 (according to Johnson, the attacks were unprovoked)
- z **Tonkin Gulf Resolution**
 - P "The Blank Check" *



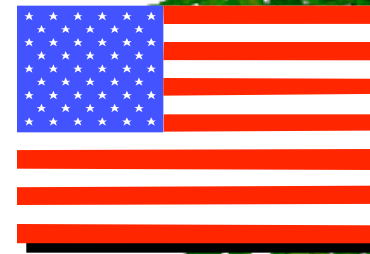


U.S. Troop Deployments





The Ground War 1965-1968



- z No territorial goals
- z Body counts on TV every night
(first "living room" war)



The Vietnam War, 1964–1975

- 1964**
 - ☀ Gulf of Tonkin incident, August 4
- 1965**
 - ☀ First sustained bombing of North Vietnam
- 1966**
 - ☀ U.S. air raids over Hanoi, 1966–1968
- 1968**
 - ☀ Tet Offensive, Jan. 30–Feb. 24
 - ☀ My Lai massacre, March 16
- 1970**
 - ☀ Invasion of Cambodia, April 29–June 29
- 1971**
 - ☀ Invasion of Laos, Feb. 6–March
- 1972**
 - ☀ Haiphong harbor mined, May
 - ☀ U.S. air raids over Hanoi, Dec.
- 1973**
 - ☀ U.S. Troops withdraw
- 1975**
 - ☀ Surrender in Saigon, April 30

BURMA

CHINA

NORTH VIETNAM

Dien Bien Phu

Hanoi

Haiphong

LAOS

Vientiane

Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

Hue

Da Nang

My Lai

THAILAND

Bangkok

CAMBODIA

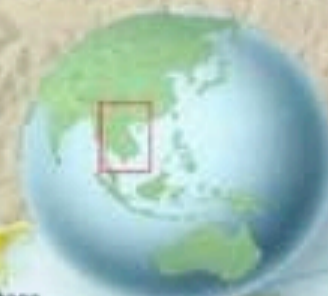
Phnom Penh

SOUTH VIETNAM

Seigon

Gulf of Thailand

South China Sea



500 Miles

1000 Kilometers

0
10°N
20°N

0
10°E
20°E

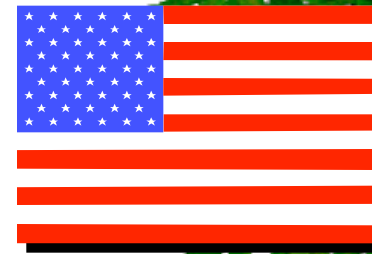
105°E
110°E

105°E
110°E

105°E
110°E



The Air War 1965-1968



- z 1965: Sustained bombing of North Vietnam
- z **Operation Rolling Thunder** (March 2, 1965)

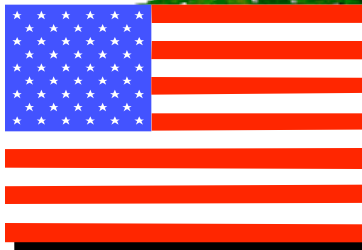


- z 1966-68: Ongoing bombing of Hanoi nonstop for 3 years! Esp. targets the **Ho Chi Minh Trail**.
- z Downed Pilots: P.O.W.s
- z Carpet Bombing - **napalm**



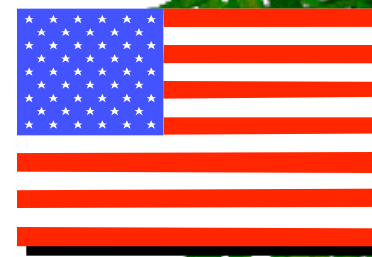


The Air War: A Napalm Attack





Who Is the



Z Vietcong:

- P Farmers by day; guerillas at night.
- P Very patient people willing to accept many casualties.
- P The US grossly underestimated their resolve and their resourcefulness.

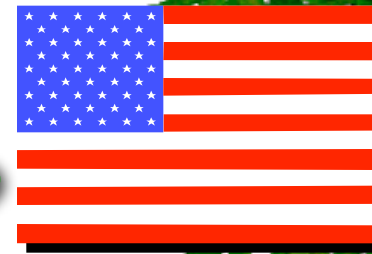
The guerilla wins if he does not lose,
the conventional army loses if it does
not win.

-- Mao Zedong



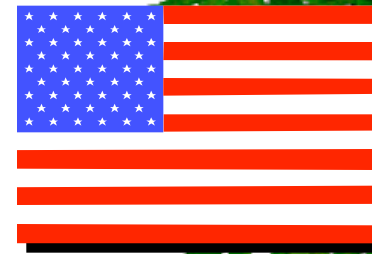


Who Is the Enemy?





The Ground War 1965-1968



z **General Westmoreland, late 1967:**

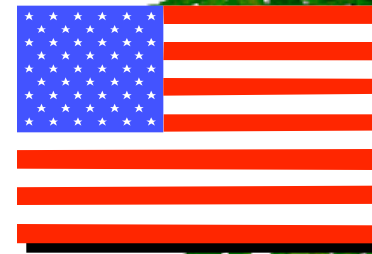


We can see the
"light at the end of the tunnel."



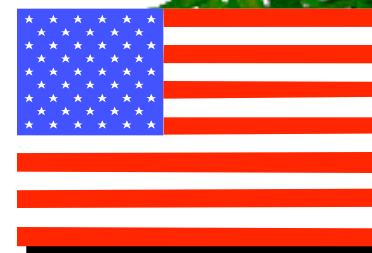


The Tet Offensive, January 1968



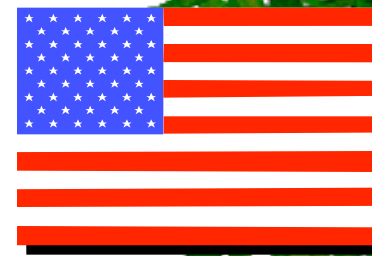
- z N. Vietnamese Army + Viet Cong attack South simultaneously (67,000 attack 100 cities, bases, and the US embassy in Saigon)
- z Take every major southern city
- z U.S. + ARVN beat back the offensive
- z Viet Cong destroyed
- z N. Vietnamese army debilitated
- z BUT...it's seen as an American defeat by the media





The Tet Offensive, January 1968

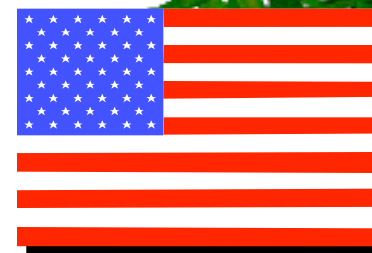




Impact of the Tet Offensive

- z Domestic U.S. Reaction:
Disbelief, Anger, Distrust of
Johnson Administration
- z Hey, Hey LBJ! How
many kids did you
kill today?





AN EASTERN THEATRE PRODUCTION

SEE... A CAST OF THOUSANDS!
SEE... MODERN ATROCITIES IN FULL COLOR!
SEE... THE ACCOUNTS OF A NATION DESTINED TO SAVE THE WORLD IN SPITE OF ITSELF!

GRIPPING... MOVING... A FILM THE WHOLE FAMILY IS SURE TO ENJOY!

WAR

FILMED WITH THE CAREFUL AND UNPRECEDENTED PARTICIPATION OF THE ENTIRE MILITARY FORCES OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL AND MOST ADVANCED NATION

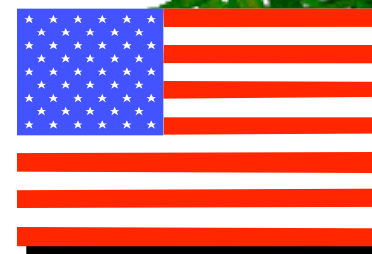
"A TRULY REMARKABLE PORTRAYAL OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY"
"BEAUTIFUL... POIGNANT"

FILMED IN REAL BLOOD 'N GUTS COLOR PRICE OF ADMISSION: YOUR SON PLUS TAXES



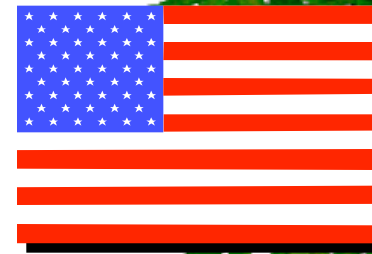


Johnson's
popularity
dropped in
1968 from
48% to 36%.





Impact of the Vietnam War



Johnson announces (March, 1968):

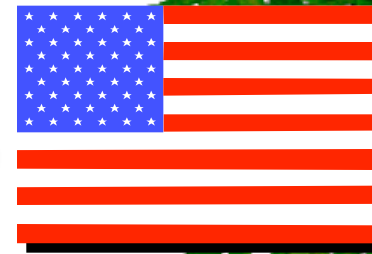


...I shall not
seek, and I will
not accept, the
nomination of my
party for another
term as your
President.





American Morale Begins to Dip

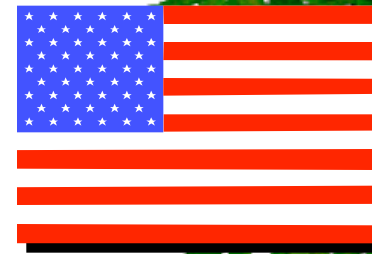


- z Disproportionate representation of poor people and minorities.
- z Severe racial problems.
- z Major drug problems.
- z Officers:
 - in combat 6 months
 - in rear 6 months
- z Enlisted men:
 - in combat for 12 mo.





Are We Becoming the Enemy?



Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry



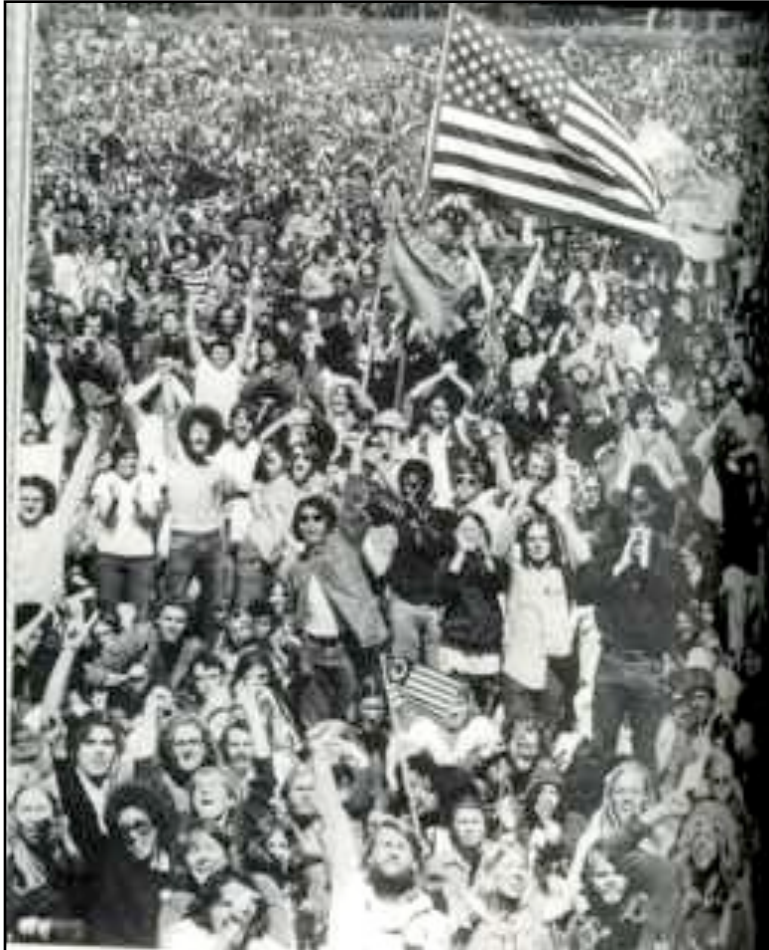
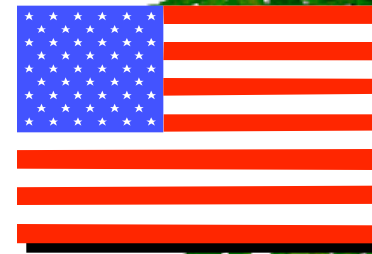
- z **My Lai Massacre, 1968**
- z **200-500 unarmed villagers**



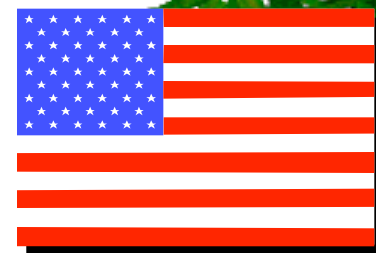
- z **Lt. William Calley,**
Platoon Leader



Anti-War Demonstrations

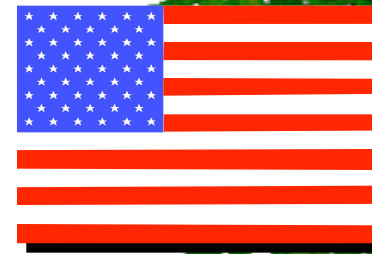


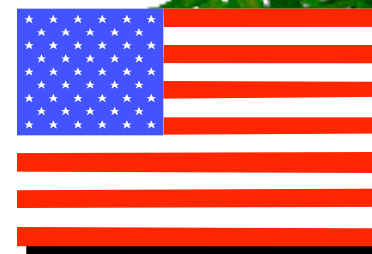
Columbia University
1967





“Hell no, we won’t go!”





Anti-War Demonstrations



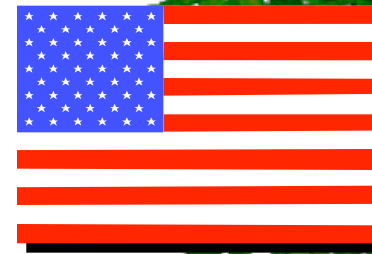
**Democratic Convention
in Chicago, 1968**

**Student Protestors
at UC Berkeley,
1968**





“Hanoi Jane”

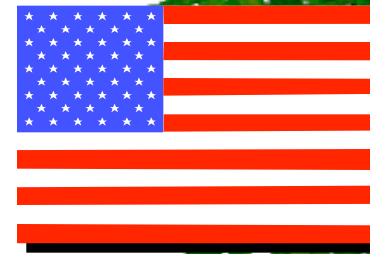


Jane Fonda: Traitor?





Anti-War Demonstrations



Kent State University

Kent State, OH

May 4, 1970

4 students shot dead.

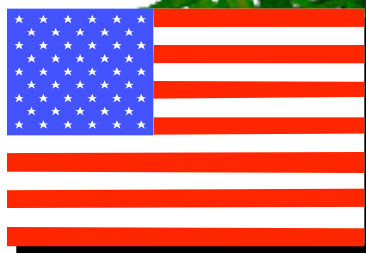
11 students wounded

Jackson State, MS

May 10, 1970

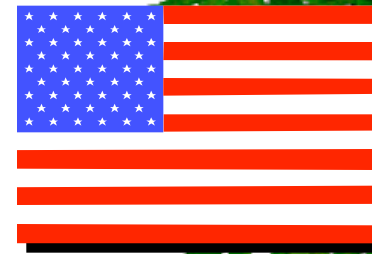
2 students shot dead.

12 students wounded





Nixon on Vietnam

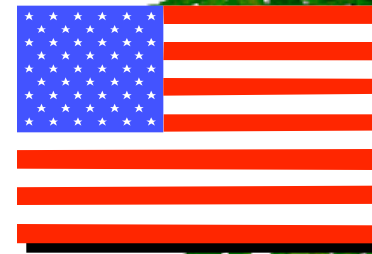


- z Nixon's 1968 Campaign promised an end to the war: **Peace with Honor**
 - P Appealed to the great **"Silent Majority"**
- z **Vietnamization**
- z Expansion of the conflict → The "Secret War"
 - P Cambodia
 - P Laos
- z **Agent Orange** (chemical defoliant)





“Pentagon Papers,” 1971

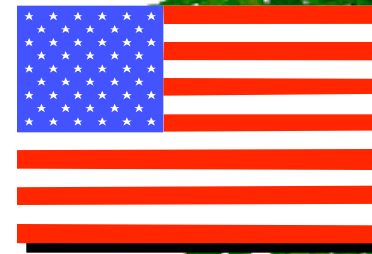


- z Former defense analyst **Daniel Ellsberg** leaked govt. docs. regarding war efforts during Johnson's administration to the New York Times.
- z Docs. → Govt. misled Congress & Amer. People regarding its intentions in Vietnam during mid-1960s.
 - P Primary reason for fighting not to eliminate communism, but to avoid humiliating defeat.
 - P **New York Times v. United States (1971)** *





The Ceasefire, 1973

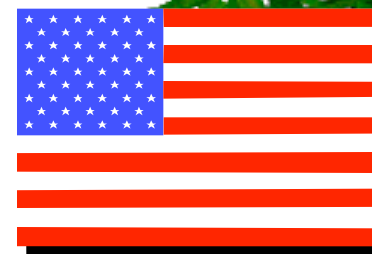


- z **Peace is at hand** → Kissinger, 1972
 - P North Vietnam attacks South
 - P Most Massive U.S. bombing commences

- z **1973: Ceasefire signed between**
 - P U.S., South Vietnam, & North Vietnam

- z **Peace with honor** (President Nixon)





Peace Negotiations



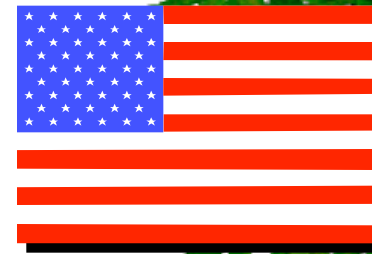
Dr. Henry Kissinger & Le Duc Tho

- z US & Vietnamese argue for 5 months over the size of the conference table!





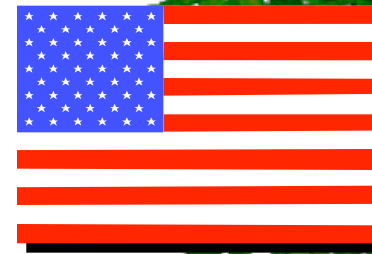
The Ceasefire,



- z **Conditions:**
 1. U.S. to remove all troops
 2. North Vietnam could leave troops already in S.V.
 3. North Vietnam would resume war
 4. No provision for POWs or MIAs
- z Last American troops left South Vietnam on March 29, 1973
- z 1975: North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam
- z Saigon renamed **Ho Chi Minh City**



The Fall of Saigon

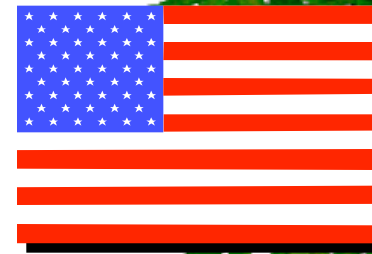


**South Vietnamese
Attempt to Flee the Country**





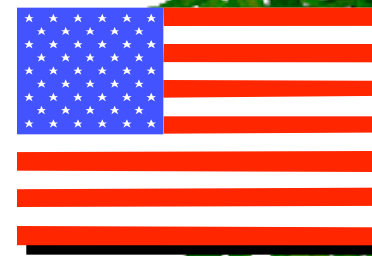
The Fall of Saigon



America Abandons Its Embassy



The Fall of Saigon

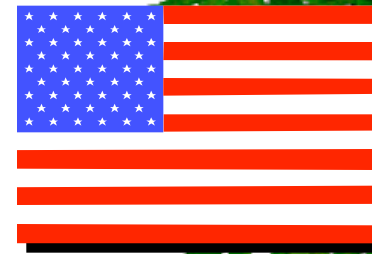


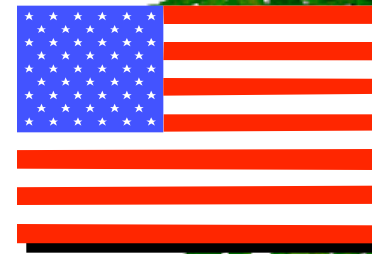
North Vietnamese
at the Presidential Palace





A United Vietnam





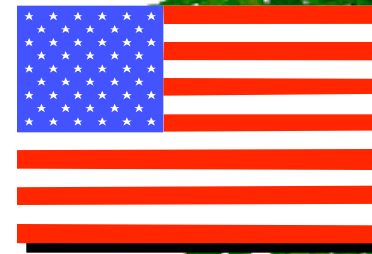
The Costs

1. 3,000,000 Vietnamese killed
2. 58,000 Americans killed; 300,000 wounded
3. Under-funding of Great Society programs
4. \$150,000,000,000 in U.S. spending
5. U.S. morale, self-confidence, trust of government - all decimated





The Impact



- z **26th Amendment:** 18-year-olds vote
- z Nixon abolished the draft → all-volunteer army
- z **War Powers Act, 1973** *

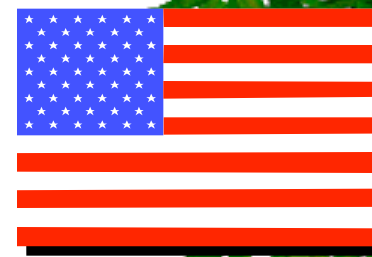
 - P President must notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying military force
 - P President must withdraw forces unless he gains Congressional approval within 90 days

- z Disregard for Veterans → seen as “baby killers”
- z POW/MIA issue lingered



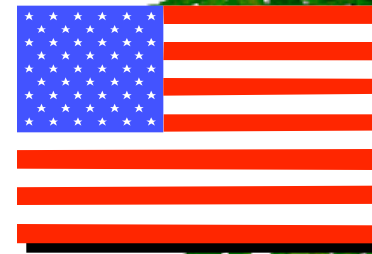


Some American POWs Returned from the “Hanoi Hilton”

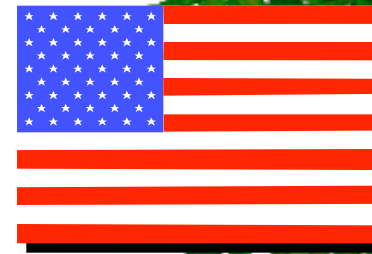


**Senator John McCain
(R-AZ)**





**2,583 American
POWs / MIAs
still unaccounted for today.**



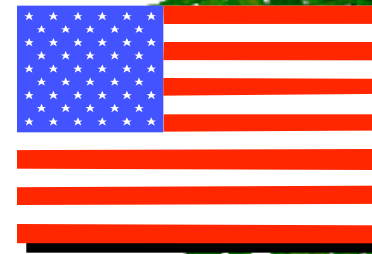
And in the End....



Ho Chi Minh:

If we have to fight, we will fight. You will kill ten of our men and we will kill one of yours, and in the end it will be you who tires of it.





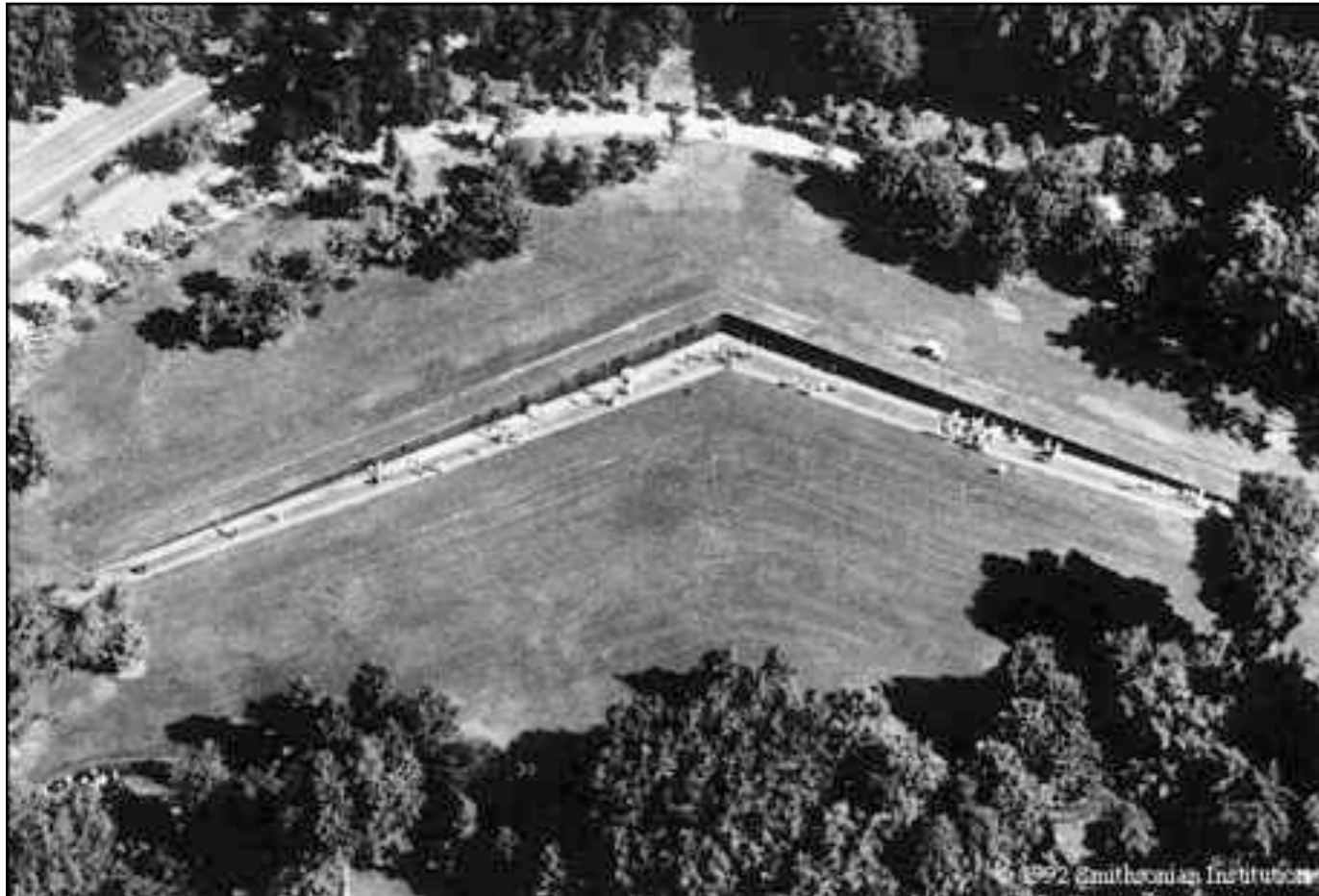
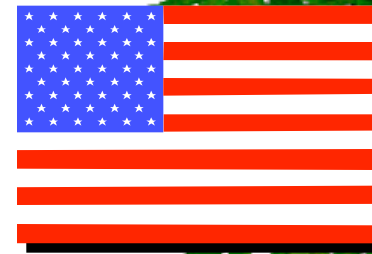
Lessons for Future American Presidents

1. Wars must be of short duration.
2. Wars must yield few American casualties.
3. Restrict media access to battlefields.
4. Develop and maintain Congressional and public support.
5. Set clear, winnable goals.
6. Set deadline for troop withdrawals.



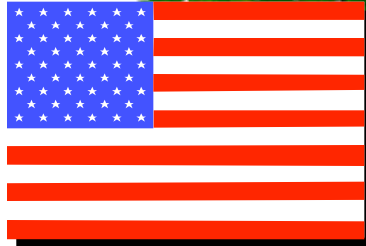


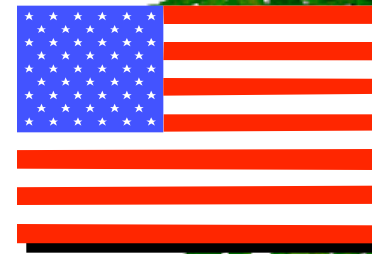
The Vietnam Memorial, Washington, D.C.





58,000



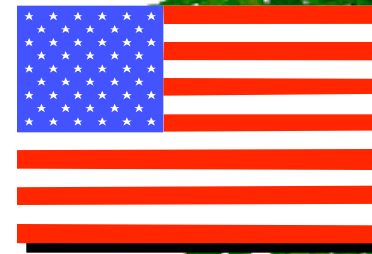


**President Clinton
formally recognized
the reunited nation
of Vietnam on
July 11, 1995**





Where Were You in the War, Daddy?



This war
haunts
us still!



George
W. Bush



John Kerry