

American History Chapter 25: The Vietnam War Era 1954 – 1975

U.S. History Objectives, North Carolina SCS

11.04: Identify the causes of the U.S. involvement in Vietnam and examine how this involvement affected society

11.05: Examine the impact of technological innovations that have impacted American life.

11.06: Identify political events and the actions and reactions of the government officials and assess the social and political consequences.

In this chapter you will learn the roots of the Vietnam War, beginning with the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu , the impact of President Eisenhower’s Domino Theory, increased American involvement in South Vietnamese struggle to maintain it’s independence from North Vietnam. You will learn how the civil dissent within South Vietnam impacts upon American society and government.

With the assassination of President Kennedy and new direction in South Vietnam comes with the Congressional passing of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Political and civil strife within American cities, civil unrest of war protestors of the war boils over in the “police riot” at the Democratic Chicago Convention of 1968 and the election of Richard M. Nixon who tells the American people he has a plan to end the war. The chapter concludes with President Nixon visiting Communist China in 1972 and the Paris Peace Accords of 1973 which brings the curtain down on America’s involvement in a land war in Asia.

Section 1: Origins of the Vietnam War:

- Use web links or your text book to define the following: domino theory, Dien Bien Phu, Ho Chi Minh, Vietcong, Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- As you read section 1, create a graphic organizer like the one found on page 848. As you read, describe the Vietnam polices of Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson
- Identify ways in sheikh the United States opposed communism in Southeast Asia

Section 2: U.S. Involvement Grows:

- Use web links or your text book to define the following: hawk, dove, napalm, William Westmoreland
- As you read section 2, create an outline like the one on page 853 and note the details about the escalation of the American war effort
- Identify the factors that caused President Johnson to increase American troop strength in Vietnam

Section 3: The War Divides America

- Use web links or your textbook to define the following: SDS, “credibility gap”, Tet Offensive, draftee, Robert Kennedy, Eugene McCarthy
- As your read section 3, create a graphic organizer like the one on page 860 and not the events leading up to the 1968 election in the United States

- Summarize the factors that influenced the outcome of the 1968 presidential election

Section 4: The War's End and Impact

- Use web links or your text book to define the following: Pentagon Papers, Vietnamization, Kent State University, War Powers Act, Paris Peace Accords
- Using a Venn Diagram like the one on page 868 note the similarities and differences between Nixon's Vietnam policy and that of Lyndon Johnson
- Explain what led to the Paris Peace Accords and why South Vietnam eventually fell to the communists

Section 5: Nixon and the Cold War:

- Use web links or your textbook to define the following: realpolitik, Henry Kissinger, Zhou Enlai, détente, Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty
- Create a graphic organizer like the one located on page 877. As you read section 5, describe Nixon's Cold War foreign policies in dealing with China and the Soviet Union.
- Explain the thinking behind Richard Nixon's foreign policy.