



# THE VIETNAM WAR

# THE VIETNAM WAR

## Topics of Consideration

- I. Introduction: The Cold War Context
- II. Anti-Colonial Origins
- III. Incremental Involvement: IKE to Kennedy
- IV. Mr. Johnson's War
- V. The War at Home
- VI. Conclusion: The Legacy of Vietnam



# THE VIETNAM WAR

## I. Introduction: The Cold War Context

- A. America's longest and most unpopular war
- B. Divided nation almost as bitterly as Civil War
- C. Origins in Vietnamese fight for independence from France
- D. Context of America's involvement was the Cold War
- E. Vietnam War spawned a peace movement never seen before
- F. Split country along class and generational lines
- G. Vietnam - marker of US foreign policy in late 20<sup>th</sup> century



# THE VIETNAM WAR

## II. Anti-Colonial Origins of the War

- A. French colonized Vietnam (**Anam**) 1883-1954.
- B. 1920, Ho Chih Minh > Versailles for independence.
- C. President Woodrow Wilson never met with him.
- D. Later, Minh went to Moscow for assistance.





# ASIA.

SCALE OF MILES.

100 50 0 50 100 200 400 600 800  
 Copyright, 1890, by Rand, McNally & Co.

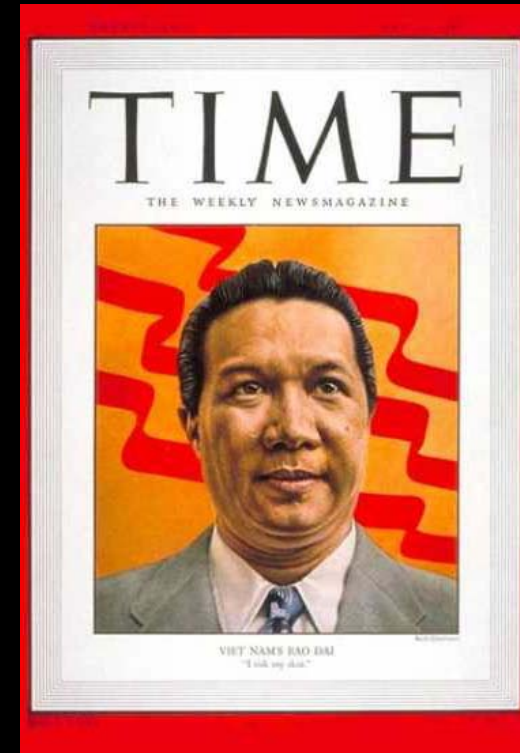
Rand, 60 Mc.Nally & Co., Eng'rs, 70 Chicago.

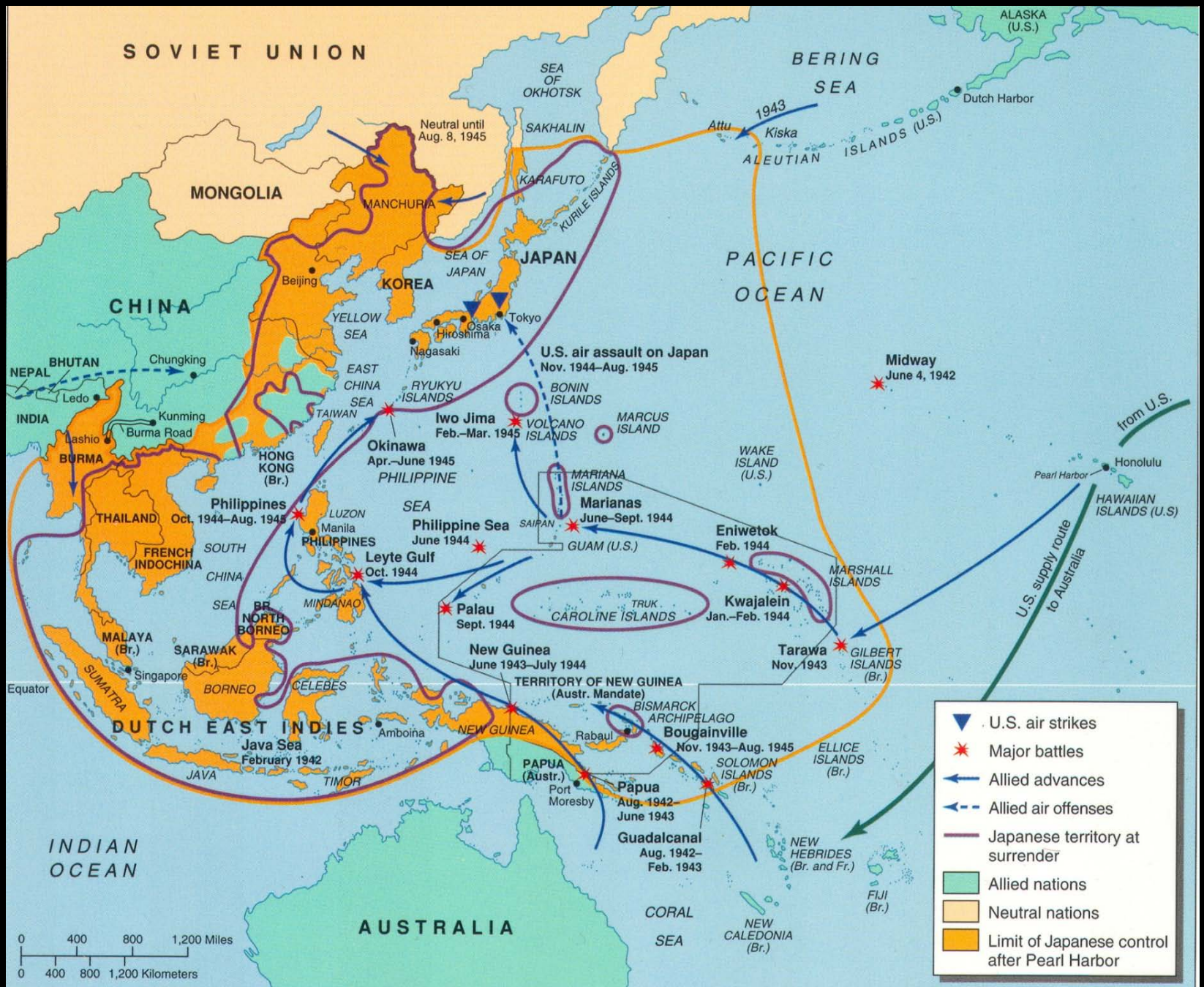
90° LONGITUDE FROM 90° GREENWICH 100° 110° 120° 130° 140° 150° 160° 170° 180°

# THE VIETNAM WAR

## II. Anti-Colonial Origins of the War

- E. WWII Japan invaded Vietnam; defeated French; controlled Vietnam.
- F. When Japan lost WWII, Viet Minh declared a Republic of Vietnam, comprised of Communists and nationalists.
- G. After WWII, French regained Vietnam; installed Bao Dai, a collaborator with Japanese and served as a French puppet.
- H. Bao Dai unpopular with nationalists who opposed puppet regime.
- I. US not happy about French return, but preferable to instability.
- J. In 1949, US attitude changed because China fell to Communists.
- K. In 1950, US decided to aid the French in stabilizing Vietnam, even against nationalists who are becoming increasingly Communist.





- ▲ U.S. air strikes
- ★ Major battles
- Allied advances
- - - Allied air offenses
- Japanese territory at surrender
- Allied nations
- Neutral nations
- Limit of Japanese control after Pearl Harbor

0 400 800 1,200 Miles  
 0 400 800 1,200 Kilometers



Asia from Time, 9/59



# THE VIETNAM WAR

## II. Anti-Colonial Origins of the War

- L. By 1952, US spent 2.6 billion to aid the French.
- M. Support of French part of a US effort to contain Communism in Asia and bolster containment in Europe.
- N. In 1954, battle at Dien Bien Phu—French finally surrendered.
- O. Peace conference in Geneva—Geneva Accords in 1954.
- P. Vietnam divided at 17<sup>th</sup> parallel.
- Q. Ho Chi Minh in control of north; new regime in south until elections could be held and country reunited.
- R. US observes but does not endorse Accords because worried about Minh's popularity and likelihood of his election in 1956.





# THE VIETNAM WAR

## III. Incremental Involvement: IKE to Kennedy

- A. What does US do? Ike talks about Domino Theory
- B. US sponsors regime in the South and installs Ngo Dinh Diem: a nationalist and anti-communist.
- C. Problems: Diem had lived in the US; he was a Catholic.
- D. Not democratic; ignores Geneva Accords - "did not sign them."
- E. Diem called off elections; established oppressive regime in South.
- F. US sent aid, but Ike was cautious not to involve US too much.
- G. Caution leads him to aid Diem but not too greatly.





# ASIA FROM IRKUTSK





President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles greet President Ngo Dinh Diem in Washington.

# THE VIETNAM WAR

## III. Incremental Involvement: IKE to Kennedy

H. Enter JFK: as much a Cold Warrior as Ike.

I. When JFK entered White House, Vietnam on periphery.

J. He watched as Diem's regime lost more and more power.

K. Free access given to reporters in Vietnam—war fought on t.v.





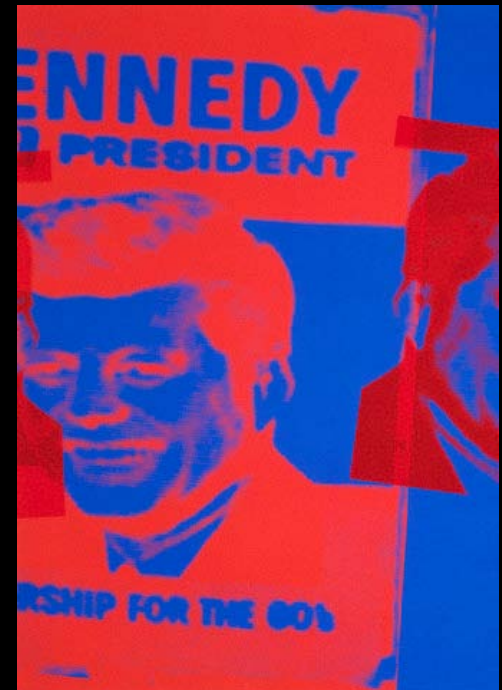
John F. Kennedy speaks at a press conference on North Vietnam March 23, 1961



# THE VIETNAM WAR

## III. Incremental Involvement: IKE to Kennedy

- L. 1963: Buddhist monk immolated self in protest of Diem.
- M. Unbelievable to Americans; sign of Diem losing control.
- N. Oct 1963: US accepted coup to overthrow Diem, who was killed.
- O. JFK > money and military advisors (16,700 compared to Ike's 800).
- P. JFK Assassinated November 1963.
- Q. Would JFK have increased or decreased commitment in Vietnam?





June 11, 1963: Thich Quang Duc immolated himself in Saigon to protest against Diem regime. Journalist Malcolm Browne's photograph won the 1963 World Press Photo of the Year.



A LA SQUA—The Ozama Elementary School band made it sound like 75 trombones although it didn't have quite that many in Arrigo Grande's Harvest Festival parade Saturday. Additional parade photos on page 9. (Telegram-Tribune photo)

## Braden Slates Talk in S.L.O.

One of the central figures in California's war of education, Thomas W. Braden, president of the State Board of Education, will speak in San Luis Obispo today. He will speak at the San Luis Obispo County School Board meeting.

The meeting will be open to the public. Mrs. Lenore Flynn, association president, said today Braden will be the guest of the association at its annual dinner meeting at 8:30 p.m. He will speak in the San Luis Obispo City Theater at 9 p.m.

The representatives of Braden to the State Board of Education was the subject of a month-long debate in California earlier this year. He was attacked by right wing groups for his stand on labor, ownership and indoctrination of school children.

Braden also opposed the election of Dr. Max Rafferty, present State Superintendent of Education, and since his election has engaged in a running battle with the superintendent over a variety of charges.

A "Democrat newspaper publisher, Braden has outlined his views in a Look Magazine article, to be published Oct. 15. He has been labeled the "blue cam" page" several times.

The president of the State Board of Education has been under fire for five of his chief-est of them having only a secondary leaving on education.

"They are" the opposition to indoctrination of school children even in the areas of patriotism.

He stated that teachers' unions of misbehavior including moral charges should have had hearings. He labeled that the teaching of evolution does not conflict with the Bible.

A denial that California textbooks contain Communist propaganda, and, finally, his dispute with Dr. Rafferty.

## County Water Proposal

A county-wide water development program including the construction of three new reservoirs and a county-wide distribution system was proposed today by Udo Perkins, chairman of the board of supervisors.

The proposal drew immediate support from supervisors. Braden of San Luis Obispo and Mayor Charles Davidson of San Luis Obispo.

Perkins called for the San Luis Obispo County board to establish a committee including representatives of each city of each water agency, the county and the public at large to prepare a detailed water proposal.

His suggestions will be finalized at a special supervisory meeting Oct. 15.

The approval will also consider at that meeting protests from the city of Paso Robles that San Luis Obispo is getting more than its share of water from Santa Margarita Lake.

"The approval of the San Antonio Water Project by Monterey County voters serves notice on the citizens of San Luis Obispo County that some action must be taken to protect the water that will now be available to us in West Point," Perkins told the supervisors.

The board of supervisors and the people of the county must act ahead of a water plan to prevent the loss of the 12,000 acre feet of water in Monterey County.

He added, "The water rights fully belong to all of the county and not just to the city of Paso Robles. The water will disappear the same as the other water in the northern part of the county."

The chairman of the board of supervisors commended the proposal and announced water is plentiful, water is on a county-wide basis.

Perkins suggested the inclusion of fellow water agencies in the county-wide system. San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Bernardino, San Jose, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, and Contra Costa.

In the case of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, the present county should be assured, the supply of an equivalent amount of water at the lowest possible price, according to Perkins.

"In addition, well planned distribution systems would be required," he said.

The plan should be based on a "dry" water need, Perkins commented.

"I deem it essential that no one plan be conditional without the assurance of an adequate supply of water to the project before," he said.

# San Luis Obispo County Telegram-Tribune

95TH YEAR, NO. 52 PRICE TEN CENTS 14 PAGES TODAY MONDAY, OCT. 7, 1963

## Poly Money Boxes Looted of \$1500

Several Cal Poly cash boxes were taken from their hiding places during the weekend, according to George W. Gockert, chief of the college's security force.

Gockert said the money represented proceeds from two dances held on the college campus.

He said that the cash boxes were taken from the Associated Students' business office. Most of every dollar the office had been determined.

Gockert said the money represented proceeds from two dances held on the college campus.

He said that the cash boxes were taken from the Associated Students' business office. Most of every dollar the office had been determined.

Gockert said the money represented proceeds from two dances held on the college campus.

He said that the cash boxes were taken from the Associated Students' business office. Most of every dollar the office had been determined.

Gockert said the money represented proceeds from two dances held on the college campus.

He said that the cash boxes were taken from the Associated Students' business office. Most of every dollar the office had been determined.

Gockert said the money represented proceeds from two dances held on the college campus.

He said that the cash boxes were taken from the Associated Students' business office. Most of every dollar the office had been determined.

Gockert said the money represented proceeds from two dances held on the college campus.

He said that the cash boxes were taken from the Associated Students' business office. Most of every dollar the office had been determined.

## He Quits Reds for Soviets

THURSDAY—A member of a Chinese Communist trade delegation made out of his Tokyo hotel room before dawn today, driven to the Soviet Embassy, and the police and sent back to his hotel.

The Chinese promptly granted without a hearing interpreter Chen Hongchang, 41, and returned to his hotel over to Japanese immigration authorities, threatening to work off a major diplomatic incident between Japan and the U.S.

All the same time, the chief of the Red Chinese delegation, Tuo Hongbin, informed the Japanese government he would not leave his country until the delegation was returned to the Chinese embassy. Tuo is chief secretary of Communist China's Asia Propaganda Academy.

The Japanese immigration authorities asked the Russians to force Chen's departure over to them because Chen's visa expired Sunday.

But the Japanese embassy refused. Japanese authorities said the embassy had already granted Chen's passage to Russia and was planning to leave for Moscow within the next few days.

Chen was interpreter for the eight-man trade delegation that arrived in Tokyo Sept. 8. It took an international air and sea route from Tokyo to San Francisco.

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico (UPI)—Fourteen American and three Mexican men were feared held in the wild canyon country of northwestern Mexico are all safe, a spokesman from the state said today.

Seven American men, a pilot who took U.S. Vice Consul Robert Hoover to the area where the men were feared had landed last fall, all were safe.

There was no formal announcement, but reports of the escape and said they were in good shape. Three Mexicans were with the Americans.

There was no formal announcement, but reports of the escape and said they were in good shape. Three Mexicans were with the Americans.

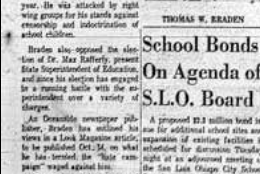
There was no formal announcement, but reports of the escape and said they were in good shape. Three Mexicans were with the Americans.

There was no formal announcement, but reports of the escape and said they were in good shape. Three Mexicans were with the Americans.

There was no formal announcement, but reports of the escape and said they were in good shape. Three Mexicans were with the Americans.

There was no formal announcement, but reports of the escape and said they were in good shape. Three Mexicans were with the Americans.

There was no formal announcement, but reports of the escape and said they were in good shape. Three Mexicans were with the Americans.



THOMAS W. BRADEN

## School Bonds On Agenda of S.L.O. Board

A proposed \$13 million bond issue for school construction and renovation of existing facilities was the subject of an advanced meeting of the San Luis Obispo City School Board.

The bond issue plan, originally drafted in an advance agenda for the board meeting last Tuesday, was held over because the board president Warren S. Johnson said, "We will try to get the bond issue voted on next Tuesday night."

Johnson said, "We will try to get the bond issue voted on next Tuesday night."

Johnson said, "We will try to get the bond issue voted on next Tuesday night."

Johnson said, "We will try to get the bond issue voted on next Tuesday night."

## Over 400 Dead

MIAMI (UPI)—Weathermen predicted stalled Hurricane Flora would cause the death of more than 400 persons in the Caribbean.

A third smash across the eastern half of Cuba, pounded by Flora without delay since midday Friday, appeared certain.

The Miami Weather Bureau located the hurricane in the Caribbean just south of Cuba's Camaguey Province, where Flora was stalled most of Sunday.

Forecasters said Flora, its highest winds down to 100 miles an hour as it spent much of the day over eastern Cuba's rugged terrain, probably would start a slow drift northward today, bringing the center back over the island.

The Weather Bureau experts would not predict whether Flora would come off the north coast of Cuba heading for the Gulf of Mexico, Florida, or Haiti's string of Bahamas islands to the northeast.

MIAMI (UPI)—The House Appropriations Committee today voted \$5.1 billion for a space exploration program.

The appropriations committee also dropped its annual block on Kennedy's continuing projects, but only in federal structures but also in federal institutions over the state.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

## 'Flora' Unpredictable

MIAMI (UPI)—Weathermen predicted stalled Hurricane Flora would cause the death of more than 400 persons in the Caribbean.

A third smash across the eastern half of Cuba, pounded by Flora without delay since midday Friday, appeared certain.

The Miami Weather Bureau located the hurricane in the Caribbean just south of Cuba's Camaguey Province, where Flora was stalled most of Sunday.

Forecasters said Flora, its highest winds down to 100 miles an hour as it spent much of the day over eastern Cuba's rugged terrain, probably would start a slow drift northward today, bringing the center back over the island.

The Weather Bureau experts would not predict whether Flora would come off the north coast of Cuba heading for the Gulf of Mexico, Florida, or Haiti's string of Bahamas islands to the northeast.

MIAMI (UPI)—The House Appropriations Committee today voted \$5.1 billion for a space exploration program.

The appropriations committee also dropped its annual block on Kennedy's continuing projects, but only in federal structures but also in federal institutions over the state.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

## \$5.1 Billion for Space Exploration

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The House Appropriations Committee today voted \$5.1 billion for a space exploration program.

The appropriations committee also dropped its annual block on Kennedy's continuing projects, but only in federal structures but also in federal institutions over the state.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

The bill was passed by a 21-vote margin in the House.

## Weather

Table with weather forecasts for San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and other locations. Includes columns for temperature, wind, and conditions.

## Russ Nuptials Rumored for Space Couple

MOYOR (UPI)—Moscow today with reports that the 29-year-old American astronaut and the 27-year-old Russian cosmonaut will be married in Moscow.

The couple are the first American and Russian to be married in space.

The couple are the first American and Russian to be married in space.

The couple are the first American and Russian to be married in space.

The couple are the first American and Russian to be married in space.

The couple are the first American and Russian to be married in space.

The couple are the first American and Russian to be married in space.

The couple are the first American and Russian to be married in space.



Diem Says Viet Army Ready for Offensive

By NEIL SHEPHERD HANOI (UPI)—President Nguyen Dinh Diem today said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

## Diem Says Viet Army Ready for Offensive

By NEIL SHEPHERD HANOI (UPI)—President Nguyen Dinh Diem today said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

Diem said the Viet Army is ready for an offensive against the Communist North.

## Inside Today

Table of contents for the 'Inside Today' section, listing various news items and their page numbers.

## Buddhist Crisis Before UN Today

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (UPI)—South Viet Nam may head off a Buddhist crisis before the United Nations today.

South Viet Nam may head off a Buddhist crisis before the United Nations today.

# THE VIETNAM WAR

## IV. Mr. Johnson's War, 1963-1969

- A. In 1963, LBJ relatively ignorant of war and relied on advisors.
- B. Wanted to assure continuity with JFK and give support to Vietnam.
- C. Was he a puppet of JFK advisors: McNamara and Rostow?
- D. Johnson lived through WWII and saw events from that context.
- E. Vietnam like Germany; Ho Chi Minh became Hitler and Stalin.
- F. Johnson feared that SE Asia would fall like China—Domino Theory.
- G. Still, LBJ had serious doubts about Vietnam early on.
- H. Did Americans have resources and patience to build a nation.
- I. Another problem: no room for dissent at White House.



# THE VIETNAM WAR

## IV. Mr. Johnson's War, 1963-1969

- J. Those who expressed doubts about Vietnam were increasingly isolated because he viewed dissent as disloyalty.
- K. LBJ knew little about Vietnamese history and underestimated Ho Chi Minh; thought he could be bought.
- L. Offered TVA style development package for Mekong River Valley.
- M. Not too aggressive for fear of luring China into conflict and WWII.
- N. So LBJ charted a careful course and run a limited war like in Korea.

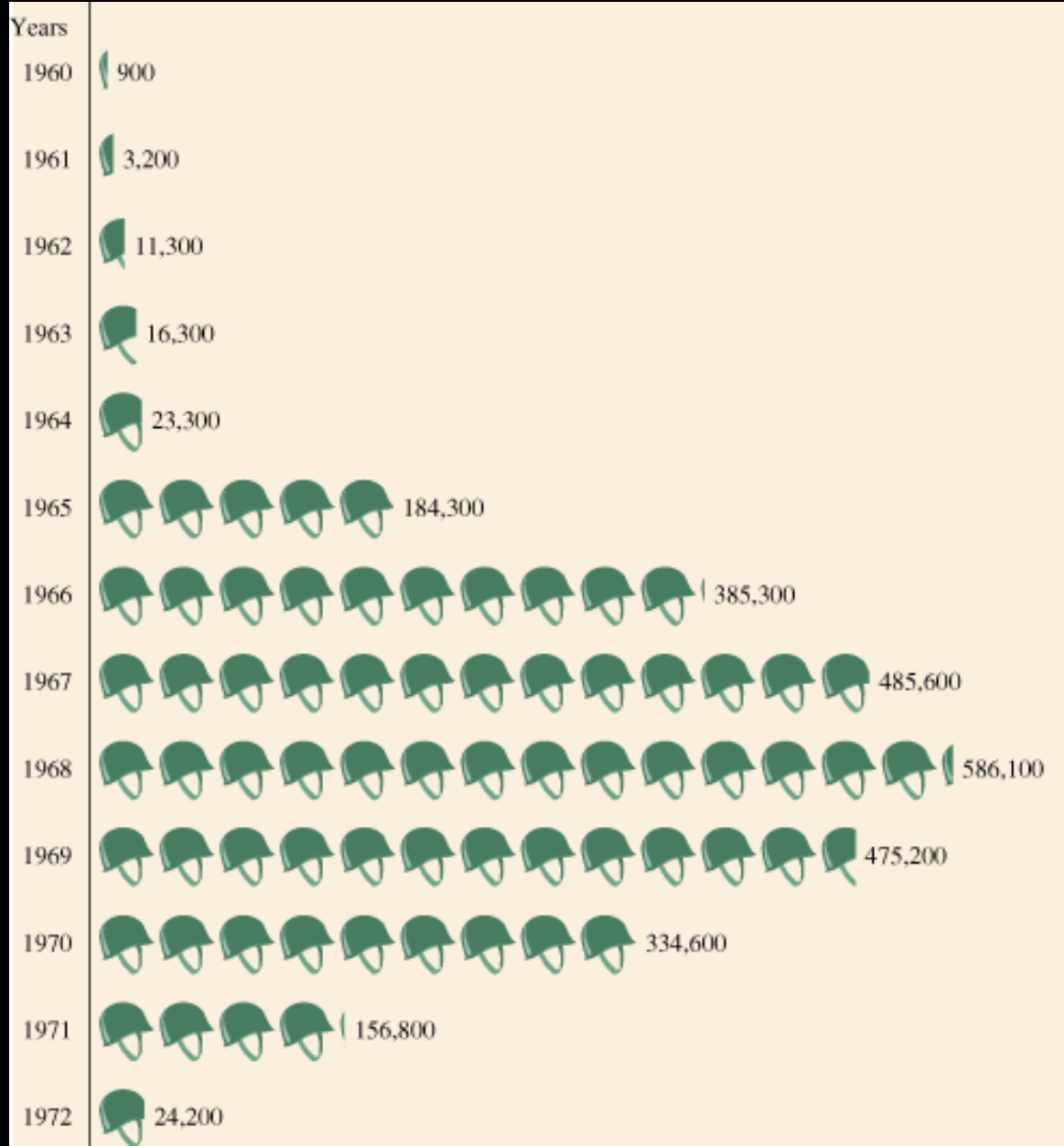


# THE VIETNAM WAR

## IV. Mr. Johnson's War, 1963-1969

- O. Diem Assassination; power vacuum; Viet Cong attacked South Vietnamese and US advisors.
- P. National Liberation Movement front recruited members.
- Q. US covert activities: intelligence, kidnapping, sabotaging.
- R. How to justify American involvement and obtain American support?
- S. In August 1964, the Tonkin Gulf Incident gave LBJ that leverage.
- T. American cruisers in Tonkin were supposedly fired upon.
- U. Tonkin Gulf Resolution: authorized president to use armed force.
- V. Overwhelming Congressional support; Americanized the war.
- W. Operation Rolling Thunder: bombing and US troops rose dramatically.





Source: U.S. Department of Defense

Figure 29.1 U.S. Troop Levels in Vietnam, 1960–1972



Lyndon Johnson listens to tape from Captain Charles Robb from Vietnam. (July 31, 1968)

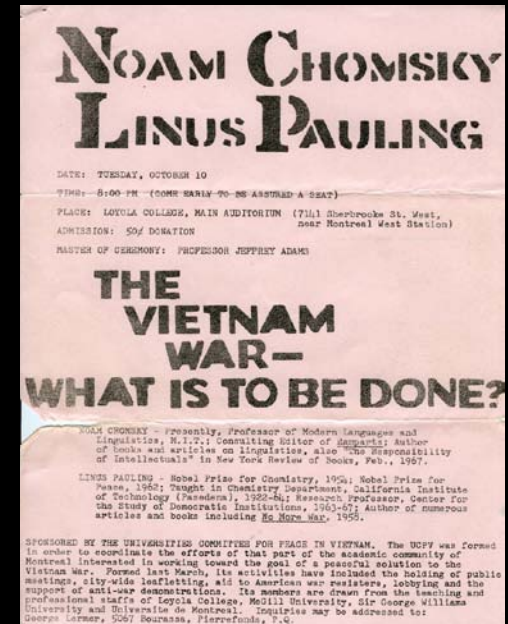




# THE VIETNAM WAR

## V. The War at Home

- A. On homefront, popular dissent against war began immediately.
- B. Professors gathered for “teach-ins” to discuss war.
- C. Students turned against the war, particularly after draft.
- D. Students became active largely out of self-interest.
- E. In 1967, 100,000 protestors converged in DC.
- F. Johnson’s popularity plummeted.
- G. After LBJ, at Kent State University, unarmed college students were shot by members of the Ohio National Guard on May 4, 1970, when protesting American invasion of Cambodia. Four killed.







Bernie Boston, "Flower Power," became an iconic 1960s picture of a Vietnam War protester placing flowers in soldiers' gun barrels at a protest in Washington on Oct. 22, 1967.



John Filo's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of Mary Ann Vecchio, a 14-year-old runaway, kneeling over the body of Jeffrey Miller after he was shot dead by the Ohio National Guard.

# THE VIETNAM WAR

## V. The War at Home

- H. Opposition to the War intensified after My Lai Massacre.
- I. Occurred on March 16, 1968, when a unit of the U.S. Army killed between 347 and 504 unarmed civilians at My Lai.
- J. Many of the victims were sexually abused, beaten, tortured, and some of the bodies were found mutilated.
- K. While 26 US soldiers were initially charged with criminal offenses, only William Calley was convicted.
- L. He served only 3 years of a life sentence.
- L. When the incident became public knowledge in 1969, it prompted widespread outrage around the world.







"Give Peace a Chance" was a 1969 single by John Lennon's Plastic Ono Band that became an anthem of the American anti-war movement.

# THE VIETNAM WAR

## VI. Conclusion: The Legacy of Vietnam

- A. End of January 1968, a critical turning point: the Tet Offensive.
- B. Tet was lunar new year, but fighting escalated rather than stopped.
- C. North attacked 36 of 44 provincial capitals including Saigon.
- D. Johnson's assertions that war was winnable seemed hollow.
- E. Tet was a disaster for the enemy but triumph for it in public reactions.
- F. Turning point: opinion ran strongly against war and president.
- G. LBJ ran for reelection but did not win majority in NH primary.
- H. LBJ stuns nation by saying he would not run for reelection:  
called for immediate end to bombing and began peace negotiations.









Around noon of February 1, 1968, in the opening days of the communist Tet Offensive, South Vietnamese General Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executed a Viet Cong prisoner on the streets of Saigon — and photographer Eddie Adams captured perhaps the war's most disturbing image.

# THE VIETNAM WAR

## VI. Conclusion: The Legacy of Vietnam

- I. Richard Nixon elected with plan to turn over war to Vietnamese.
- J. Result: cease fire in 1973 and evacuation of Americans in Saigon.
- K. War over but Vietnam devastated.
- L. More bombs dropped than during WWII.
- M. Inflation in US as too much money chased too few goods.





June 8 1972: Kim Phúc, center, running down a road near Trang Bang after a South Vietnamese Air Force napalm attack



This picture showed chaos and panic among many South Vietnamese who were in the employ of the Americans. They were desperately trying to secure a seat on one of the last American helicopters shuttling between Saigon rooftops and US navy ships off the coast of Vietnam ahead of the arrival of the communist North-Vietnamese troops. The ladder leading up to the roof already has more people on it that can fit on the helicopter. However, the helipad was not, as UPI's Tokyo bureau wrongly attributed, on the roof of the US embassy. It was on the Pittman apartment complex which housed the CIA.



An American punches a man in the face as he tries to close the doorway of an airplane overloaded with refugees seeking to flee Nha Trang, which was being taken over by Communist troops in April 1975.