

# Vietnam – History & Conflict





# Vietnam - History

- French Indochina
- World War I – 1930s
- World War II
- First Indochina War 1946 - 1954
- U.S. Involvement
  - Ike
  - JFK
  - LBJ
  - Nixon

# French Indochina, 1879



# French Indochina, 1887

- Tonkin
- Annam
- Cochinchina
- Cambodia
- Laos



# World War I – 1930s

- Vietnamese Nationalist movement
- Goal: Independence
- Result: Exile in southern China

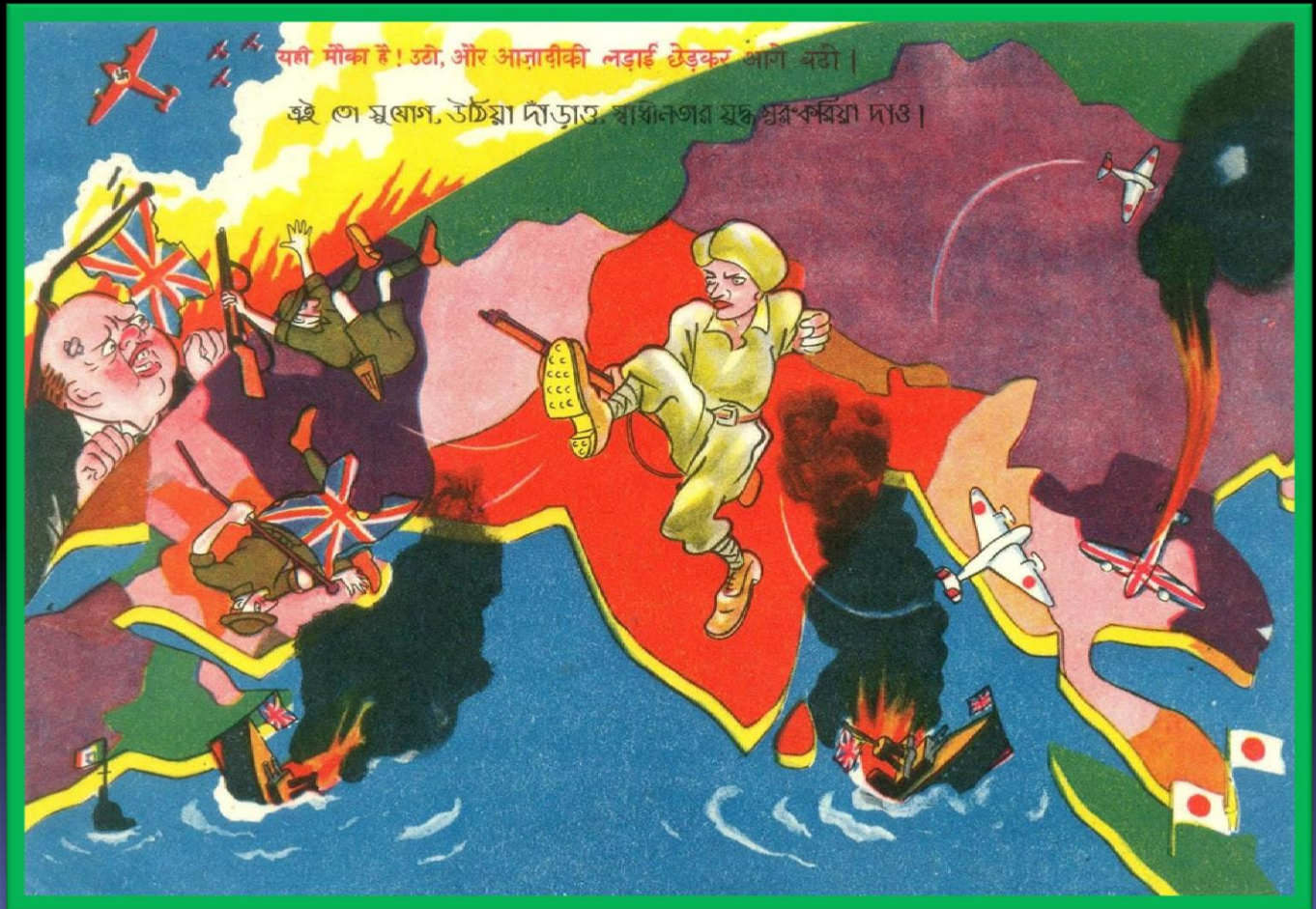
# World War II

➤ 1940 - Japanese invasion & occupation



# Japanese occupation

## ➤ “Asia for Asians”

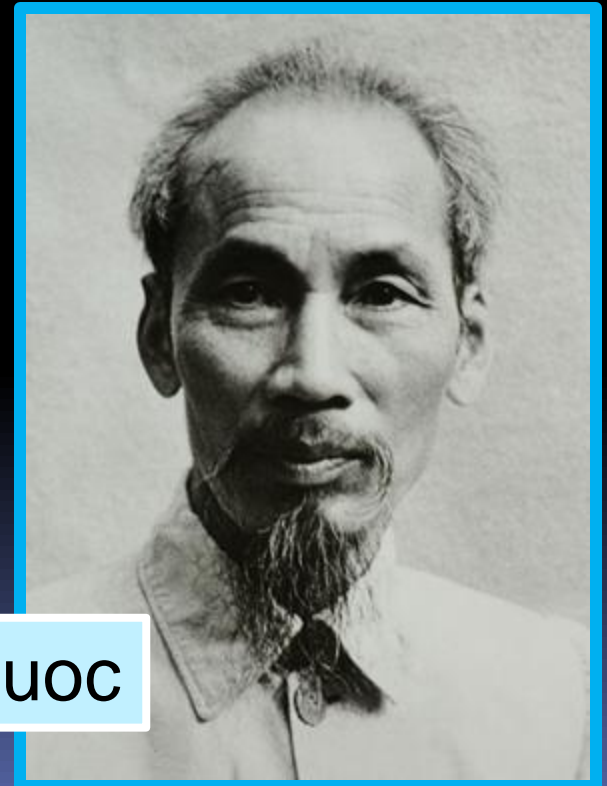




# 1941 - Viet Minh

(“League for the Independence of Vietnam”)

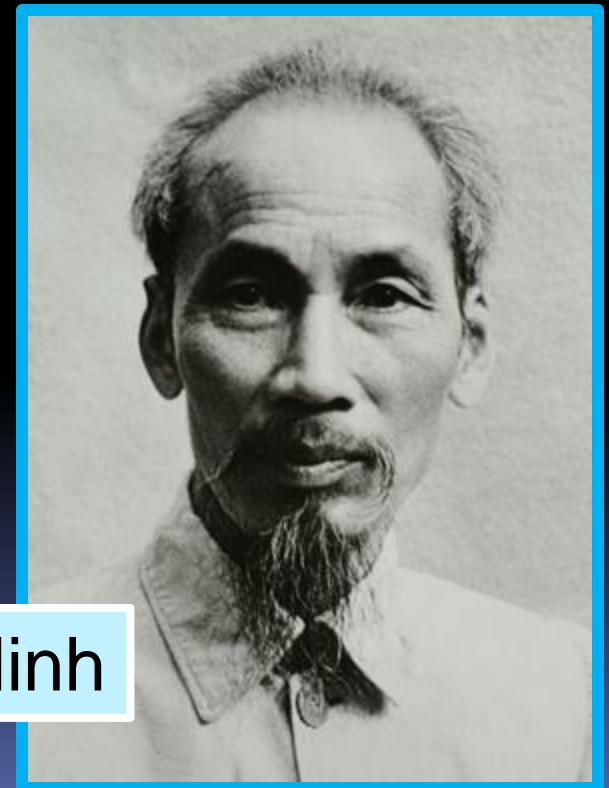
➤ Goal: Independent Vietnam



Nguyen Ai Quoc

# Viet Minh

- Urban & rural nationalists unite



Ho Chi Minh

WWII



Ho Chi Minh with OSS

# End of WWII

## ➤ September 1945

- Viet Minh declare Vietnam independent
- Established Democratic Republic of Vietnam

# September 2, 1945



"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...

...we, members of the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, solemnly declare to the world that Vietnam has the right to be a free and independent country, and in fact it is so already."

- Ho Chi Minh

# Post-WWII

- December 1946
  - French-Indochina War



# First Indochina War, 1946 - 1954

- French (U.S. support)  
vs.
- Vietnamese Nationalists  
(Chinese & USSR support)



# Dien Bien Phu

## March – May, 1954





# Geneva Conference

April - July, 1954

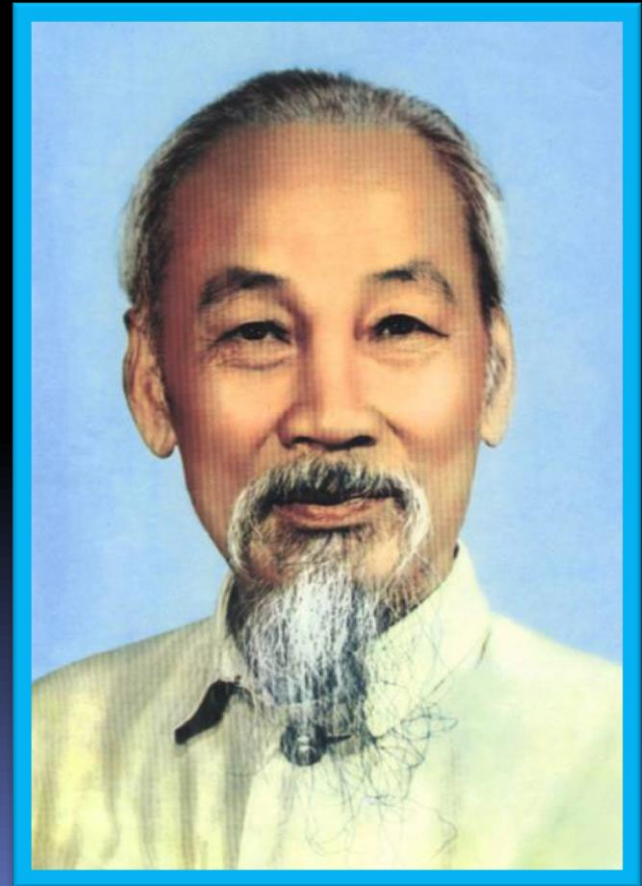
- Temporary Division of Vietnam
  - North Vietnam – Viet Minh (Communist)
  - South Vietnam – State of Vietnam (U.S.)
- Elections & reunification within a year

# Divided Vietnam



# North Vietnam - Communist

- Ho Chi Minh, Prime Minister
- Viet Minh - Communist
- Capital - Hanoi



# South Vietnam – Republic of Vietnam

- Ngo Dinh Diem, Prime Minister
- State of Vietnam – U.S. backed
- Capital - Saigon



# Viet Cong

➤ “National Liberation Front”



# Ho Chi Minh Trail

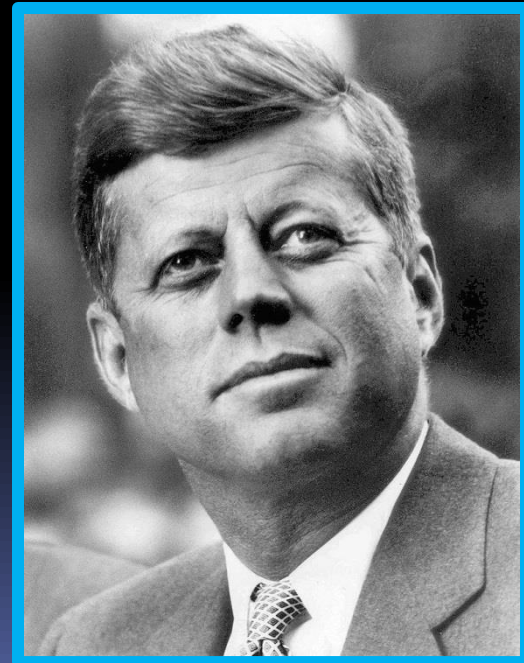
➤ Supply line to the South



# Kennedy administration

“...to introduce U.S. forces in large numbers there today, while it might have an initially favorable military impact, would almost certainly lead to adverse political and, in the long run, adverse military consequences.”

- President John F. Kennedy

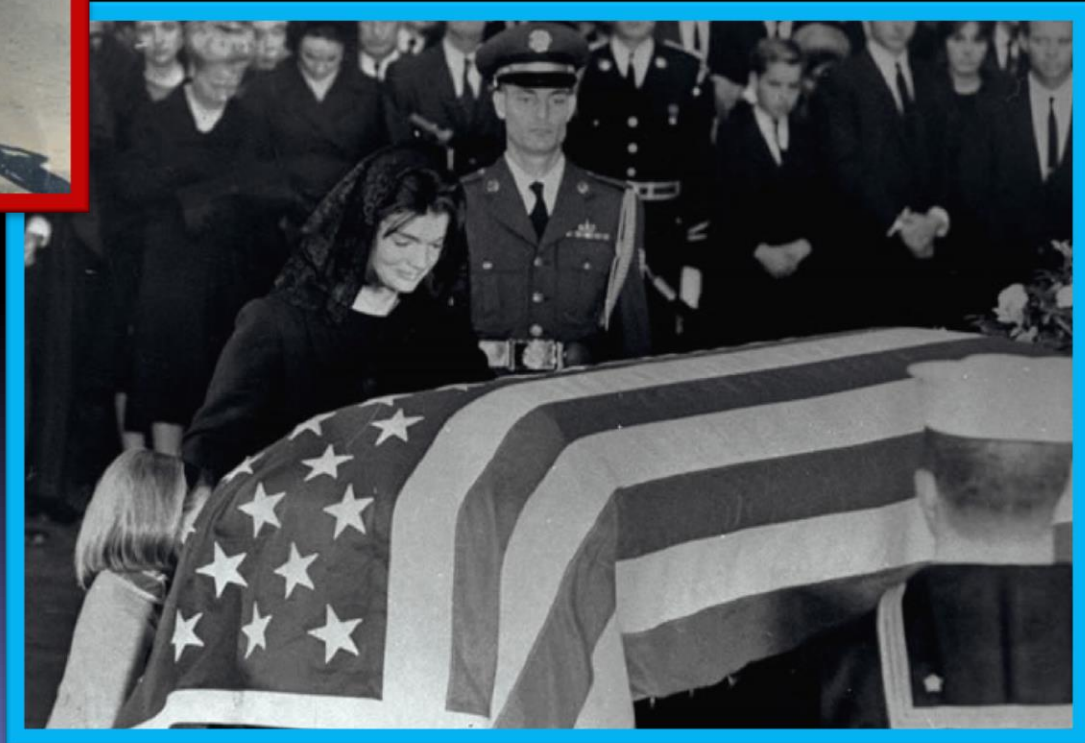
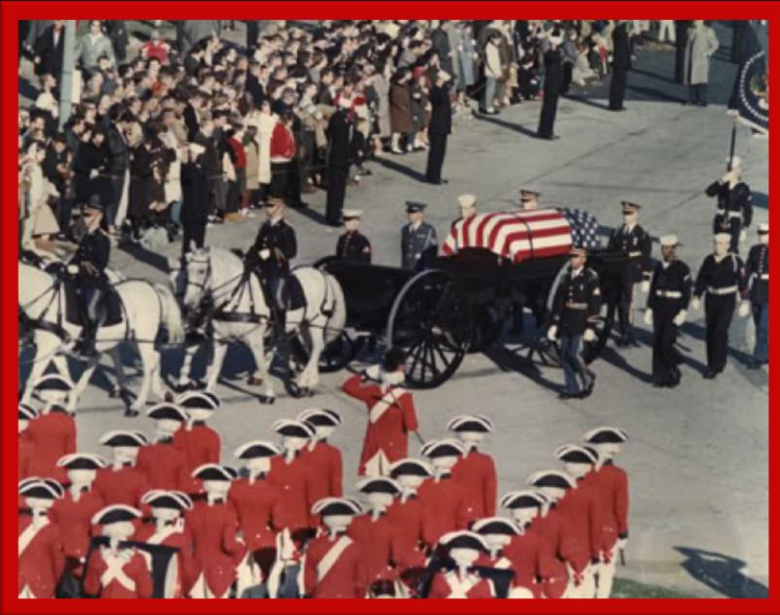


# Kennedy administration

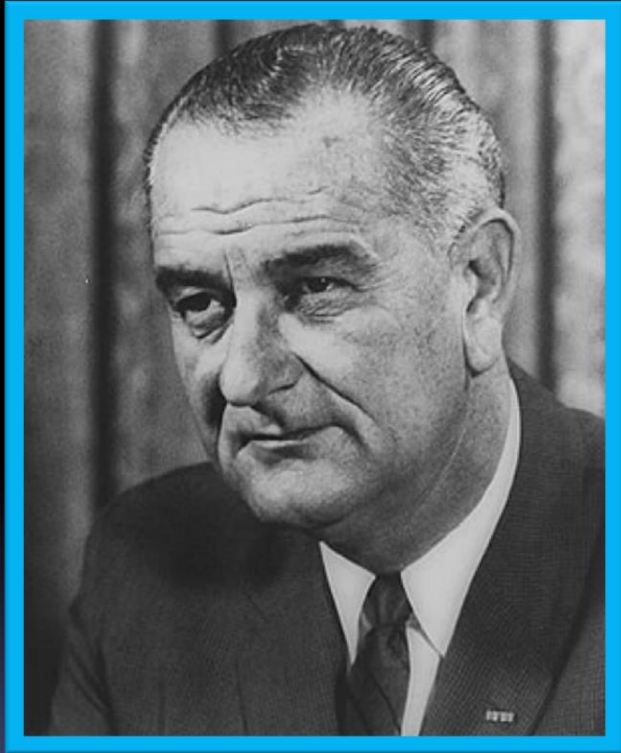
- Economic aid
- Advisors
  - From 900 to 16,000
- C.I.A. involvement



# November 22, 1963



# Johnson administration



# Gulf of Tonkin Incident

August 2, 1964



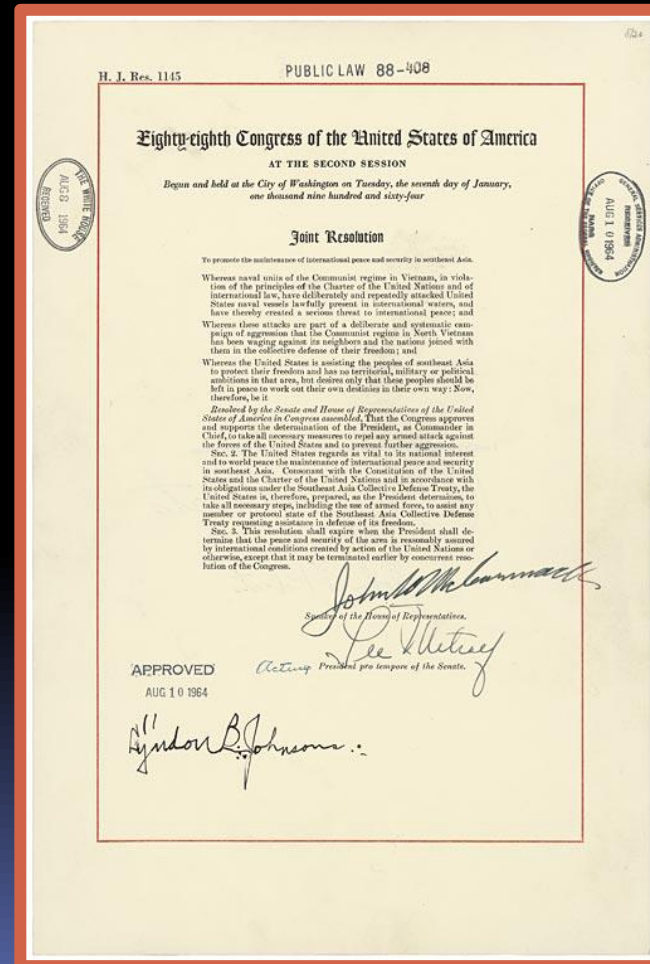
# Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

August 7, 1964

“Congress approves and supports the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary measures to repeal any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent any further aggression.”

# Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

- Power to conduct military operations without a declaration of war

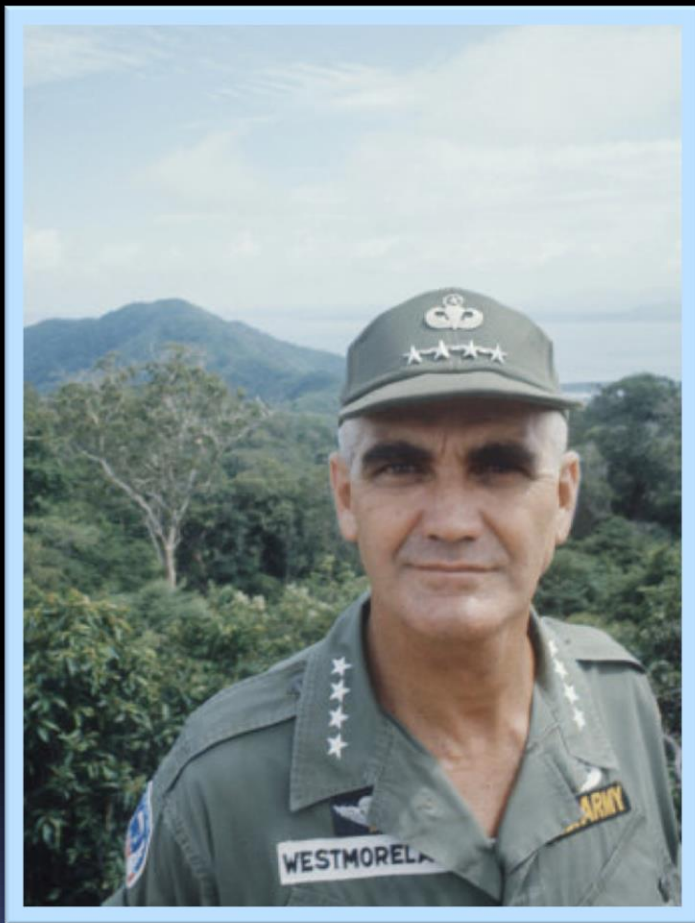


# March 8, 1965

➤ U.S. Troops arrive  
In Da Nang



Gen. William Westmoreland

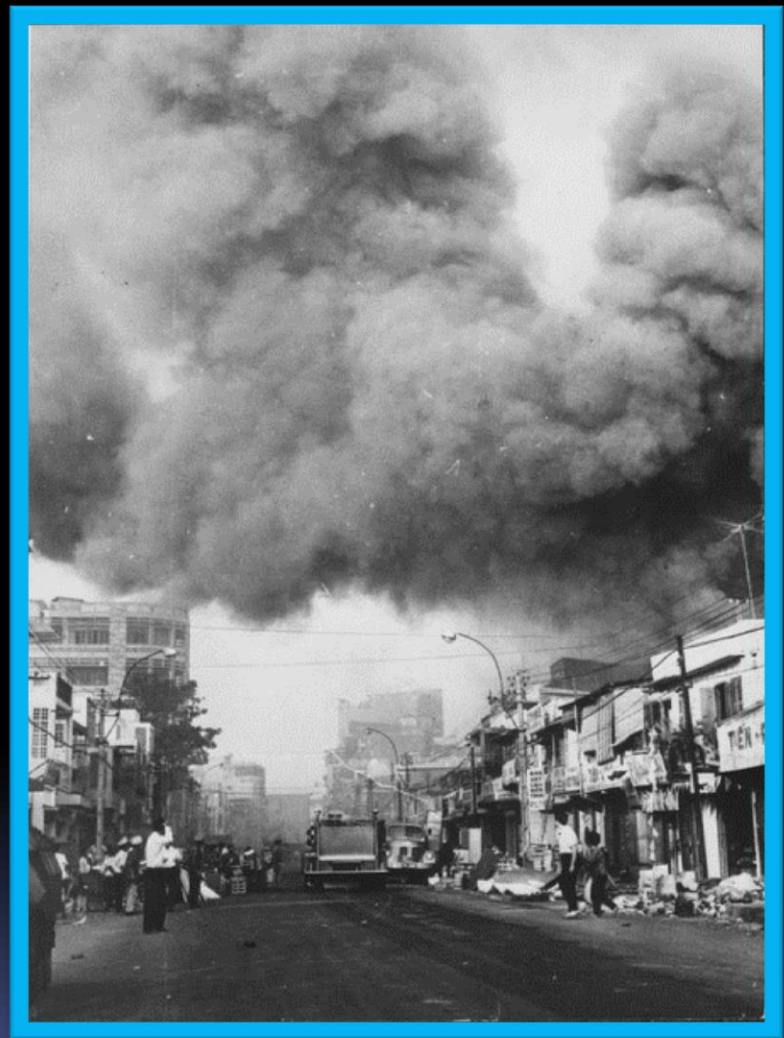


# Tet Offensive

## January 1968

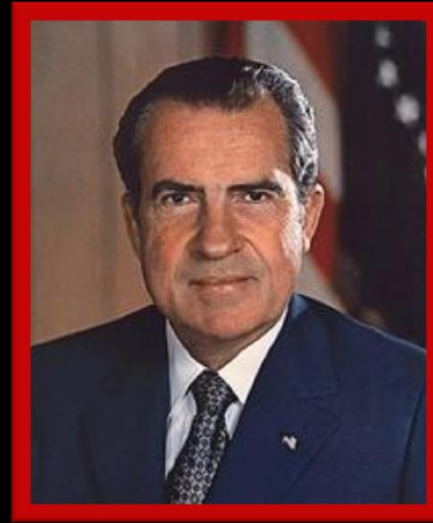






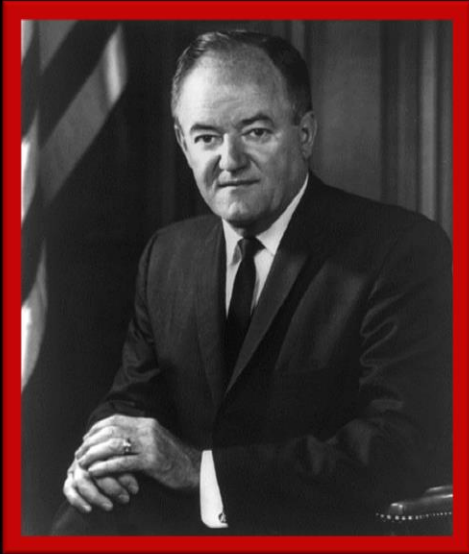
# Election of 1968

- Republican nominee  
Richard Nixon



# Election of 1968

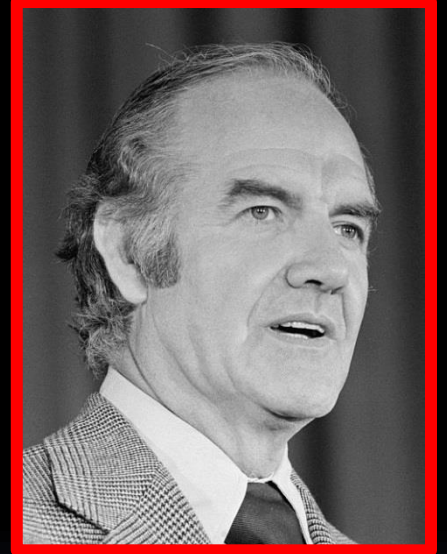
## ➤ Democrats



VP Hubert Humphrey



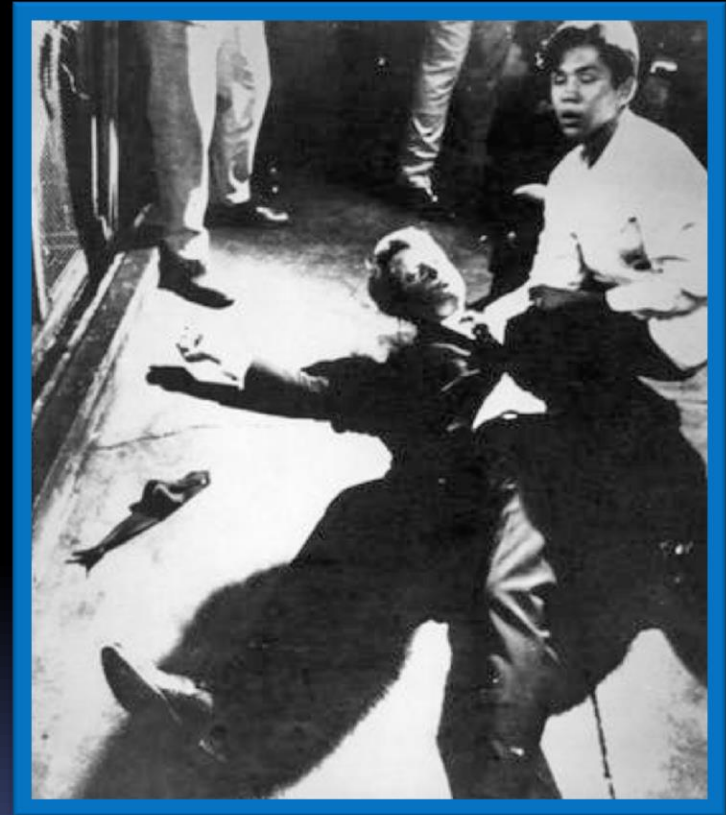
Sen. Robert Kennedy



Sen. Eugene McCarthy

# June 5, 1968

- Robert Kennedy Assassinated in CA



# 1968 Democratic National Convention

Chicago



# Election of 1968

➤ Democratic Nominee



VP Hubert Humphrey

Nixon elected



# Nixon Administration

- strengthen South Vietnamese military & government  
“Vietnamization”
- stop anti-war protests at home
- negotiations with North Vietnamese
- intensive bombing of North Vietnam
- troop withdrawals

“Peace with Honor”



# May 4, 1970

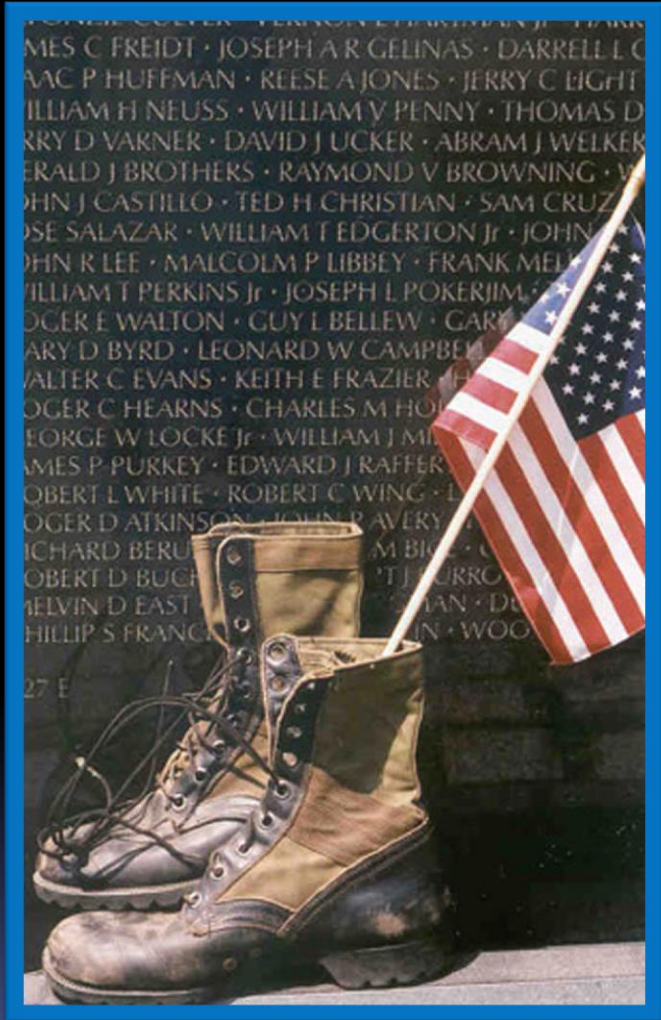
## Kent State University



April 30, 1975



58,220\*



\* May 2018