Vietnam – History & Conflict
Vietnam - History

- French Indochina
- World War II
- First Indochina War
- U.S. Involvement
  - JFK
  - LBJ
  - Nixon
French Indochina, 1887
French Indochina, 1887

- Tonkin
- Annam
- Cochinchina
- Cambodia
World War I – 1930s

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

- Japanese invasion & occupation
Japanese occupation

“Asia for Asians”
Viet Minh

- Goal: Independent Vietnam

Nguyen Ai Quoc
Viet Minh

Ho Chi Minh
End of WWII

- March 1945
  Japanese declare Vietnam independent
End of WWII

- September 1945
  - Viet Minh declare Vietnam independent
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.”
First Indochina War, 1946 - 1954

- French (U.S. support) vs. Vietnamese (Chinese & USSR support)
Dien Bien Phu
March – May, 1954

Viet Minh

French
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
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.”

- Economic aid
- Advisors
  - From 900 to 16,000
- C.I.A. involvement
November 22, 1963
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
- Begins bombing of North Vietnamese naval bases
March 8, 1965
Da Nang
William Westmoreland
Tet Offensive
January 1968
Election of 1968

- Republican nominee
  Richard Nixon
Election of 1968

- Democrats

VP Hubert Humphrey

Robert Kennedy
June 5, 1968
Democratic National Convention
Nixon Administration

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

“Peace with Honor”
May 4, 1970
Kent State University
April 30, 1975