

AQA GCSE HISTORY REVISION BOOKLET



Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950-73

CONTENTS

Revision schedule - Page 3

Revision week 1: Korea - Pages 4-9

Revision week 2: Escalating conflict in Vietnam - Pages 10-14

Revision week 3: War in Vietnam - Pages 15-19

Revision week 4: Ending the Vietnam War - Pages 20-25

Guide to GCSE Questions - Page 26

Past papers - Pages 27-28

Knowledge organizer - Pages 29-30

Tricky Topics: Make a list of topics you have found difficult to understand/ remember as you go through.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

How to use this revision booklet

The content in this booklet was originally learnt by you a while ago now. Cognitive science tells us that we need to retrieve our knowledge several times in order for information to be retained in our long-term memory. The activities in this booklet are designed to help you retrieve your prior learning on this topic which will then be tested (retrieved) again via a knowledge quiz in class. Once you have created these materials you can then use them to test yourself/ get someone else to test you in the run up to your exams.

Depending on your personal preferences, here are some suggestions for how you could use this booklet:

- Revision checklist for what you need to learn
- Reminder of the date of your exam
- Fill in the question grids for each topic using the information in the pages afterwards, your class notes or revision guide
- Check your answers to the question grids using the YouTube videos provided via Teams
- Use the headings of the question grids as the headings for your own revision cards
- Read the information provided, highlight the key points and turn it into mind maps or timelines
- Ask someone to test you/ test yourself on the information in the revision materials you have created
- Apply your revision to the practice questions for each topic provided at the bottom of the question grids by either planning or writing a response (do this on lined paper if there is no space for an answer.
- Look at exemplar practice papers at the back
- Use the crib sheet provided for how to answer the different questions to complete practice papers

REVISION SCHEDULE FOR THE CONFLICT AND TENSION IN ASIA PAPER

The Conflict and Tension exam is half of the Paper I exam which will take place on Friday 15th May AM.

More information about question types and practice papers can be found at the end of this booklet.

Week Beginning	Topic Area to cover	What did I do to revise + parent/ guardian signature	Knowledge test score	Weeks Left
March				
Monday 2nd March	<p>The causes of the Korean War; reasons why the North invaded the South; US and the UN responses.</p> <p>The development of the Korean War: the UN campaign in South and North Korea; Inchon landings and recapture of South Korea; UN forces advance into North Korea; reaction of China and intervention of Chinese troops October 1950; the sacking of MacArthur.</p> <p>The end of the Korean War: military stalemate around the 38th Parallel; peace talks and the armistice; impact of the Korean War for Korea, the UN and Sino-American relations.</p>		11	
Monday 9th March	<p>Escalation of conflict in Vietnam: The end of French colonial rule: Dien Bien Phu and its consequences; Geneva Agreement, 1954; civil war in South Vietnam; opposition to Diem; the Vietcong - aims, support, leadership and guerrilla tactics and Ho Chi Minh.</p> <p>The US involvement: the Domino Theory; intervention under Eisenhower and Kennedy; Strategic Hamlets program, the Gulf of Tonkin.</p>		10	

Monday 16th

March

Johnson's War: the US response to Vietcong tactics; the mass bombing campaign; demands for peace and growing student protests in the USA; My Lai and its public impact; Search and Destroy tactics and impact; the Tet Offensive and its consequences for the war.

9

Monday 23rd

March

The ending of conflict in Vietnam: Nixon's War: Vietnamization; chemical warfare; bombing campaign of 1970-1972; relations with China; widening of the war into Laos and Cambodia.

Opposition to war: Kent State University; the importance of the media and TV in influencing public opinion; the context of the Watergate affair.

The end of the war: the Paris Peace talks; the role of Kissinger; the US withdrawal; fall of Saigon; the price of conflict; problems of Vietnam in 1975.

8

Conflict and Tension Revision I: The Korean War (p.12-23 of revision guide)

Long-term causes of the Korean War:

Give two reasons why the Cold War broke out between America and the USSR at the end of WWII: What political system and leader did NORTH Korea have following WWII?

-
-

What is meant by the following terms:

Iron Curtain:

Truman Doctrine:

Containment:

Which large country in Asia became Communist in 1949?

Short-term causes of the Korean War:

What political system and leader did SOUTH Korea have following WWII?

Why did North Korea invade the South in June 1950?

What role did Stalin play in these events and why?

Why were neither the USSR nor China able to veto the decision to send UN troops to aid South Korea in the UN security council meeting?

Course of the Korean War:

What area was South Korean territory reduced to by August 1950?

Where did the US-led UN forces launch a land-to-sea invasion that allowed them to retake Seoul in September 1950?

Why did 20,000 of the Chinese People's Army cross the border into North Korea in October 1950?

Why did General MacArthur suggest using nuclear weapons against China in April 1951?

What happened to General MacArthur as a result?

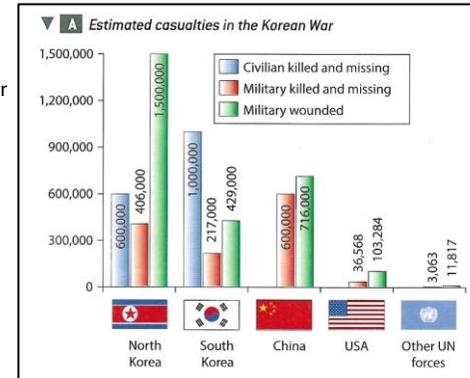
Although the war became a stalemate in 1951, when was the armistice finally signed and why?

Give two reasons why the Korean War ended in a stalemate. Give a specific fact to illustrate each reason:

1.

2.

Consequences of the Korean War:



What conclusions can you draw from the statistics in this graph?

Why could the Americans claim to have gained from the war in Korea?

Why could the communists claim to have gained from the war in Korea?

Why did a nuclear arms race develop after the Korean War?

Did the war ultimately solve Cold War tensions in Asia? Explain.

Success Criteria:

- One PEE paragraph on the factor in the question
- Two PEE paragraphs on other factors
- Specific, detailed examples as support – names, events, statistics
- Make sure you have a well-developed paragraph on the factor in the question i.e., 3+ examples

For top marks:

Explain the links between the factors.

Reach a substantiated conclusion.

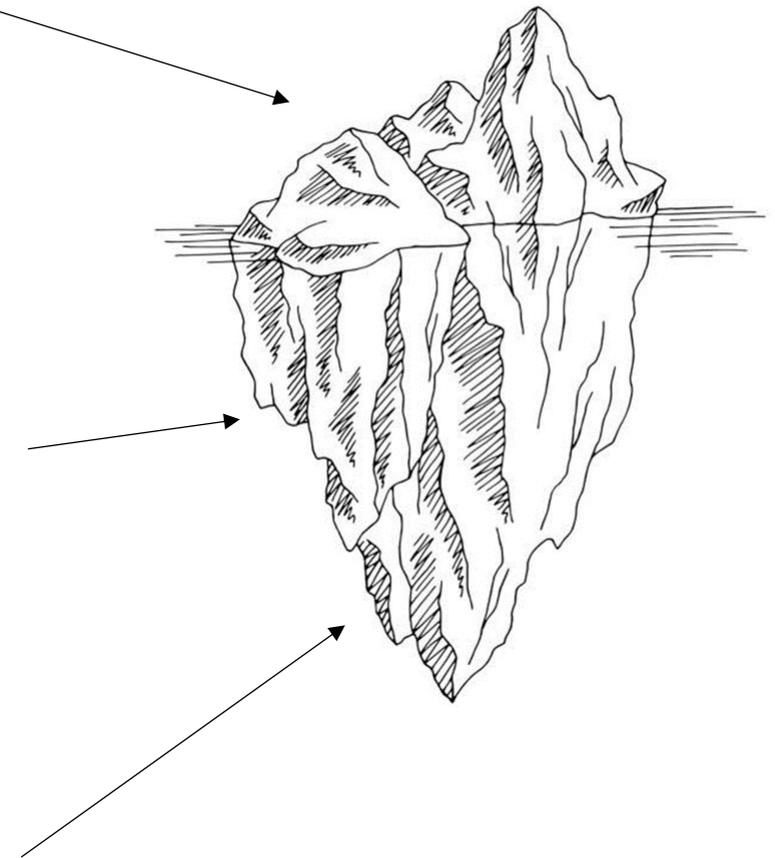
Exam Question: 'The only winner in the Korean War was the US Arms industry'. How far do you agree with this statement?

Plan your answer below. Each box represents one paragraph. Give your initial view here first:

In favor of the question: nobody won the war.

Counter-argument: the USA won the war.

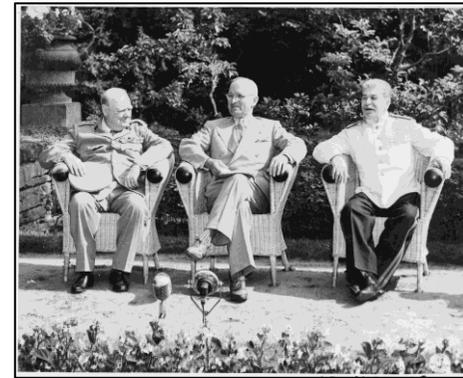
Counter-argument: The communists won the war.



Revision Notes 1: War in Korea

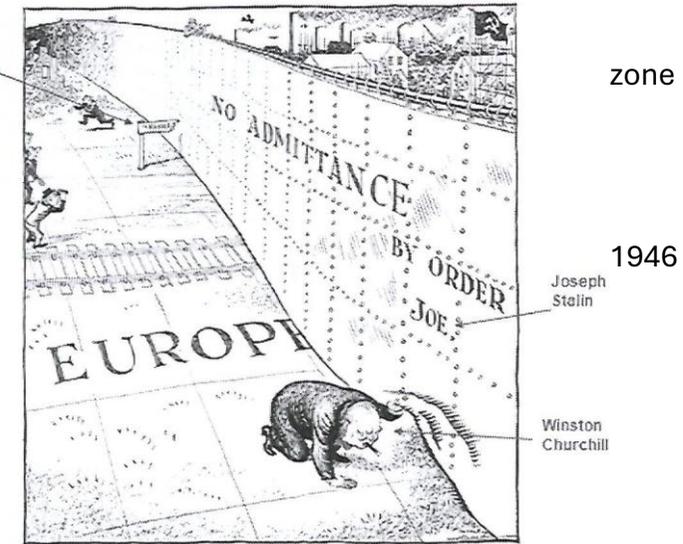
Causes of the Korean War:

- When Russia had a revolution in 1917, Britain and the USA sent troops and supplies to help try and destroy the new Communist government. Joseph Stalin (leader of USSR) had not forgotten this. Russia became a Communist country known as the USSR from 1922. Communism is a belief in a classless society where all property amongst the workers. A strong government was needed to organize this. Hysteria over Communism can be seen in events such as the Red Scare in 1920 and the Palmer Raids that followed.
- Stalin had attempted to form an anti-Hitler alliance with Britain and France in the 1930s but this did not happen which Stalin took as a sign that the west was happy for Hitler to attack the USSR instead of them. Stalin was not very popular with the USA because he had signed a peace pact with Hitler in 1939 which triggered World War Two when Germany and the USSR invaded Poland. After Hitler betrayed Stalin and invaded the USSR in 1941, Stalin became an ally of Britain and America. He urged Britain and America to launch their attack of Germany in Europe straight away but they waited until 1944 for D-Day which Stalin saw as Britain/ America intentionally leaving the USSR to take the brunt of the attack. Nearly 30 million Russians were killed during the Second World War, approx. half of the total casualties.
- The 'Big Three' - American President, British Prime Minister, Russian leader, met in February 1945 at a place called Yalta and again in July 1945 at Potsdam. They planned to talk about how to rebuild Europe after the Second World War.
- However, they could not agree over whether countries should be Communist or Capitalist. There was tension over what to do with the territory liberated from the Nazis. Stalin wanted compensation for losses during the war but the other leaders wanted to allow strong democratic states to be created. President Truman boasted to Stalin that the USA has tested an atomic bomb.



The 'Big Three' at the Potsdam Conference, July 1945

- The USSR wanted compensation for the high death toll of Russians during WW2 and to create a buffer of Communist states in Eastern Europe. The USSR therefore claimed countries such as Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland and Czechoslovakia and Romania and turned them into satellite states with governments controlled or influenced by the USSR. Soviet territory had expanded 500 kilometers and gained control of more than 20 million people. This became known as the Eastern Bloc. Churchill said in that Europe had become divided by an 'Iron Curtain'.

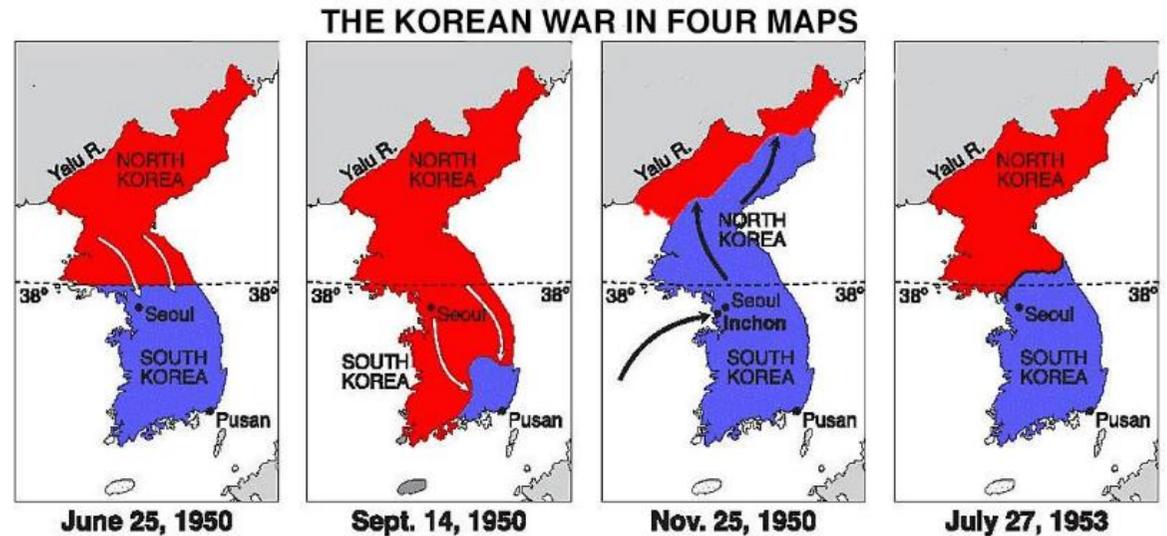


- In 1947, the US President set out a new policy which became known as the 'Truman Doctrine'. The doctrine (a written set of beliefs) stated that America would do all it could with military force to stop Communism spreading. This policy was called 'Containment'. In June 1947, the Marshall Plan was created. It gave money to countries in Europe to help them rebuild. By 1953, the USA had given \$17 billion in aid to countries to help them recover. Stalin banned Communist countries from applying for Marshall Aid. After America tried to introduce the Deutschmark in Germany in 1948, Stalin attempted to seize control of the whole of Berlin (divided since 1945). Instead of allowing Stalin to do this Britain, France and America used aero planes to supply West Berlin. This was known as the Berlin Blockade. Stalin was forced to give up his claim on West Berlin which was embarrassing.
- The USA dropped the first nuclear bombs on Japan in 1945 to end World War II. In 1949, the USSR detonated its first nuclear bomb on a test site. Now the two most powerful countries in the world had nuclear weapons! Both the USA and USSR were terrified that the other would soon have more nuclear weapons than them. Both of them began stockpiling nuclear weapons, in the hope that they would put the other off launching an attack. This was called the 'nuclear arms race'.
- In 1949 (the same year as the USSR detonated its first atomic bomb) the USA, Britain, France, Belgium, and Canada set up a defensive organization called NATO. The communists responded with the Warsaw Pact, a military alliance containing the Eastern Bloc countries (USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Albania).
- In 1949 Chinese leader Mao Zedong declared China the People's Republic of China (Communist). This followed a long-running civil war between the communists and the nationalists who were supported in weapons and equipment by the USA. The nationalist leader, Chiang Kai-Shek was forced to flee to the nearby island of Taiwan. In 1950, North Korea on China's border was also proclaimed a communist state. The term 'domino theory' began to be used for the belief that countries bordering Communist states would fall to communism also.

- There have been many wars over Korea throughout history and China and Japan had controlled the country for long episodes of time. In the early 1900s, Japan took over Korea and the country remained under Japanese control until the end of WWII. When Japan lost the war, the Japanese soldiers in the North surrendered to the Soviet Union, while those in the South surrendered to the US. The country was divided into 2 zones along the 38th parallel. However, the division was only meant to be temporary – it was intended for Korea to become unified after having elections organized by the UN.
- In 1948, before elections for the whole country could be organized, the Soviets in the northern zone allowed a Korean communist called Kim Il-Sung to take power without holding elections. In the US-controlled south zone, elections were held. A capitalist (with strong ties to the US) called Syngman Rhee became leader.
- The US and Soviet zones had effectively become two countries: The North became the People’s Republic of Korea; the South became the Republic of Korea.
- Both Kim Il-Sung and Syngman Rhee were committed nationalists. They both believed in the unification of Korea after WWII, but both wanted to unify Korea under a different political ideology.
- Stalin was looking for revenge against Britain and America for the Berlin Airlift in 1949 which forced him to give up West Berlin. Kim Il-Sung visited Soviet Leader Stalin and asked and asked if he would support an invasion of South Korea in 1949. Stalin did not give support as there were still US troops in South Korea.
- However, by 1950, US troops had left South Korea. Furthermore, the USSR successfully performed nuclear weapons tests. Stalin began to supply tanks, artillery and aircraft to North Korea.
- Feeling confident, Stalin gave Kim permission to invade. He made it clear Soviet troops would not be directly involved saying reinforcements would have to come from China. North Korea invaded South Korea on 25th June 1950.
- The UN met to discuss what to do in response. The USA suggested sending an army to defend South Korea. The USSR could have vetoed this decision but had previously walked out of the UN over their refusal to recognize Mao’s Communist China as the rightful Chinese state (instead backing Chiang Kai-Shek).
- 16 UN member states sent troops to fight. America provided 50% of the armed forces and 93% of the air force. The UN forces would be led by General MacArthur.

Course of the war:

- Within weeks of the start of the war, the invading North Koreans had pushed the South Korean army back to the area around the city of Pusan. Seoul (the South Korean capital) had fallen in June. There was a very real threat that the South Korean army would be totally defeated.
- UN forces stormed ashore in an amphibious landing at Inchon (behind enemy lines) on 15th September 1950.
- The port of Inchon was quickly captured by the US-led UN forces.
- Other UN and South Korean forces advanced from Pusan. Within days MacArthur had captured Seoul (the capital).
- By early October, all North Korean forces had been driven out of Korea and back past the 38th parallel – achieving the UN's goal.
- However-the Americans did not stop. MacArthur wanted to press and crush the Communists in the North.
- In September 1950 he was given the go-ahead by the UN to cross 38th Parallel.
- China's leader (Mao Zedong) had warned that this would lead to China's involvement in the war
- By October 1950, the UN forces had pushed the Communists back and were getting close to the Yalu River (border between Korea and Communist China)
- It had become clear that MacArthur and Truman had gone beyond what the UN had originally set out to do and were now trying to remove Communism from Korea entirely.
- On 25th October 1950 200,000 Chinese volunteers (who called themselves 'People's Volunteers') joined the North Koreans. They were tough - many had fought in the civil war in China. They were also very committed to their cause and had been taught to hate Americans.
- They had modern tanks and planes provided by the USSR.
- The UN guns were no match for the sheer number of Chinese soldiers and their forces were pushed back past the 38th Parallel and into South Korea.



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- In January 1951 the US/UN forces were driven out of Seoul. However, the supply lines of the Chinese could not keep up and, after weeks of bitter fighting the UN troops were able to recover and push the Chinese troops back to the 38th Parallel
- Casualties were steadily rising and both sides were now roughly where they had started.
- MacArthur wanted to carry on fighting the war, invading China and using nuclear weapons if necessary.
- Truman felt that containing communism and saving South Korea was good enough. He feared triggering MAD (mutually assured destruction) especially during an election!
- His allies in the UN convinced him that the risks of attacking China and starting a war that might bring in the USSR were too great - an attack on China was ruled out.
- HOWEVER - In March 1951 MacArthur deliberately ignored UN instructions and openly threatened an attack on China. He sent UN troops back into North Korea. In April, MacArthur was removed from his position as commander and brought back home.
- By the end of 1951, the front line was holding stable around the 38th parallel and the two sides faced each other from heavily fortified positions.
- The front line barely moved between 1951 and 1953 when the armistice was signed.
- Peace talks between North and South Korea began in June 1951, but made no progress because of a dispute over exchanging prisoners.
- Talks began again in 1952 - but the fighting carried on.
- In November 1952 there were Presidential elections in USA - Truman was replaced by Eisenhower who wanted to end the war
- Stalin died in March 1953 and this made China and North Korea less confident-they didn't know who would replace Stalin and if this person would follow the same policies
- An armistice was finally signed in July 1953 (although the war is still technically going on today)

Why did the war end in a stalemate?

- To the people's Liberation Army of China, they were fighting off the 'imperialist Capitalist aggressors' who were threatening their own borders. To them it was an ideological conflict worth committing to completely. It is estimated that around half a million Chinese soldiers were killed in the war (compared to 30,000 US troops)
- Both sides had comparable resources with both sides using air power, tanks, artillery, mines and barbed wire. 16 member states of the UN sent troops to fight for South Korea. America provided by far the most (50% of armed forces; 86% naval forces and 93% air forces). This amounted to 40,000 troops, 60 battleships and 300 aircraft and a spend of around \$67 billion on the war. Neither side had an aerial advantage once China joined the war. The Soviet-provided MiG 15 fighters (USSR, although painted with Chinese or Korean markings), piloted by experienced Russian pilots, cancelled out the UN's advantage in quantity of fighter jets.
- Ground battles had become extremely bloody and costly since China's involvement. Though Korea was an important proxy war in the cold war, by 1951 neither the UN nor China were willing to keep committing so many lives to defend another country.
- Douglas MacArthur had been the main one in the UN supporting going beyond the 38th parallel. After he was replaced by Ridgeway, the UN war aim changed to simply defending everything south of the 38th parallel.
- The USA were unwilling to use atomic weapons in the Korean war, as this could trigger nuclear retaliation from the USSR and lead to a nuclear war. President Truman was accountable to the US public in the context of the 1952 Presidential election. He felt enough was enough and even with communism remaining in North Korea that he could still argue that he had succeeded in containing communism which was his main aim. He did not want to escalate conflict into nuclear war and sacked MacArthur when he suggested it.
- Syngman Rhee never supported an armistice and consistently demanded Korea be reunified before any end to the war. However, the National Assembly of South Korea, Korea's parliament who had stood with Rhee in 1951, voted in 1953 for South Korea to support the armistice. South Korea never signs the armistice, but they respect its terms nonetheless.
- Stalin's death in March 1953 made an armistice possible. Stalin's successor was less ideologically extreme, and willing to negotiate with the USA.

Consequences:

- UN: Gained respect by taking action – used combined force to stop aggression – achieved their aim BUT – Over 30,000 casualties – only able to act because of USSR's absence from Security Council.
- USA: Saved South Korea from communism – containment policy seemed to have worked in Asia BUT – 30,000 casualties – spending on defense had risen from 12 to 60 billion dollars – failed to liberate North Korea.
- USSR: Achieved close friendship with Communist China – conflict between China and USA was to USSR's advantage BUT – forced into expensive arms race with USA.
- China: Gained respect of communist allies in Asia – saved North Korea from American control – received financial and military aid from USSR – secured North Korea as a buffer state on its own borders BUT – over half a million casualties – failed to win South Korea for Communism – loss of potential trade with USA.

- Korea: Border remained along the 38th parallel BUT – 1.3 million casualties (equal number with South) – 1/10 civilians killed – industry and agriculture destroyed – millions of refugees. South Korea remained an independent country.
- The war failed to resolve any differences in the Cold War and now the Cold War was no longer confined to Europe.
- In 1954 SEATO was founded (South East Asia Treaty Organization) by America. This was a copy of NATO designed to contain communism in Asia. This heightened mistrust between the USA and USSR.
- In 1951 the USA signed the ANZU Pact with Australia and New Zealand, promising to support them in an event of a military invasion. They began to support the French in Indochina, providing 80% of French war supplies.
- A nuclear arms race developed between the US and USSR: Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) were developed and both countries armies, navies and air forces increased in size (by about 50%!) Most of these US troops were based overseas.
- The war is sometimes referred to as ‘The Forgotten War’ because it failed to resolve Cold War tensions.

Conflict and Tension Revision 2: Escalation of the conflict in Vietnam (revision guide pages 24-34)

France in Indochina (1945-54)

Who colonised Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) before WW2?

Which country invaded and occupied Indochina during WW2?

Why did France want to regain control of Indochina after WW2?

Who were the Vietminh?

Explain the significance of the Battle of Diem Bien Phu:

Civil War in Vietnam (1954-64)

Describe the terms of the Geneva Agreement, 1954:

What was the NLF and why was it created? How were they better known, and who controlled them?

What was the Ho Chi Minh Trail?

Who were the NLF fighting against?

American involvement (1954-64)

Who did America support as the leader in South Vietnam and why?

What was the significance of the Domino Theory to Vietnam?

Give two reasons why Diem was unpopular amongst people in the South:

What was the role of military advisors sent by Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy to South Vietnam?

Describe the 'Strategic Hamlets' policy adopted by Kennedy in 1962:

What happened to Diem in 1963 and why?

Trigger for war: The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (1964)

Why was Johnson reluctant to send ground troops to Vietnam?

Why did the American military believe ground troops were necessary in South Vietnam after 1963?

Describe the events of the Gulf of Tonkin Incident, 1964:

Explain how the Gulf of Tonkin Incident led to war:

What evidence is there that America was already planning to go to war/the Gulf of Tonkin Incident was not the real reason?

Success Criteria:

Exam Question: Write an account of how the Gulf of Tonkin Incident escalated the Vietnam conflict. (8 marks)

Structured
chronologically

**Three PEE
paragraphs**

Links between events
(long term and short-
term causes) are
clearly explained

**Specific, detailed
examples as
support:** Names,
events, statistics

By 1964, Vietnam was already in a state of civil war. This was as a result of... (discuss long-term causes)

Furthermore, by 1964 America was already concerned about South Vietnam 'falling to communism' because...

For top marks:

Analysis of the
**turning point, how
significant** each
cause was in the
event

In 1964, the Gulf of Tonkin Incident happened, which was when...

This led to...

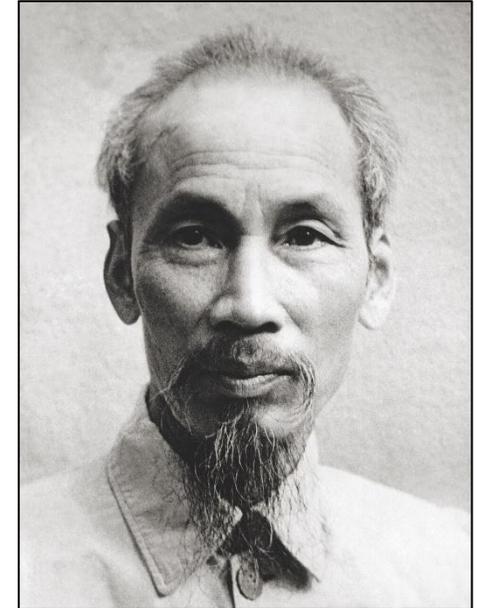
Therefore, the main turning point in the escalation of the Vietnam conflict was

Revision Notes 2: Escalation of the Conflict in Vietnam

Context:

- The French had taken over large parts of Asia in the 18th century, this was part of their Empire building.
- An area known as Indochina, belonging to France, consisted of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- During World War Two, the Japanese invaded Vietnam whilst France was occupied by Nazi Germany.
- During World War Two the Vietminh emerged. They were a resistance movement who were determined to rid Vietnam of foreign rulers e.g. the French and the Japanese.
- They were led by two Communists, Ho Chi Minh and Nguyen Vo Giap.
- By 1945, the Vietminh controlled much of the North of Vietnam.
- On 2nd September, the Vietminh declared their intentions to take the whole of Vietnam and declared it an independent country with Ho Chi Minh as president. The French rejected this.
- In 1946, the French sent an army to Vietnam to fight the Vietminh.
- By 1954, neither side had gained the upper hand.
- In 1949, communists took control of China and supported the North of Vietnam with training, supplies and equipment.
- Once the USA learned of this, claiming that the Vietminh were puppets of the Chinese, they vowed to support the French in order to contain the spread of Communism as part of the Domino Theory.
- July 1950- Truman sent \$15 million in military aid to the French. Then, US tanks, planes and supplies followed.
- By 1954 -America had spent \$3 billion, equating to 80% of all French equipment.
- Alongside these measures, the French also set up a non-communist government in South Vietnam.

The French, Dien Bien Phu and Geneva:



- Fighting between the French and Vietminh started as soon as Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam as independent.
- This period is known as the First Indochina War (1946-54).
- Initially, the French held the advantage. Much of the fighting took place in the North and in Laos and Cambodia.
- By November 1946, the French had capture Hanoi and the Vietminh retreated to the rural areas. The French held many towns and cities, the Vietminh, the jungle and countryside.
- The Vietminh were trained to use guerrilla tactics. This method of 'hit and run' warfare inflicted huge casualties on the French with as many as 80,000 of the 190,000 being killed.
- Dien Bien Phu is a significant turning point of the conflict. A small French air force base in the North West of Vietnam saw a force of 10,000 French soldiers, surrounded by some 50,000 Vietminh.
- The French experienced siege like warfare, having to surrender through exhaustion in May 1954.
- As a consequence of the loss for the French, their leader was replaced. The new leader gave the French the choice of continuing to fight or seeking peace. A vote presented to the French Parliament saw 471 vote for peace vs. 14 continuing the war. This enabled the French to leave.
- Following the French defeat, the leaders of Britain, France, China and the USSR and USA met in Geneva. The Vietnamese were there too, represented by the Vietminh and anti-communist members of the Southern Government.
- A peaceful solution was sought. A main issue being the elections in Vietnam. The Vietminh wanted a quick election to capitalise on the support for the Communists.
- whereas the West wanted to delay the election.
- They agreed that Vietnam should be divided along the 17th parallel; the North to be ruled by Ho Chi Minh and the South by Ngo Dinh Diem; French troops to withdraw; Vietminh to withdraw into the North; allowing the Vietnamese people to choose where to live (N or S); a general election for the whole of Vietnam in 1956 and finally Laos and Cambodia to become independent nations.

The NLF or Vietcong:

- In 1956, Ho Chi Minh sent his adviser Le Duan into South Vietnam to establish an understanding of the opposition groups. However, they were stunned to find that Diem was successful in his attempts to uproot the leaders. Also, with US support, challenging the South and seeking to reunite Vietnam was problematic.
- Therefore, Ho Chi Minh encouraged different opposition groups to join together. This became the National Liberation Front or NLF.
- They were referred to as the Vietcong by the South and USA (Vietnamese Communist).
- They had several aims; 1. Replace Diem 2. Unification of Vietnam 3. Promote the rights of peasants.
- They fought using guerrilla tactics, small units of three to ten soldiers who were able to blend in with society. Attacked small army patrols, poorly guarded positions and government targets. Their aim was to wear down the enemy, not destroy entirely and in one go.

Civil War in the South:

- As part of the Geneva Agreement, the USA backed Ngo Dinh Diem. They felt they could control him.
- He often acted independently from the USA and unpredictable.
- His decisions angered the Southern people and the USA e.g. removing land from the peasants and giving it to the rich and wealthy; or giving senior roles to his family.
- Diem was a Catholic and implemented anti-Buddhist policies (most of Vietnam was Buddhist) such as Buddhists needing to have permission to worship. 8 Buddhists children waving flags were killed by Diem's troops in one incident. Buddhists protested in hunger strikes and Thich Quang Due burned himself alive in protest in 1963.
- Diem called for a Southern Election in 1955, breaking the Agreement. Ho Chi Minh also stating that a nationwide election would take place in 1956 so an election in the south would be invalid. However, the election went ahead and over 100,000 South Vietnamese people opposed were sent to prison camps.
- Diem ordered his supporters to intimidate voters and announced that he had won 98% of votes in the election.
- Diem was a brutal leader, therefore many felt that armed rebellion was the only way to deal with him - leading to Civil War in 1957.
- Many opponents fled into the jungle and many more joined the NLF (funded and supplied by Ho Chi Minh's government).
- Resources were smuggled into the South via the Ho Chi Minh Trail (Laos and Cambodia).
- The ARVN (South Vietnamese Army) had the support of the USA (weapons and financial aid).



- The Strategic Hamlet programme was introduced by Diem in 1962 in a supposed attempt to 'win the hearts and minds' of the South Vietnamese (but really to stop peasants giving information to the Vietcong). Villagers were moved miles away from their homes (meaning a long walk to their rice fields) to camps (known as 'strategic hamlets') surrounded by fences and ditches. 2/3 of the population was moved by 1963. This was very unpopular and support for the Vietcong rose by 300%.



Strategic Hamlet village showing the settlement defended with lines of barricades to 'protect' villagers from attacks by the Vietcong

American fears and presidential actions:

- The US had a commitment to stop the spread of Communism. This had already happened in the East of Europe, into China and into N Korea. Now the issue seemed to be presenting itself again, in Asia.
- They believed that the USSR and China were actively spreading Communism (Domino Theory).
- Eisenhower believed, should Vietnam fall, nations to its West e.g. Laos, Cambodia and even India may end up falling.
- America established the House Un-American Activities Committee (HAUC) to investigate suspected Communists in the USA and McCarthyism took off in the 1950s.
- US financial support reached \$1.6 billion in the 1950s. Military advisors were also sent, as were jets and helicopters. They also launched a propaganda campaign vs. communists in North Vietnam.
- Eisenhower (1953-61) did not tell Diem to stage elections in S Vietnam in 1956; supplied Diem with money and equipment to fight the NLF; only sent military advisors; sent CIA agents to Saigon (South Vietnam's largest city) to gather intelligence; launched propaganda campaign and finally invited S Vietnam to join SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty) to help fight Communism in the Southeast of Asia.
- As Kennedy (1961-63) increased the number of military experts to 16,000; supported the Strategic Hamlet programme in 1962; kept US actions in Vietnam a secret from the media; Increased financial aid and promoted number of ARVN troops to grow by a further 20,000 to 170,000 and approved the coup of Diem.
- Johnson became president in November 1963. He agreed with the views of Eisenhower and Kennedy e.g. Domino Theory.
- He wanted to avoid men on the ground as he wanted to win the election of 1964 and his support came from those who backed not doing so.
- In 1961, Kennedy became president and felt that something should be done about Diem (he was unpopular and not doing what the USA advised). He ordered Diem's American protection be removed. 1st November 1963, Diem and his brother were surrounded by the ARVN. They were both shot dead. It was rumoured the CIA was involved in this event.

Gulf of Tonkin, August 1964:

- August 1964, under pressure from his advisors, Johnson increased US presence and approved Operation Plan 34A. This involved sending S Vietnamese mercenaries into N Vietnam and US destroyer ships into N Vietnamese waters.
- 3rd August 1964, USS Maddox was targeted by three North Vietnamese torpedo boats. USS Maddox fired warning shots, N Vietnamese responded and fired torpedoes. Minimal damaged some to USS Maddox. US air support sank one boat and damaged the two others.
- 4th August, another attack was reported and US jets confirmed it. However, the captain then backtracked and said it was a false alarm and that there was bad weather.
- Johnson used this as an excuse to attack N Vietnam.
- 7th August 1964, Gulf of Tonkin resolution gave Johnson the power to take any military measure he thought necessary. Johnson famously said 'Like grandma's nightshirt, it covered everything.' (meaning the Gulf of Tonkin Incident had given him endorsement to do whatever he wanted in Vietnam).

Conflict and Tension Revision 3: Johnson's War, 1964-8 (revision guide pages 35-41)

American Tactics

Describe the following

Operation Rolling Thunder

Napalm:

Search and Destroy:

Vietcong Tactics

Describe the following

Ho Chi Minh Trail:

Guerrilla tactics – 'Hanging onto the belts' of the enemy'

Punji Pits/Bouncing Betty

Defoliants/Agent Orange/Chemical warfare

Tunnels:

Explain why American tactics were ineffective:

Explain why the Vietcong tactics were more effective:

What is meant by and what do these terms suggest about the organization/
leadership of the US Army?

Why did the Vietcong often have the support of the people of South Vietnam?

'Fragging'

The Draft

The Tet Offensive

What was the Tet Offensive?

The My Lai Massacre, 1968

Describe the events of the My Lai Massacre

What was the aim of the Tet Offensive?

How and why did the US Army try to cover up this story?

Who benefitted from the Tet Offensive from a military perspective?

What was the impact of My Lai? What did it show about the war?

Why was the Tet Offensive a disaster for America in terms of publicity?

Success criteria: **Exam Question: This source is critical of American tactics in Vietnam. How do you know? (4)**

The source depicts...

- Developed analysis i.e. explains why using the source
- Makes 2 separate points
- Considers the content of the source and the provenance
- Uses contextual knowledge to explain the source.



This suggests that...

A Canadian newspaper cartoon from January 1969. The caption read: 'Those My Lai atrocities are enough to... bombs away!,,, turn your stomach'.

This refers to...(bring in the historical context)

Therefore, the source is critical of American tactics as the source is suggesting that...

Revision Notes 3: War in Vietnam

Vietcong tactics:

- Guerilla tactics that they had perfected over the past 20 years were used. Basic principle of this was to retreat when your enemy attacks and attack when your enemy retreats.

- Vietcong fighters didn't wear set uniforms in and travelled light, only carrying a ration of rice carried in elephant's intestines. They blended in with the peasant population and lived off the land. AK-47s were provided by the Soviets.

- Ho Chi Minh Trail was a vast network of paths, tracks and roads serving as a supply route from N Vietnam to the S. The trail cut through Laos, Cambodia and through thick jungle.

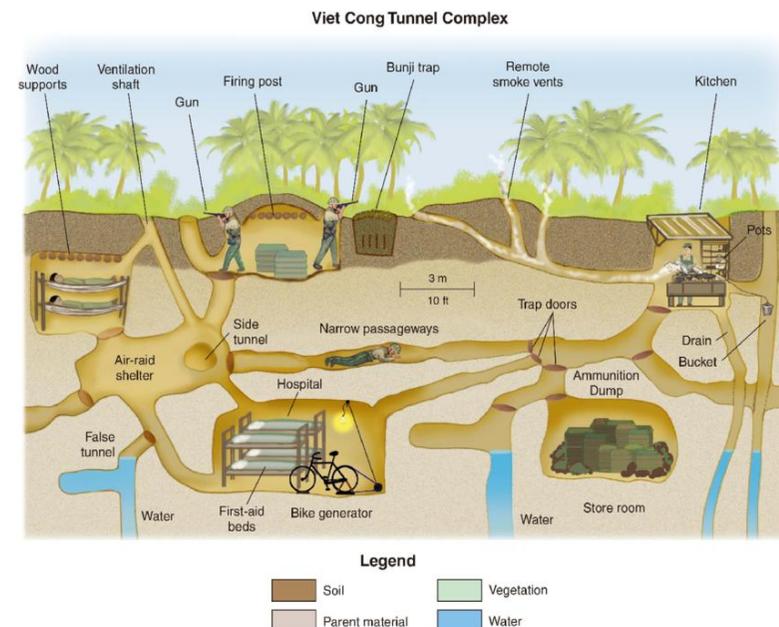
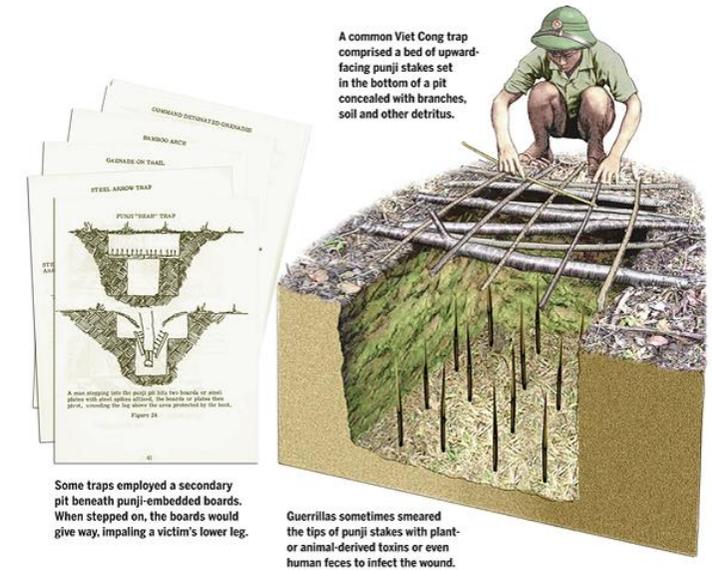
- 60 tonnes of supplies, weapons and equipment per day through the trail. Porters used bikes and ponies to deliver the supplies. If the Trail was targeted by bombing raids, new routes open swiftly.

- The Trail was perfected so that the time taken to transport weapons from the N to the S was reduced from 6 months at the start of the war to 6 weeks by the end.

- Hanging on the belts of the Americans. This is the name given to the Vietcong policy of staying close to the Americans and ambushing them. By staying close to the Americans, it also lessened the chances of being bombed! 51% US casualties came from ambushes.

- Tunnels were also used to avoid the threat from above. 300 km of tunnels developed underground and under jungles. They contained hospitals, storehouses, conference rooms and kitchens. Many booby traps placed inside/around them.

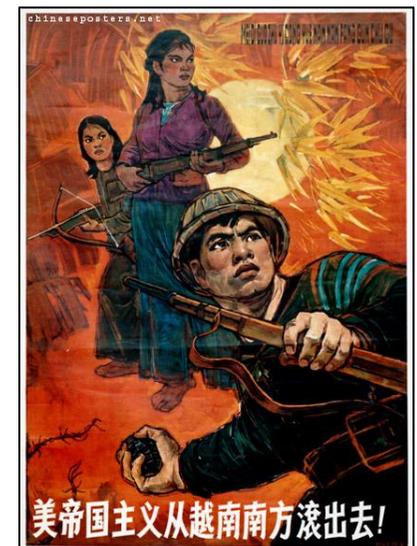
- Punji traps and bouncing betties are some good examples. A punji trap involved sharpened bamboo hidden in shallow pits and covered with leaves. They were dipped in animal or human faeces. They could puncture a US Army boot causing infection, disrupting them but not necessarily killing them.



- The bouncing betties were mines which, when triggered, launch a metre or so in the air and explode shrapnel into stomachs and genitals.
- Vietcong relied on help from villages and used violence should resistance be met. In 1966-71, 27,000 civilians were killed by the VC.
- The Vietcong had a Code of Conduct which outlined that they should never tell a lie but help peasants with the harvest and tell amusing stories. The Vietcong also killed those that collaborated with the government in the south - 27,000 civilians and local government workers such as tax collectors and police were killed 1966-71.
- The Vietcong gave the highest priority to creating safe base areas. With American spotter planes everywhere, it was vital to protect them. In remote swamps or forests, there were few problems, but nearer the capital, it was much more difficult. The answer was to build enormous systems of underground tunnels. Each villager in a NLF (Vietcong) area had to dig three feet of tunnel a day. There was even a standard handbook specifying how tunnels were to be built.
- Propaganda was put up to show Vietcong soldiers overpowering the US troops.
- Tactics made the US troops nervous and frustrated. Psychological war being fought. By 1964, 90% of Vietcong weapons used were captured US or AVRN ones.

American tactics:

- One of the most powerful, well equipped militaries in the world. However they soon found them selves to be no match for the Vietcong.
- GI's, general issue American soldiers, were initially experienced, but as the war progressed then became younger and more inexperienced. The average age was just 19.
- GIs were drafted (forced to serve/ conscripted) and did a one-year Tour of Duty. Many of them had never left America before and didn't know what they were fighting for. Wealthier families could delay/ avoid the draft by attending college.



- Morale wasn't always high: There were 500,000 incidences of desertion. 'Fragging' was intentionally killing superior officers. Drug usage was associated with the American army.
- This was the first war with integrated units BUT black soldiers made up 41% of soldiers (although only 11% of population) and 50% of those on the front line.
- Operation Rolling Thunder was launched in February 1965. This was an enormous bombing campaign intended to bomb the N into submission. Three years of 8-52 raids targeting cities, army bases and supply roads. Cluster bombs were also used, these released up to 600 smaller bombs designed to maim, not kill.
- Tactics included Search and Destroy= bases built along South and near ports. These bases were stocked with military equipment e.g. planes and helicopters. From these positions the US could carry out raids on suspected villages supporting or occupied by the Vietcong. They would set fire to houses and supplies using zippo lighters. This tactic alienated many S Vietnamese peasants. GI's often killed civilians, unable to distinguish between civilians and Vietcong fighters.
- Chemical Warfare. America began to target Vietcong supplies and tunnel systems. Began using defoliants or chemical weapons e.g. Agent Orange and Napalm. Agent Orange was a highly toxic weed killer used to destroy the jungle so the Vietcong could be seen. Agent Blue was used to destroy crops. The chemicals caused cancer and pregnant women in contact to develop pregnancy complications and children were born with chromosomal disorders. Napalm was a gel agent mixed with fuel. It burnt through everything.
- Bombing failed to halt the supply of fighters and weapons from North Vietnam along the Ho Chi Minh Trail (despite using more bombs than were used by all sides in WWII). Use of chemical weapons caused opinion towards the US to drop. Peasants and other innocent civilians were being killed and some began supporting the Vietcong.

*A Chinese propaganda poster called
'American imperialism must be driven
out of Southern Vietnam!' 1963*



The Tet Offensive - a turning point:

- Despite claims from General William Westmoreland in August 1967, the war was not progressing well and not coming to an end.

- The Vietcong typically used guerrilla tactic but in early 1968 decided to launch a large-scale attack called the Tet offensive. The aim was to inspire South Vietnamese civilians to rise up against their government.
- On 30th January, a temporary ceasefire due to Tet (the Vietnamese New Year) saw 84,000 Vietcong attack more than 100 towns, cities and US bases.
- 50,000 US troops were already busy defending bases elsewhere and responding to scattered threats.
- Key sites in cities on the east coast such as Saigon and Hue were attacked. The US Embassy was held for 6 hours before US paratroopers liberated it from Vietcong control. This was shown on news in America. Footage of a South Vietnamese police chief shooting a suspected Vietcong fighter at point blank range without trial was also broadcast.
- 50,000 North Vietnamese and 10,000 Vietcong fighters died vs. 10,000 US. Tet was a huge military defeat for the Vietcong HOWEVER a major political and psychological victory.
- American media showed carnage and devastation on TV and newspapers, damaging national confidence and caused questioning of President Johnson. Walter Cronkite famously reported from Tet saying that he now believed the war would end in a stalemate. Johnson said privately 'If I've lost Cronkite, I've lost middle America (by which he meant his mainstream middle-class conservative voters).
- Considered a Turning Point because; US public become disillusioned with war; Johnson announced he would not stand for re-election; cost of conflict was spiralling following Tet e.g. \$30 billion a year with 300 troop deaths per week; civilian death caused controversy.

Helicopters were used to transport US and ARVIN troops to locations in the jungle.

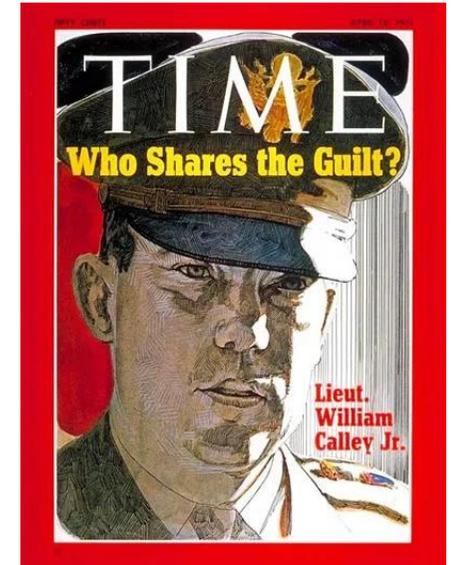


Walter Cronkite reporting during the Tet Offensive

The My Lai Massacre:

- The massacre happened shortly after the Tet offensive. Many US troops were becoming disillusioned and frustrated by the conflict.
- Charlie Company, the US army company responsible for the massacre had experienced 28 casualties during the Tet offensive.

- March 1968 it was reported that a Vietcong base operated near My Lai and that 200 Vietcong guerrillas were stationed there.
- Local villagers were reportedly supplying Vietcong with food, crops, livestock and other supplies.
- US troops landed after 7:30am and immediately fired upon buildings suspected to house the enemy.
- Hand grenades thrown and villagers fleeing were shot or stabbed. Reports of torture and rape emerged.
- When the US troops returned to base, only 28 Vietnamese had been killed.
- HOWEVER, a year later Ronald Ridenhour sent 30 leading US politician and military officials a letter stating 'something rather dark and bloody' had happened.
- This led journalist Seymour Hersch to track down William Calley and break the story (which the US army was trying to cover up by hiding Calley on an army base in America).
- 18 months after the incident, graphic images appeared in Time magazine (November 1969).
- Two investigations into the massacre, one by the government and one by the army.
- Government investigation= 398 witnesses interviewed; high ranking generals to soldiers of Charlie Company; report concluded that 347-504 unarmed civilians were killed. The report recommendation action against dozens of soldiers for rape, murder and participation in the cover up.
- Army investigation= found widespread failures of discipline; inexperienced soldiers; low morale; deaths of Charlie Company building up to the event may have been a cause. Recommended that 25 men should be prosecuted for their role.
- Eventually 14 high ranking officers were charged, though they were dropped. One went to trial but was acquitted.
- One man, William Calley was found guilty for the killings. Claimed to be following orders, however given a life prison sentence. Many unhappy as they too believed he was following orders. President Nixon eventually helps with his release.
- Controversial conflict emerges. No longer about containing Communism. 1969, about 700,000 protested against the war (in Washington).



Conflict and Tension Revision 4: Ending the Vietnam War (revision guide p42-57)

Protest

Explain why the following led to increased protest against the war:

- US tactics:
- The Tet Offensive:
- The cost of the war:

Why did each of the following groups oppose the Vietnam War?

- Civil Rights campaigners like Martin Luther King and Muhammed Ali
- Veterans
- Students

Nixon's War, 1969-75

Define the term 'Vietnamisation':

Role of the Media – this was another key reason for increasing opposition to the war

Explain why there was so much media coverage of the Vietnam War:

Who was Walter Cronkite and why was he important?

What did Walter Cronkite say following the Tet Offensive and what did Johnson remark in response?

Cronkite

Johnson

Explain the significance of what happened at Kent State University in 1970:

How did the media contribute to increasing opposition to the war?

Ending the war and consequences

What did Nixon mean by 'Peace with Honour'?

Why did Nixon want to reduce US troops in Vietnam after 1969?

What did Nixon do to:

- Cambodia in 1970

- Laos in 1971

How successful were Nixon's policies in Vietnam from 1969?

What was significant about Nixon's meetings with the USSR in 1970 and China in 1972?

What were the terms of the Paris Peace Accords agreed in Jan 1973?

How did the Watergate scandal contribute to the end of the Vietnam War?

How did the war finally end in April 1975 and why?

Give an example of the impact the war had?

Environmentally:

On Vietnamese citizens

On America's reputation internationally:

Success criteria:

NB this question is really about you explaining what is useful about these sources in terms of what they tell you about the context of the period. You shouldn't concentrate on limitations, this isn't crucial and there are more important and worthwhile things to comment on.

There is no requirement to compare the sources and decide which is more useful, again this is a waste of time and ink.

Consideration of the sources content and provenance (who wrote it, when, where, why and to whom

Developed analysis, i.e. ...therefore this makes it useful because...

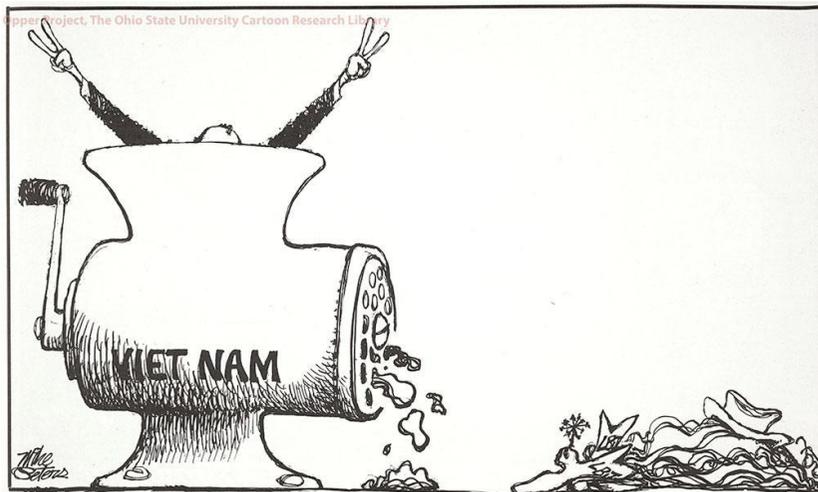
Uses contextual knowledge to explain the source.

Exam question: Study sources B and C. How useful are source B and C to a historian studying opinions in the United States about the Vietnam War? Explain your answer using Sources B and C and your contextual knowledge. (12 marks)

Source B:

A cartoon which appeared in a local newspaper in Ohio, America in 1971.

In this cartoon, President Nixon is being consumed by a meat grinder labelled Vietnam. The pile on the right represents the remains of Lyndon Johnson after being destroyed by the same meat grinder.



Source C:

From a speech by President Nixon in January 1973 to the American people.

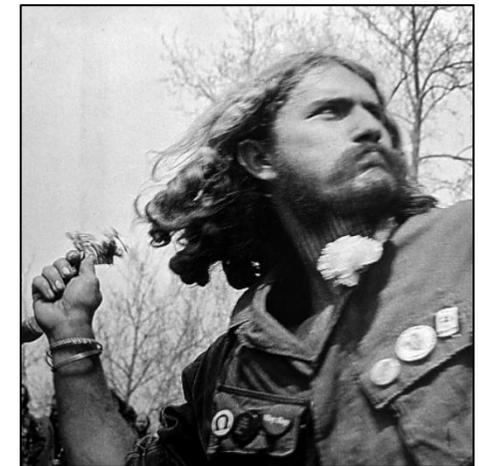
Throughout the years of negotiations we have insisted on peace with honour. In the settlement that has now been agreed all these conditions have been met. The conditions include the release of prisoners of war within 60 days and all American forces to be withdrawn within the same time.

To the people of South Vietnam, we say by your courage you have won the right to determine your own future. To the leaders of North Vietnam, as we have ended the war through negotiation, let us build a peace of reconciliation.

Revision Notes 4: Ending the War in Vietnam

Protest:

- Most in the 1950s and 60s supported the government's decision to send in troops. By the late 60s, this changed. In October 1965 there were anti-war demonstrations in more than 90 cities. In October 1967 100,000 protestors gathered at Lincoln Memorial, MLK also against the war.
- By October 1967 there were 500,000 US troops in Vietnam, 40,000 young men being called into the army per month. 15,000 killed and 110,000 wounded.
- Some objected due to moral grounds, asking a human to kill another. Others questioned why the USA aggressively attacked another nation instead of just helping the South.
- Many students opposed in groups such as Students for a Democratic Society who began to express their opposition and hold debates, produce songs and speeches. Many were linked to the hippy movement: they rejected the 'American Dream' and 'dropped out' of society. They were pacifists believing war was wrong due to the impact of the war on civilians (1 million Vietnamese people were killed during the war). They were often inspired by anti-war songs such as those by John Lennon and Bob Dylan.
- Draft dodgers became more common, people refused to join up after being drafted by burning their card or fleeing abroad.
- Civil Rights leaders such as Martin Luther King viewed Vietnam as a racist war and rejected racial inequality in the army, pointing out that the casualty rate was higher amongst black recruits who were often sent to fight in the most dangerous areas. Boxer Muhammed Ali refused to fight when called up. He was sentenced to 5 years in prison but this was overturned and he received a 3 year ban instead and a fine of \$10,000.
- Many veterans had been scarred by the war and felt lied to by the government.
- Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) formed in 1967. Ron Kovic was a notable campaigner (See 'Born on the Fourth of July' with Tom Cruise in the Ron Kovic role). They marched to raise awareness of what was really happening there. Some threw away medals
- A report in 1971 claimed that 1/3 of US troops in Vietnam were drug users.
- 75,000 Americans were severely disabled as a result of serving in Vietnam (amputation in the lower extremities was 300% higher than in WW2).
- 30% of American soldiers that served experienced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



A veteran throwing his medals onto the Whitehouse lawn in protest.

- People became disillusioned with Johnson's Great Society as many living standards had not improved. Instead \$20 billion was going to the war effort.
- After the Tet Offensive in 1968 66% of voters thought that the US should withdraw as the war was too costly, in lives and money. In November 1969 the largest anti-war protest in history happened in Washington DC, attended by 500,000 people.
- By the end of 1965 there were over 400 journalists reporting for radio and TV channels, major newspapers and news magazines.

Media influence:

- Vietnam was the first major war on TV. Many in the US watched as they blew up villages, forests napalmed and young Americans (19 on average) being sent to fight/die.
- By 1961 93% of US homes had a TV set, and in a survey conducted in 1964, nearly 60% of respondents said that they got most of their news from TV.
- Along with the rise of TV ownership, there was a growth in new technology such as video cameras and voice recorders. This meant that recording news reports was a lot easier for journalists. Using lightweight cameras, they were flown around the war zone by helicopters, capturing the horrors from the front in full colour and sending the pictures back to the USA at great speed.
- In the Second World War and the Korean War, the footage shown on TV news had been taken by official military cameramen, and the government controlled what was shown to the US public. But there were no controls such as this during the Vietnam War and the action was filmed by independent TV networks that were allowed to move freely and film what they wished.
- Reporters began to use the phrase 'five o'clock follies' to describe the official army bulletins because they didn't believe they were being told the truth. ('folly' means lacking in
- After the TET Offensive and Walter Cronkite's statement, coverage of the USA's role in the Vietnam War became more negative. After 1969 the % of victory stories decreased from 66% to 44% Journalists began to feature more stories about the defeat of US troops in battle, and there were more news films showing civilian and military casualties. There were also more news stories about the poor morale and behaviour of the troops.
- Life Magazine, one of the USA's most widely read and influential magazines, also shocked Americans by publishing the names and faces of all 242 US troops killed during one week of fighting in June 1969. For many Americans, Vietnam had been a distant war in a foreign land, but to see the images of so many fresh-faced young men staring out from the magazine brought the impact of the Vietnam War right home
- The photograph of 9-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phuc running naked as an ARVN (America's ally) napalm attack had burned her clothes off her body following the occupation of South Vietnam by North Vietnam in June 1972.



The Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of Mary Ann Vecchio, a 14-year-old runaway, kneeling over the body of student Jeffrey Miller at Kent State University in 1970.



Nixon after being elected President in 1968

Nixon's War:

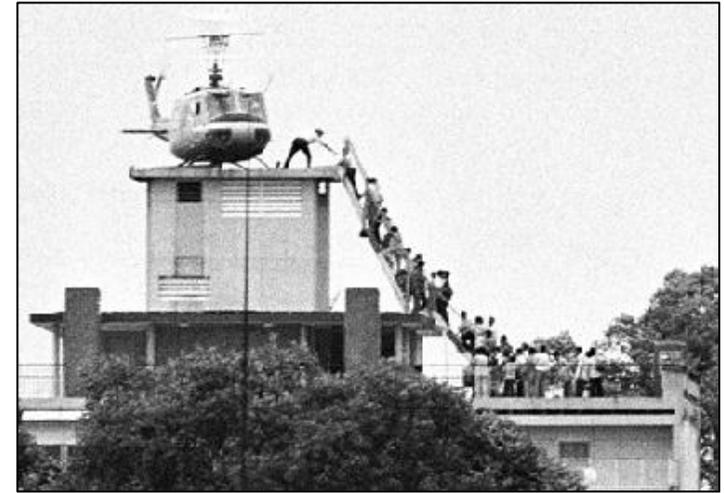
- Nixon was elected in 1968 on the platform of achieving 'Peace with Honour' in Vietnam. By this he meant America would withdraw troops without South Vietnam falling to Communism.
- President Nixon announced the strategy of Vietnamisation on 3 November 1969. His strategy was to build up the South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) to such a high level that it could carry on the war against the Vietcong and North Vietnamese without the help of US troops.
- The Americans would train, equip and expand the ARVN to achieve this. Nixon realised that this would not happen overnight and organised vast sums of money to be spent on planes, tanks, machine guns and rifles. Around 600 helicopters were provided and US officers were sent out to train the ARVN. Within months around half of the adult South Vietnamese population had joined the ARVN. By the end of 1969, 85,000 US troops had been withdrawn. Secret peace talks were also being held from August 1969.
- In March 1969, Nixon gave permission for the bombing of Cambodia in an attempt to destroy the Ho Chi Minh trail and Vietcong bases there. To avoid international protest, it was decided to try to keep the bombing secret.
- The bombing alone failed to destroy the enemy bases, so in April 1970, Nixon ordered the invasion of Cambodia by US troops. He also announced that 150,000 more soldiers were needed in Vietnam.
- This provoked a wave of demonstrations across the USA. The most famous was at Kent State in May 1970. Students protests at Kent State University, Ohio led to 1000 National Guardsmen being sent. In the confusion, they opened fire shooting between 61 and 67 bullets on the 1500 protestors. 4 students were shot dead.
- The local population in Cambodia was unhappy about the arrival of the US troops. There was a communist organisation called Khmer Rouge in Cambodia at the time. Up until this point, it had received little support from the Cambodian peasants. As a result of the arrival of US troops, they were able to claim that the USA was trying to take over Cambodia and so membership grew rapidly throughout 1970-71.
- By early 1971, the Vietnamisation programme meant that a large section of the ARVN was now trained and equipped. On 8 February it began an attack on North Vietnamese troops in Laos. The operation was supported by US helicopters, bombers and artillery. However, the ARVN forces were beaten back within 6 weeks. The North Vietnamese then launched a major attack in South Vietnam in the spring of 1972. The attack in Laos showed that Vietnamisation wasn't working. In addition, it increased support for the communists in Laos (called the Pathet Lao) and by 1973 they controlled most of the country
- In 1970, talks began between the USSR and USA to limit the amount of nuclear weapons held by each side. Nixon also asked the Soviets to put pressure on the North Vietnamese to end the war.
- In February 1972, Nixon was invited to China and was the first US President to visit the communist state. He also asked China to encourage the North Vietnamese to end the war.

Ending the War:

- A peace agreement was finally made in 1973. It included: US troops had sixty days to withdraw all of their forces and bases; Release of all prisoners of war within 60 days; South Vietnam would decide with their own political settlement through fresh elections.
- Nixon pledged some \$1 billion military support for South Vietnam if North Vietnam violated the agreement.
- Nixon claimed that he had achieved 'Peace with honour'.
- However, by 1974 the Watergate Scandal emerged around corruption within Nixon's administration relating to the 1972 election and Nixon's conduct.
- As a result, Nixon resigned in 1974. Congress had no faith in Vice President Gerald Ford and would not support continuing financial aid (\$300 M) to South Vietnam whose government they had no faith in.
- In December 1974 the North Vietnamese, believing the Americans to be distracted by the Watergate Scandal back at home, launched a major offensive against South Vietnam. The capital, Saigon, fell in April 1975. The Communists had won.

Results of the War:

- Before Vietnam America's reputation abroad as the defenders of peace and liberty seemed invincible and its influence as a superpower unstoppable. Vietnam changed this: if unarmed protesters could be shot at home and war crimes such as My Lai carried out by US soldiers, could the USA really be the 'land of the free'?
- Despite 58,000 Americans being killed in conflict (estimates of Vietnamese approx. 1 million; 2 million wounded) the war had proved that America could not 'contain' Communism like it had in Europe.
- Not only did the USA fail to stop Communism taking over the whole of Vietnam, there were Communist takeovers in neighbouring countries Laos (Pathet Lao) and Cambodia (Khmer Rouge) as a result of Nixon's policies. However, Communism did not spread to Thailand or India proving the Domino Theory to be incorrect.
- The growing anti-war movement created a split in US Society between those who supported the war and those who felt that the government was wrong to continue.
- News events like the cover up of the My Lai massacre, secret bombings of Cambodia and Watergate Scandal damaged the credibility of the government.
- Many Americans now had a deep suspicion and distrust of the government.
- The war cost in total \$170 billion (£30 billion per year; £1000 billion in today's terms) and resulted in rising public debt, income tax and inflation at home. Added to this was the longer-term costs of benefits and pensions paid to injured and killed veterans. It has been estimated that this doubled the cost of the war. When Johnson became president in 1963, he promised a series of social reforms known as the Great Society. He announced that he was declaring 'war on poverty' - reforms to help the poor. However, soon Johnson needed to divert money to the Vietnam War and therefore could not complete his Great Society pledge.



American officials, South Vietnamese civilians that worked for the Americans and the last troops being evacuated in 1975 from the CIA building in Saigon, April 1975

- Although Vietnam spent no way near as much, the country was still made poorer. In the mid-1990s the USA finally ended its trade ban with Vietnam and the World Bank was allowed to invest there, even though it remained a Communist country.
- The levels of dioxin (the poison used in Agent Orange) are three times higher in Vietnamese citizens than American citizens. This has resulted in those exposed suffering with pain in the eyes and skin as well as gastrointestinal upsets; incessant tiredness; abortions and monstrous births.
- Reports on the association between exposure to Agent Orange and birth defects have concluded that there is a statistically significant correlation such that having a parent who was exposed to Agent Orange at any point in their life will increase one's likelihood of either possessing or acting as a genetic carrier of birth defects.
- The war destroyed 5.4 million acres of forest and the animals and plants living there. Crops were also destroyed by bombing and streams and rivers poisoned by chemical weapons.
- Hard drugs were available easily and cheaply in Vietnam from neighbouring Laos and Cambodia and were used widely by US troops. Official US army estimates put heroin use by US troops at 30%.
- 75,000 American soldiers were severely disabled as a result of serving in Vietnam (amputation in the lower extremities was 300% higher than in WW2). Some troops contracted cancer from handling Agent Orange.
- The stress and horrific experience of fighting in the war resulted in soldiers getting PTSD. 30% of American soldiers that served experienced what might now be called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or mental scarring.
- Many troops that served were not welcomed home as heroes because of opposition to the war so found it difficult to adjust to civilian life.
- Fighting drove thousands of Vietnamese into shanty towns near US bases. Poverty, prostitution and drug abuse were common. US forces were supplied with vast amounts of luxuries as well as military supplies -this created a huge black market and corrupt officials in the South Vietnamese government.
- As a result around 100,000 Vietnamese-American babies born as a result of relationships between Vietnamese women and US soldiers during the war. In 1975 around 3000 infants from orphanages and hospitals were flown out of Vietnam and adopted by families around the world. This was known as 'Operation Babylift'. Those that remained led very difficult lives as they were a living reminder of the conflict. Some were given away to relatives in the countryside or sold as cheap labour.
- Around 11 million South Vietnamese people were displaced from their homes due to bombing.
- Vietnam took well over 20 years to start recovering from the war. Poverty and Communist policies and the hope of a better life led thousands of Vietnamese to become 'boat people'. They tried to sail to Malaysia and Hong Kong in makeshift boats. Around 1 million refugees escaped to the West (mainly USA). At least 50,000 were drowned or murdered by pirates.



Vietnamese 'Boat People' refugees.

GUIDE TO QUESTIONS ON THE CONFLICT AND TENSION PAPER

There are 4 different types of question and you have 1 hour to answer them.

The question types are listed below with some guidance about how to go about answering each one:

Question	Marks	How long?	How to approach it
Source A supports... How do you know?	4	5	Content - Message - Knowledge Identify details in the source and use these to explain what it is saying (what is the message of the source?). Back up using specific contextual knowledge
How useful are Sources B and C to an historian studying...?	12	15	Start by explaining what the content of the source shows you about the issue in the question. Then use specific own knowledge to elaborate on what it shows you relating to the question stem 'This was because...' Do the same for the second source. For top marks: then explain who wrote the source, when and why. Link back to the question and explain why this makes the source useful to a historian. What does it reveal? What can it show us about attitudes? Do the same for the second source.
Write an account of...	8	10	Approach it like an 'Explain how' question i.e. rather than describing what you need to be explaining why. Write x 2 PEEL paragraphs Think about long term and short term causes/ consequences if relevant. Show connections between factors. Pay attention to the date range in the question.

			Use detailed knowledge (facts, dates, key terms).
Has... been the main factor in ...?	16 {+4 SPaG)	25	<p>3 paragraphs and a conclusion.</p> <p>Start with the factor in the question and give specific examples to show that it was important. Link your paragraph back to the question.</p> <p>Choose 2 other factors and give specific evidence to support them. Include a range of specific examples</p> <p>Make sure you focus on the question. You are not writing a story</p> <p>In your conclusion, decide which factor is the most important and give a reason why.</p> <p>For top marks, in your conclusion, explain how different factors are linked to each other OR why one is more important than the others.</p>

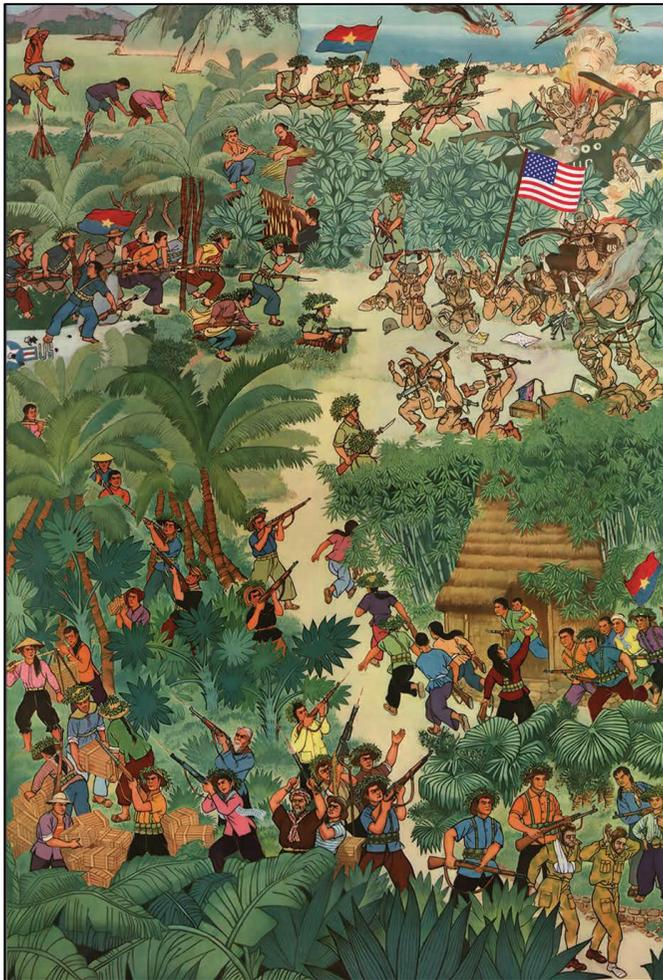
PAST PAPERS: From the 2018 Paper

- Source A supports the Vietcong. How do you know? Explain your answer using Source A and your contextual knowledge. [4 marks]
- Study Sources Band C in the Sources Booklet. box How useful are Sources B and C to an historian studying America and the Korean War? Explain your answer using Sources Band C and your contextual knowledge. [12 marks]
- Write an account of how the Gulf of Tonkin incident escalated the Vietnam conflict. [8 marks]
- 'The main reason why the conflict in Vietnam ended was because of the Anti- War movement in America.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [16 marks]
[SPaG 4 marks]

Our armed forces are tied down in Korea by our policy. Communist China may soon invade Taiwan leading to conflict with the United States. They may also help the Viet Minh to expel the French from Vietnam. Our involvement in the Far East worries the Europeans who are terrified by conflict with China. More US involvement in the Far East would also allow the USSR to expand their power in Europe.

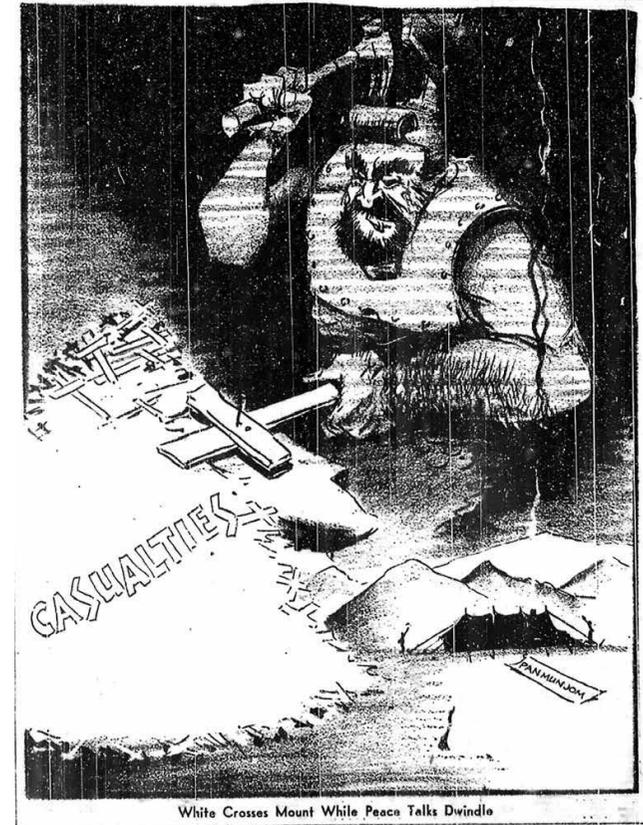
Source A:

Adapted from a secret report by John Paton Davies to the US government. January 1951. He was one of the first American representatives working in Communist China.



Source B:

A Chinese poster published in October 1965 showing a battle in Vietnam. The title was 'Victory against the American aggressor.'



Source C:

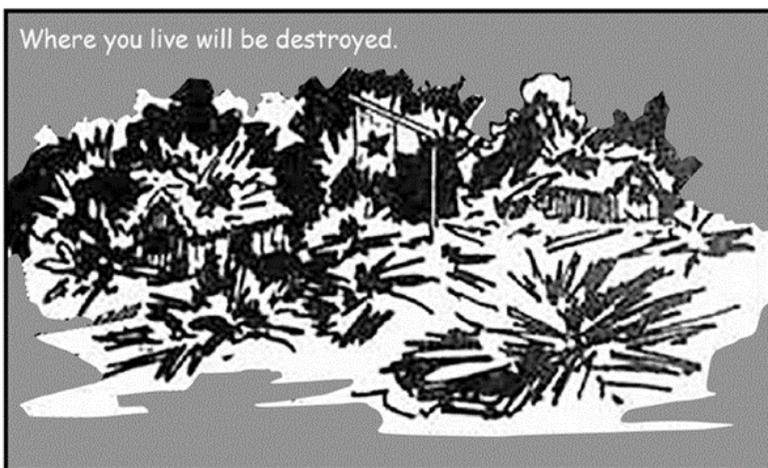
A cartoon published in 1952 in an American newspaper commenting on the casualties in the Korean War. The caption reads, 'While crosses mount, peace talks dwindle'. The figure represents Mars, the God of War.

PAST PAPERS: From the 2021 Paper

- Source A supports the Strategic Hamlets programme. How do you know? Explain your answer using Source A and your contextual knowledge. [4 marks]
- How useful are Sources Band C to an historian studying the widening of the Vietnam War into Cambodia and Laos? Explain your answer using Sources Band C and your contextual knowledge. [12 marks]

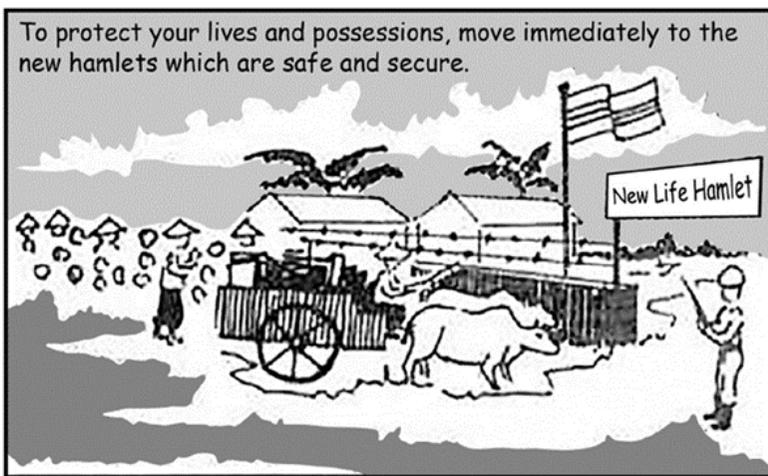
- Write an account of how the media and TV influenced American opinions about the Vietnam War. [8 marks]
- 'American actions were the main reason for the development of the Korean War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [16 marks]

Source A: One of the thousands of American leaflets dropped by aircraft into villages in Vietnam in the



Source B: Adapted from a newspaper article by a US Air Force General. During the Vietnam War he was a pilot who flew hundreds of missions. It was published after the Americans left Vietnam.

Our flights were secret because we were not supposed to be flying over Cambodia and Laos. Our job was to block the Ho Chi Minh Trail but we never succeeded. The whole area was devastated by our bombs but somehow the Trail was always there. The fall of Saigon was because large numbers of tanks, artillery and missiles were delivered down the indestructible Ho Chi Minh Trail



Source C: An anti-war cartoon published in America in 1972 commenting on the widening of the Vietnam War.

The figures represent the Head of the Army and President Nixon.

The gravestones represent the thousands of people who had already died in Vietnam.

The Head of the Army is advising the President, "We need to go into Cambodia because if it falls to the Communists then Laos will fall".



Conflict and Tension in Asia: Korean and Vietnam Wars

Korean War, 1950-53



Treaty: A formal agreement between two countries



Foreign Policy: The decisions/actions one country takes towards other countries



Nationalist: Someone who strongly identifies with their own nation and puts its interests above anything else.



Stalemate: To be in a position where neither side can make any positive or successful moves.



Domino Theory: Theory that a communist government in one nation would lead to communist takeovers in neighbouring countries, each falling like dominos.



Armistice: A formal agreement between warring parties to stop fighting, but stops short of declaring an end to a war.



Boycott: Refusing to attend something, e.g. the USSR and the Security Council meetings of the UN



Veto: A veto is a legal power to unilaterally stop an official action.

The War in Vietnam, 1945-68

Offensive: A military attack on the opposition.

Booby Trap: A harmful device designed to be triggered by its unsuspecting victim, e.g. Punji Pits

Search and Destroy: Operations where US Marines would attempt to search for and destroy Vietcong groups.

Vietcong: Vietnamese guerrilla forces operating in South Vietnam in the 1960s-70s, supported by the North via and Ho Chi Minh trail.

Vietminh: Vietnamese independence forces who fought against French colonial rule in the 1940s and 50s.

Ho Chi Minh Trail: Network of roads and paths that ran from North Vietnam to South Vietnam via the jungles of Laos and Cambodia.

Napalm: A highly flammable, viscous substance, dropped from planes and designed to stick to the body whilst burning.

Hanging on to the Belts: Vietcong strategy of staying too close to the US forces for them to use their air power against them.

Guerrilla Warfare: Military strategy consisting of hit and run tactics, generally used by technologically inferior combatants.

Ending the War in Vietnam, 1968-1973

Allies: To combine or unite to benefit those involved.

Civilians: A person who is not on active duty with a military, naval, police or fire-fighting organisation.

Election: To cast a vote in favour of something, most often seen in politics.

Media: The main means of communicating on a mass scale, e.g. via newspapers, TV, publishing etc.

Veterans: A former member of the armed forces.

Protest: A public expression of disapproval or dissent towards an idea or action.

Vietnamisation: A US policy to end American involvement in Vietnam by developing the South Vietnam military.

Scandal: An action or event that causes public outrage, e.g. the Watergate Scandal.

Casualties: A person killed or injured in war or an accident, sometimes mental and not physical.

Truman Doctrine: Policy started by the US President Truman with the goal of containing the spread of communism.

Superpowers: A country with a lot of wealth and influence over others.

Turning Point: A significant moment when the trajectory of events begins to change

17th Parallel: The line dividing North and South Vietnam.

Cold War: A political rivalry between the USA and the USSR that didn't involve direct fighting with each other.

Trigger: In historical analysis, something that directly starts an event.

Decisive: In historical causation, important in producing the final outcome.

Implies: Suggests a connection rather than directly stating it. Useful when analysing sources.

Provenance: Where a historical source is from, when, from whom and why it was created.

Conflict and Tension in Asia: Korean and Vietnam Wars

Korea Key People:

President Truman, President 1945-53

President Eisenhower, President 1953-61

Kim Il Sung: Supreme Leader of Communist North Korea 1948-941

Syngman Rhee: President of South Korea 1948-1960

Douglas MacArthur: US Commander in charge of UN forces in Korea to March 1951.

Mao Zedong: Chinese Communist leader 1949-76

Josef Stalin: Leader of the USSR 1928-53

Korea Key Facts

- There are 15 members of the UN Security Council, including 5 permanent members, the UK, France, the USA, the USSR and China. They all have the agree for a decision to be made.
- America provided 50% pf the armed ground and naval forces and 93% of the air forces provided by the UN.
- Within 11 days of the landings at Inchon, MacArthur's forces had recaptured Seoul.
- In September 1950 MacArthur was given the go-ahead by the UN to cross the 38th parallel.
- 200,000 Chinese volunteers crossed the border at the Yalu River and joined the war in October 1950.
- Between 1951 and 1953, most of the fighting was in the air over Korea. The UN lost around 3500 planes. The North Koreans, Chinese (and secretly the Soviets) lost nearly 3000.
- There were over 30,000 UN casualties – most of which were Americans.
- US spending on defence and weapons technology increased from \$12 billion to \$60 billion.
- China lost potential trade with the US for nearly 25 years as a result of their involvement with the war
- 1.3 million Koreans casualties (almost equal numbers between the North and South). 1 in 10 civilians were killed.

Vietnam War Key People:

Ho Chi Minh: Leader of the Vietminh and then the communist government of North Vietnam.

Ngo Dinh Diem: Catholic leader of corrupt, non-communist South Vietnamese government.

Thich Quang Duc – Buddhist monk who set himself on fire in 1962 as a protest against Diem's

Vietnam US Presidents:

Dwight D. Eisenhower: provided money, resources and military advisers (up to 11,000 by 1962)

John F. Kennedy: continued to send advisors, 25,000 by late 1963. Assassinated in Nov. '63.

Lyndon B. Johnson: committed more fully to the war, sent ground troops to a full-scale conflict.

<p>government.</p> <p>General Westmoreland: US military leader in South Vietnam 1964-1968.</p> <p>Lieutenant William Calley: officer who led the My Lai raid.</p> <p>Walter Cronkite: key US journalist for the CBS TV network, 'the most trusted man in America'</p>	<p>Richard Nixon: Elected in 1968 and committed to ending the war peacefully through Vietnamisation. Resigned in 1974.</p> <p>Gerald Ford: Nixon's Vice-President who replaced him in 1974. Lost the election in 1975.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Background and build-up to US involvement in Vietnam Key Facts:</p> <p>President Truman sent \$15 million in military aid to the French in July 1950.</p> <p>50,000 Vietminh troops surrounded 10,000 French troops and Dien Bien Phu. The battle lasted 57 days with a Vietminh victory over the French.</p> <p>By 1963 there were 16,000 military 'advisors in Vietnam</p> <p>There were 60,000 Vietcong by 1964.</p> <p>4th August 1964 – USS Maddox and USS Turner Joy report that they had been fired upon and attacked by torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. This led to the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Opposition to the war in Vietnam Key Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 1965, about 80% of the US public supported American involvement in Vietnam. • Between 347 and 504 unarmed civilians were killed during the My Lai massacre in March 1968. • In late 1969, around 700,000 people protested against the war in Washington. • An official report estimated in 1971 that one third or more of US troops in Vietnam were addicted to drugs. • 22% of casualties were African-Americans (African-Americans made up only 11% of the US population at that time) • In 1967, Muhammad Ali, the famous boxer, refused to go to war in Vietnam on the grounds of his Muslim faith. • 20 million TV viewers saw the footage of the execution of a VC prisoner in the street during the Tet Offensive. • 4 students were killed at the Kent State University demonstration in May 1970
<p style="text-align: center;">Fighting the Vietnam War Key Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over one million tons of bombs were dropped on Vietnam during the course of Operation Rolling Thunder. Between 1965 and 1973, around 20,000 tons of napalm were dropped by the US air force onto suspected enemy targets. • During the Tet Offensive, the VC held the city of Hue for 25 days. • The USA was spending \$20 billion a year on the war. • VC booby traps caused about 11% of US casualties. • 54% of US casualties were caused by ambushes. • In 1967, Life magazine calculated that it cost the USA \$400,000 to kill one VC fighter. • 60% of the 56,000 Americans killed in Vietnam were aged 17-21. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Ending the Vietnam War Key Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between April 1969 and the end of 1971 almost 400,000 US troops left Vietnam. • An estimated 2 million Vietnamese civilians were killed and 5 million injured. • The war destroyed 5.4 million acres of forest. • 30% of American soldiers that served experienced what might now be called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or mental scarring. • The US government has reported that they spent over £170 billion on the war.