

### Key Dates:

- 1954:** Vietminh defeat the French at Dien Bien Phu. The Geneva Conference divides Vietnam on the 17th parallel into two countries.
- 1957:** President Eisenhower states USA belief in the Domino Theory.
- 1963:** Assassination of Diem & Kennedy.
- 1964:** Gulf of Tonkin Incident & Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.
- 1965:** President Johnson launches 'Operation Rolling Thunder' and sends the first combat troops to Vietnam.
- 1968:** My Lai massacre and Tet Offensive.
- 1970:** Kent State University shootings
- 1973:** The Paris Peace Agreement.
- 1975:** Fall of Saigon.



### By the end of this Half Term I

#### should know:

- How and why the USA increased its political and military involvement after WW2
- How a belief in the Domino Theory led to USA sending combat troops to Vietnam
- How the concept of guerilla warfare and the different tactics of Ho Chi Minh and the Vietcong led to victory
- How the failure of the USA army to win the 'hearts & minds' of the South Vietnamese due to poor tactics led to defeat
- How the peace protests grew across the USA after 1968
- How to evaluate the many reasons why the USA withdrew from Vietnam leading to the fall of Saigon and the south.

### Key Terms

- Vietcong**- Set up in 1960, the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam was given the name Vietcong (VC) by the Americans. Masters at using guerrilla warfare tactics.
- Domino Theory**- USA belief that if Communism was not stopped, other countries close by would fall like 'dominoes'.
- Ho Chi Minh Trail**-a complex maze of truck routes, foot and bicycle paths, and river transportation systems which supplied the VC with weapons and vital supplies.
- Search and destroy**-tactic used by the USA using helicopters to surprise attack villages suspected of hiding VC.
- Agent Orange and napalm**- Agent Orange was a chemical weapon which destroyed the rainforest & jungle but which also caused cancer to humans. Napalm was used to burn huge areas of land and caused terrible injuries.
- The Tet Offensive 1968**-during a cease-fire for the Tet New Year festival, the North Vietnamese Army (ARVN) and VC attacked over 100 places in South Vietnam including the US embassy in the capital Saigon.
- Peace protests, 1968-73**-these were made up of a mixture of young people opposed to the war, veterans who had fought in Vietnam.
- Nixon and Vietnamisation**- Nixon was voted in as President, promising to bring US troops home but also determined not to be the President which 'lost' the war. His policy was to gradually withdraw US troops whilst training up South Vietnam Army (ARVN)

