

Vietnam



Vietnam in the Region

Official name: The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Capital: Ha Noi

Mainland area: 331,689 sq. km (128,000 square miles)

Major cities: Hochiminh City, Haiphong, Danang and Hue.

Official language: Vietnamese

Currency: Vietnamese Dong (VND)

President: Tran Dai Quang (5 years term)

Prime Minister: Nguyễn Xuân Phúc (5 years terms)

Chairman of National Assembly: Nguyen Phu Trong

president



Prime minister



Vietnam Overview

- **Area** : 331,690 km²
 - **Population (2011)** : 87,375,000 – the 13th most populous country
 - **Coastline**: 3,444 km (excluding islands)
 - **Land boundaries**: 4,639 km
 - Laos 2,130 km
 - China 1,281 km
 - Cambodia 1,228 km
 - **Climate**: tropical monsoon
 - **Rainfall**:
 - Annual average rainfall 2,050 mm (highest 2,640mm and lowest 1,600mm)
 - 90% in summer

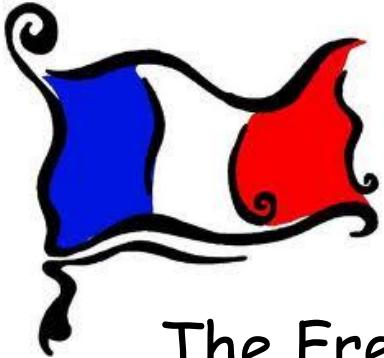


During the 19th century Vietnam was ruled by France and known as Indo-China.

Vietnam became very profitable for the French, due to it's rich supplies of coal, tin, zinc and rubber.

To transport all these goods, the French built a network of railways, roads and canals.





The French soon began to change the Vietnamese way of life dramatically. For example, people converted to Catholicism, abandoning Buddhism. French customs were introduced and those who resisted were punished.

This created a new elite class who helped the French keep control of the 30 million people living in Indochina.



French schools were soon established to educate Vietnamese administrators. In 1902 Hanoi university was opened.

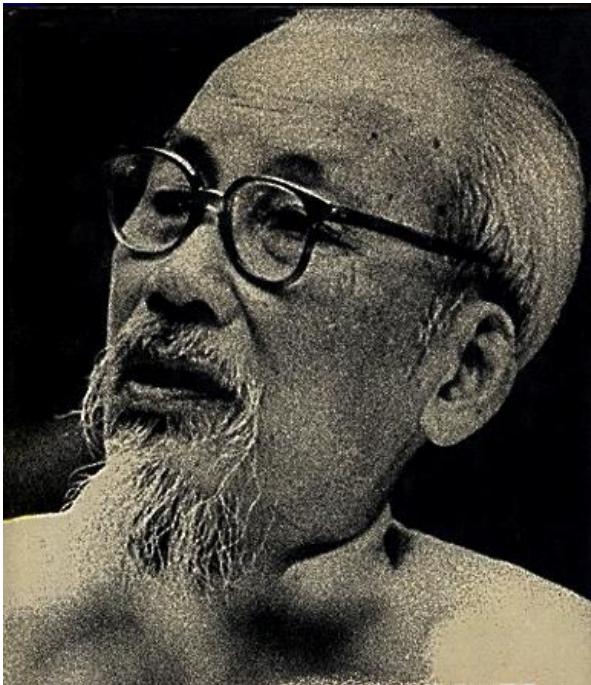
Although one of the purposes of this education was to develop people who would remain loyal to the French Empire, some students began to question the right of France to rule their country.

One such student was Ho Chi Minh!



L.O. To understand Vietnam's political, cultural and economic background.

Ho Chi Minh



Ho Chi Minh was born 1890. His father a NATIONALIST, taught his children to resist the rule of the French. Ho grew up a committed nationalist willing to fight for Vietnamese independence.

Ho, as a sailor discovered that Vietnam was not the only country to suffer from exploitation.

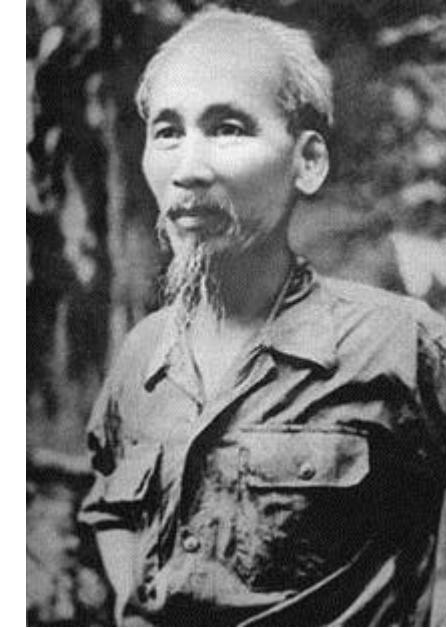
Eventually Ho converted to COMMUNISM and when the French Communist party was formed , he became one of its founder members.

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Ho Chi Minh

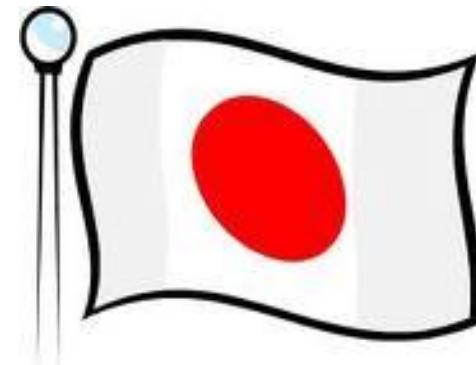
Ho Chi Minh was greatly inspired by the Russian Revolution and while in the Soviet Union, he wrote to a friend saying that all communists duties were to;

"make contact with the masses to awaken, organise, unite and train them, and lead them to fight for freedom and independence"





The first major blow to French power came in 1940 when France was defeated in WWI by Germany. The Japanese (Germany's allies) took control of the main resources in Vietnam.





One of the most famous photographs in the history of the world is the photo of the Buddhist monk Thich Quang Duc sitting in the lotus position in a busy intersection in Saigon on June 11, 1963 after he set himself on fire to protest the treatment of Buddhists by South Vietnam's Catholic President Diem



In 1963 and 1964 tension between North and South Vietnam increased and so did American involvement. However President Kennedy said he was determined that the USA would not 'blunder into war, unclear about aims or how to get out again.'

JFK was assassinated in 1963, his successor President Johnson was more prepared to commit the USA to full-scale conflict in Vietnam to prevent the spread of communism.

In August 1964 North Vietnamese patrol boats opened fire on US ships. In a furious reaction, the US Congress passed the Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

On March 8th 1965 3500 US combat troops entered Vietnam. America was now at war.

Tonkin Gulf Resolution = gave Pres. Johnson the power to 'take all necessary measures to prevent further aggression and achieve peace and security.' it effectively meant Johnson could take the USA into full scale war if he felt necessary.



Ho and General Vo Nguyn Giap formed an organisation called VIET MINH. This was a strong anti-Japanese resistance movement. Ho inspired the Vietnamese people to fight for an independent Vietnam. They received ammunition and weapons from the Soviet Union and America after the bombing of Pearl Harbour.



VIETNAM

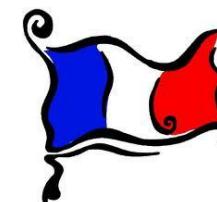
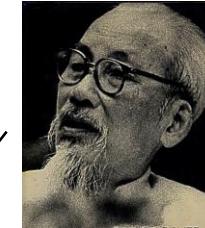
L.O. To understand why the USA became involved in Vietnam.

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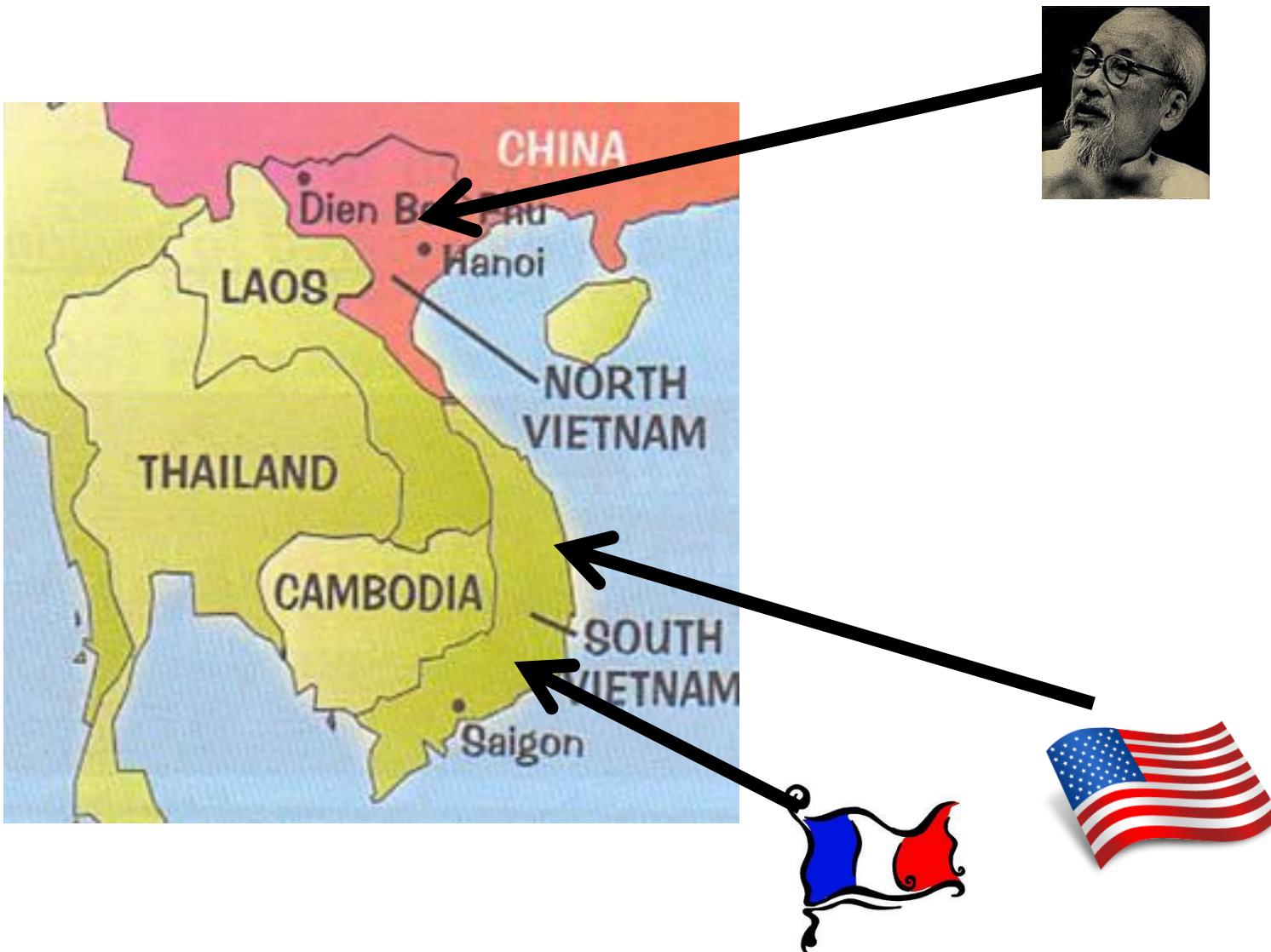
When WWI ended in 1945, the Viet Minh controlled the north of the country (they set up an independent Vietnam with its capital at the northern city of Hanoi.)

The French refused to accept independence and for 9 years French troops fought against the Viet Minh troops. Ho kept quiet about wanting a communist country so many countries, such as the USA were sympathetic towards him.

However in 1949 the communists took over China and began to help Ho Chi Minh. The USA feared a communist takeover of South-East Asia and poured \$500 million a year into the French war effort. They helped the French set up a non-communist government in South Vietnam.



L.O. To understand why the USA became involved in Vietnam.



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The war dragged on from 1946-1954. The French effectively controlled the towns and the Viet Minh the countryside.

The decisive event came in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu. A large, well-armed force of French paratroopers was comprehensively defeated.



There were several important consequences:

- The French lost 3000 soldiers in the battle and 8000 more died in captivity.
- The Viet Minh forces had defeated the French in open battle with the help of modern weapons from the USSR and China.
- A small Asian state had defeated a rich European state through a combination of effective leadership, the right tactics and sheer domination.
- At the 1954 peace Conference, the country was effectively divided into North and South Vietnam until elections could be held to decide its future.



L.O. To understand why the USA became involved in Vietnam.



The Democratic Republic North Vietnam was set up by Ho Chi Minh. (communists country)

The South Vietnamese government was led by the American-based Ngo Dinh Diem (anti-communists country)

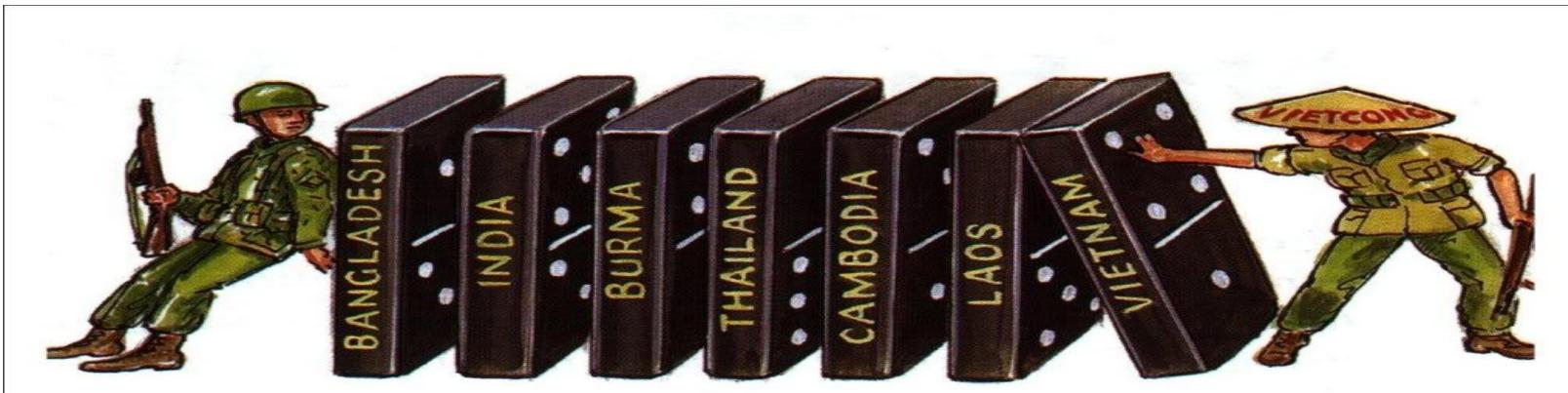
Under the terms of the cease fire, elections were to be held within two years to reunite the country.

However the USA prevented the elections from taking place because it feared that the Communists would win.

WHY?

President Eisenhower was convinced that China and the USSR were planning to spread Communism throughout Asia. The idea was often referred to as the Domino Theory. - If Vietnam fell to Communism, then other Asian countries might also - like a row of dominoes.

The USA saw Vietnam first in the line of the dominoes and were determined not to let it fall.



The elections never took place. General Ngo Dinh Diem established an unpopular dictatorship in the South and, the US economic and military advisers, began a campaign to root out the Vietminh.

By the early 1960's it had become the aim of North Vietnam to 'liberate' the South and unite the country.

Guerrilla attacks by Communist fighters (the Vietcong) intensified and Diem became even more unpopular. He moved peasants away from the land their families had farmed for years. He also persecuted Buddhists; one monk, Quang Duc, protested by setting himself on fire. Meanwhile, US forces became increasingly committed to the defence of the South.

Guerrilla Attacks = (a form of irregular warfare and refers to conflicts in which a small group of combatants use military tactics, such as ambushes, sabotage, raids, the element of surprise, to harass a larger and less-mobile traditional army, or strike a vulnerable target, and withdraw almost immediately)

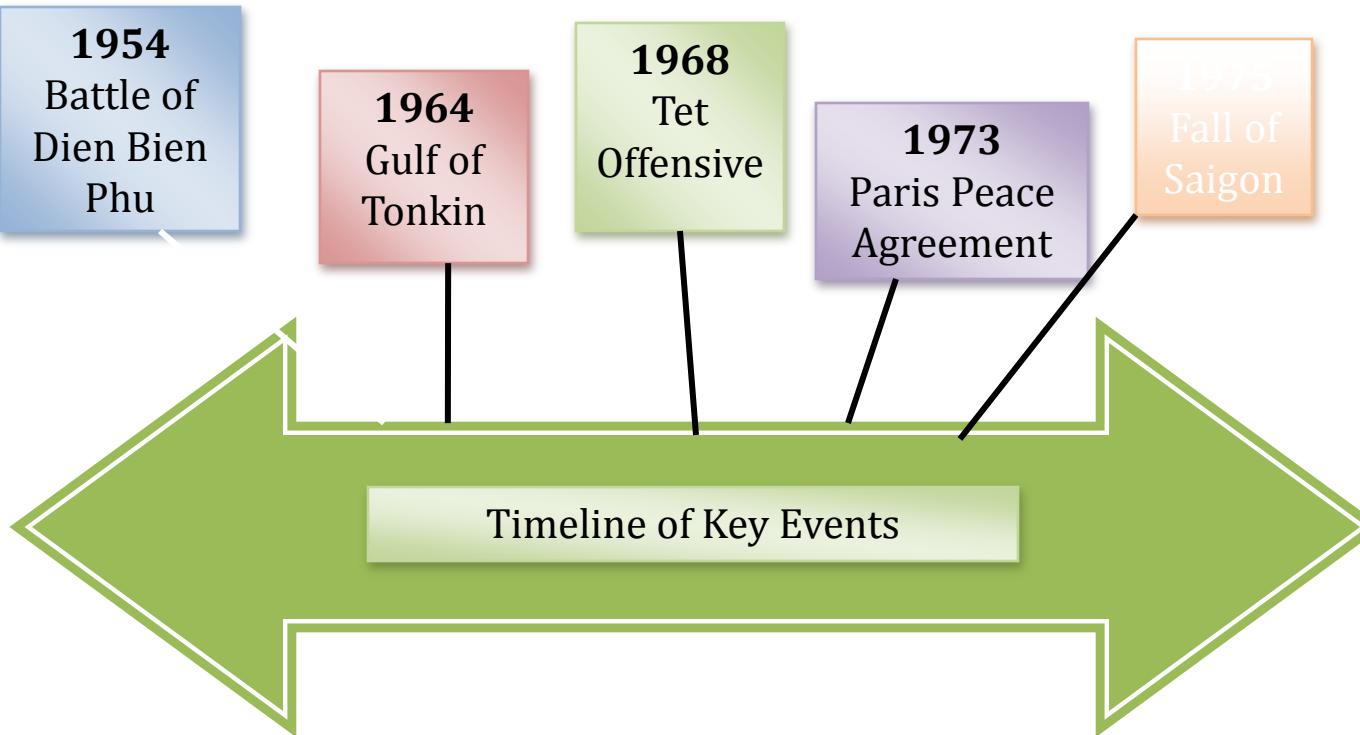


The Vietnam War

1954-1975



What were the key battles and areas of conflict?



-Battle of Dien Bien Phu (1954)

Starts US Involvement in Vietnam War

<http://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/audio#dien-bien-phu-falls>

-Gulf of Tonkin (1964)

US destroyer Maddox was fired on by North Vietnamese torpedo boats

Gave broad congressional approval for the expansion of the Vietnam War



-Tet Offensive (1968)

Consisted of a series of sharp attacks on urban and rural areas in South Vietnam by the Vietcong

-Paris Peace Agreement (January 1973)

United States and North Vietnam signed which provided the withdrawal of all remaining U.S. forces from Vietnam

-The Fall of Saigon (April 30, 1975)

Capture of Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam by North Vietnamese Army; event marked the end of the Vietnam War

The U.S. spent over \$140 billion

58,000 U.S. soldiers were killed

350,000 were wounded

Most of the U.S. soldiers who fought in Vietnam were drafted

As the number of U.S. troops in Vietnam grew it became more costly and the U.S. economy suffered. President Johnson increased taxes to monitor inflation.

SS



Wounded soldier being taken off the battlefield

What were the negative effects of the war?

War demonstrated the increasing dominance of the presidency within the Federal Government

Destroyed political credibility within the American process

The public began to distrust its leaders and vice versa

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Young
Vietnam
Soldier

Negative Effects Contined

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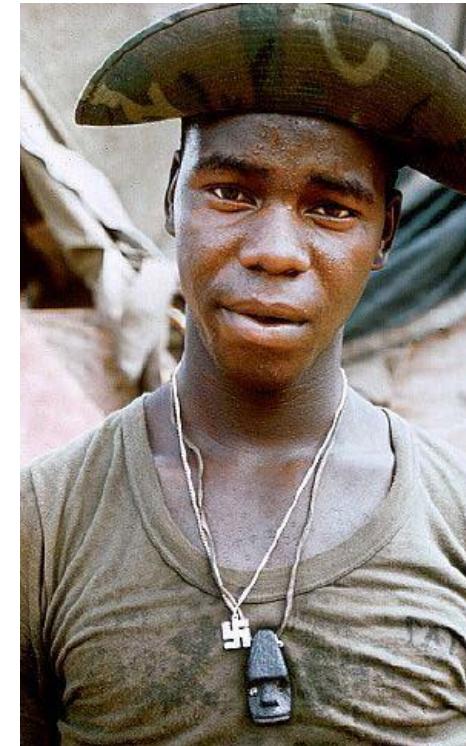
About 15% of the 3.3 million Vietnam veterans (495,000) developed P.T.S.D. and several thousand committed suicide

The U.S. was full of controversy between pro and anti war feelings

SS

Conditions of Combat Zones

- Filled with bugs because of the humidity and rain
- Dangerous due to booby traps
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpx90C5n1fU>
- cm



What were mental effects on the soldiers?

Many of the soldiers that came home had developed Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome

Symptoms: Problems with marriage, Depression, Fatigue, and chronic colds

How were veterans received by the American public when they returned?

There have been many accounts of veterans of the Vietnam War claiming that they were spat at, called names such as “baby killer” and denied services such as restaurants, taxis and buses. Although these claims are very commonly heard, there has been no acknowledgement of this by the U. S. Government, and many books about the 70’s have declared the claims an urban legend. So anything that might be true would come down to one group of people’s word against another’s.

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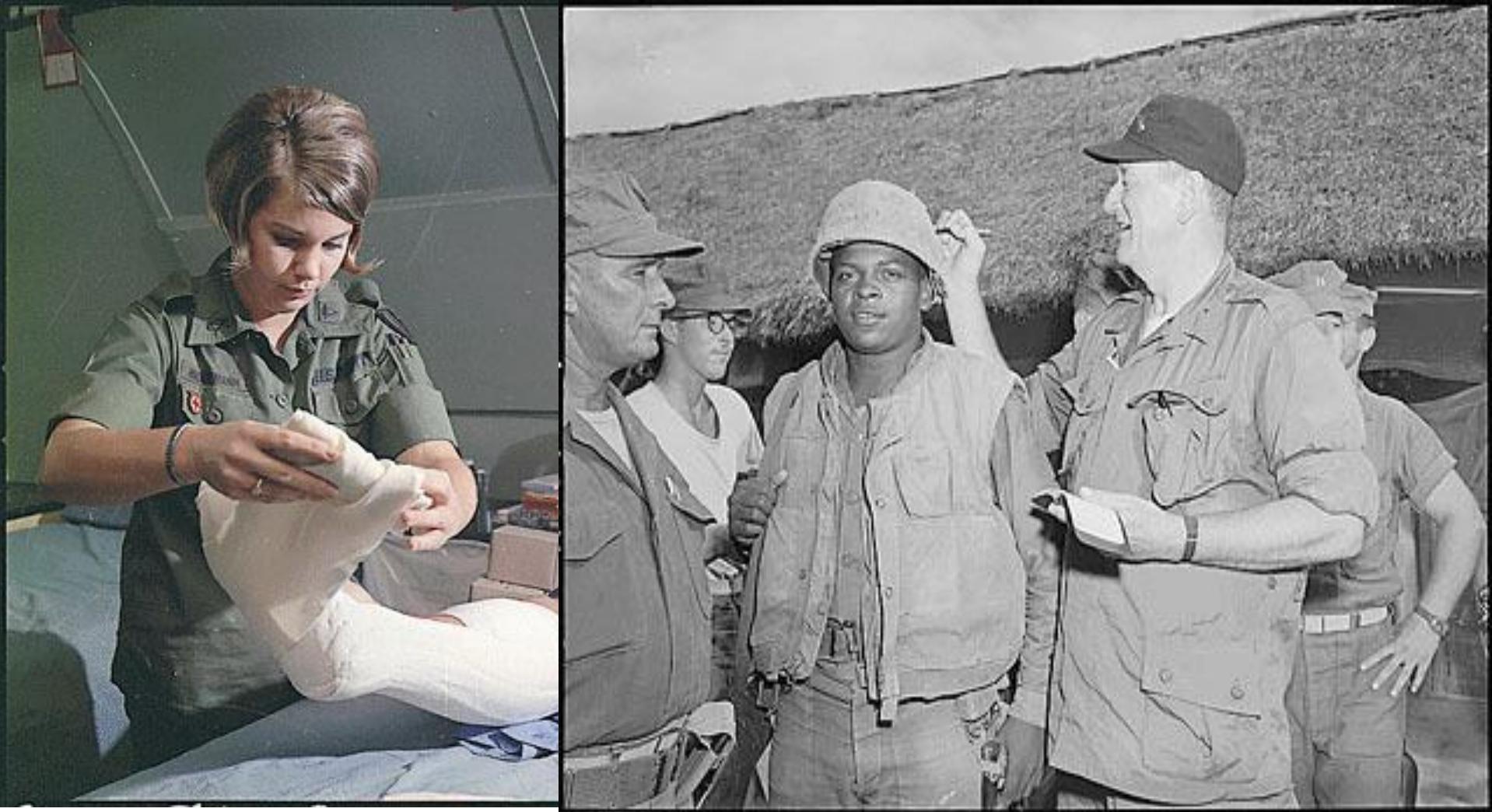
What was the public view of the war before, during, and after the war?

The public view of the Vietnam War was probably more erratic in its changes than any other war in American history. Approval ratings after escalation had begun were 70% for the President (LBJ), and 80% for the militaries involvement in Vietnam. Not four months later the approval ratings had dropped by 10% and a series of war protests had occurred in the U. S. the largest of which in Washington were 35,000 strong marched around the White House, being led by 5 Medal of Honor recipients.

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U.S. bombing in Vietnam

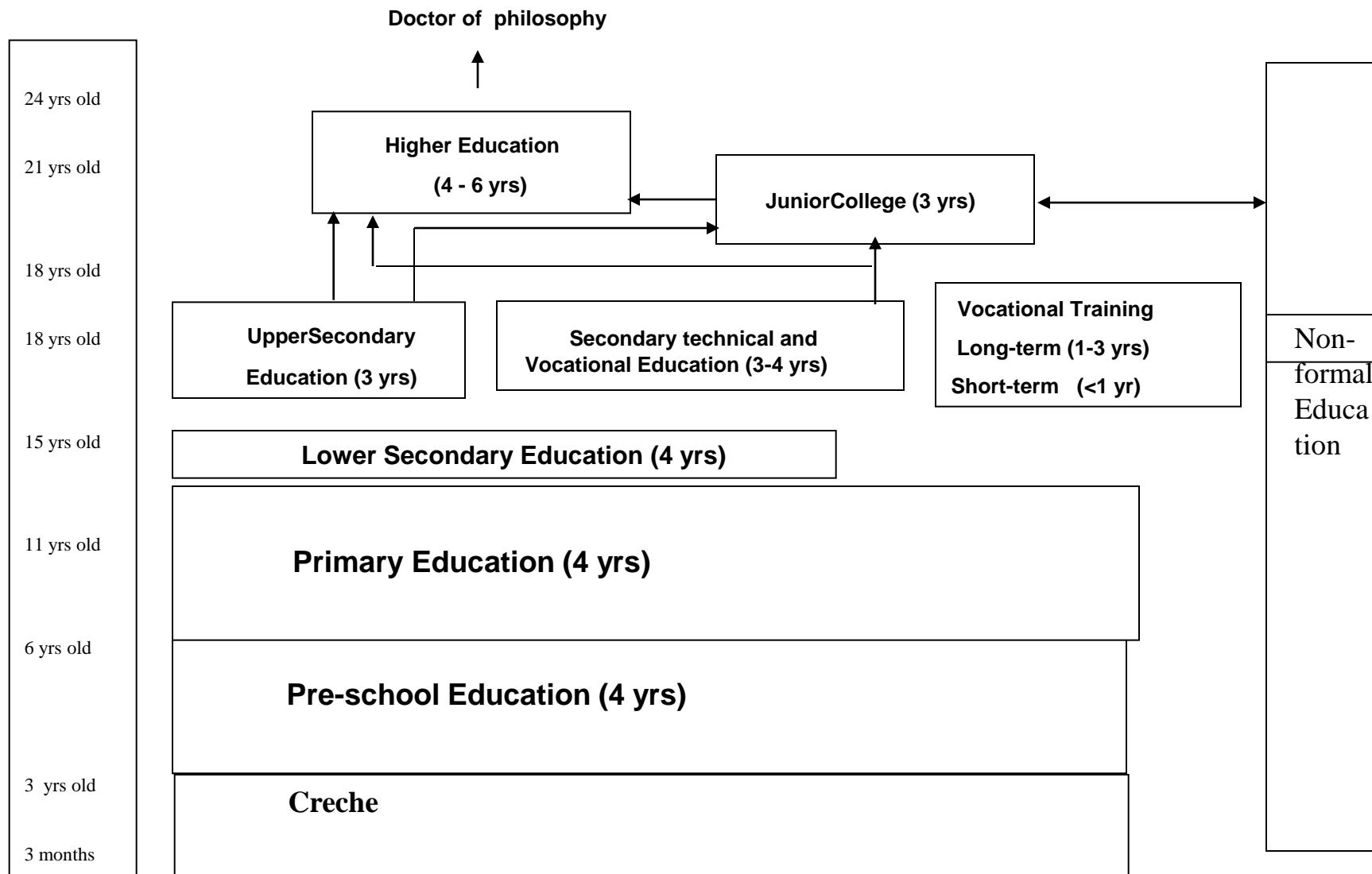


People of different genders and races participated in the Vietnam War



Soldiers finding ways to pass the time

Structure of the Education System in Vietnam



Vietnamese Culture

Introduction:

- The conquest of Vietnam by France began in 1858 and was completed by 1884 and in 1887 became part of French Indochina.
- Vietnam declared independence after World War II, but France continued to rule until its 1954 defeat by Communist forces under Ho Chi Minh.
- Under the Geneva Accords of 1954, Vietnam was divided into the Communist North and anti-Communist South.
- US economic and military aid to South Vietnam grew through the 1960s in an attempt to bolster the government, but US armed forces were withdrawn following a cease-fire agreement in 1973.
- Two years later, North Vietnamese forces overran the South reuniting the country under Communist rule.

Vietnamese Culture

Communication:

- The official language is Vietnamese.
 - This is a tonal language in which meanings are determined by pitch or tone.
 - Native language is spoken by about 80% in their own homes.
- Politeness is valued and may display indirectness and extreme politeness in dealing with others.
- Direct eye contact is avoided with others as a sign of respect.
- Those in authority are respected and thus the patient and family may not ask questions.

Vietnamese Culture

Communication:

- Appointment times may not be taken literally thus arriving late so as not to appear overly enthusiastic.
- Shame is avoided; thus do not voice disagreements with others.
 - The patient's intentions or wishes may not be revealed that are in contrast to the physician's wishes.
- Names are written in reverse order of American names; family name first, middle name and then first name.

Vietnamese Culture

Family and Social Structure:

- Strong family ties exist.
- Elders are viewed as leaders in the family and have strong influence in decision making.
 - Elders are highly respected and sought after for advice
- The Vietnamese are a patriarchal family with 2-4 generations and extended family living in the same house.
- The family and community have a strong sense of collective responsibility and mutual obligation.

Vietnamese Culture

View of Illness:

- Illness is believed to be an unavoidable part of life.
 - Illness is believed to be of organic or supernatural causes as well as external causes.
- Stoicism is highly respected and can prevent people from seeking care.
- Illness is thought to be attributed to:
 - organic or physical problems,
 - imbalance of yin and yang,
 - obstruction of chi (life energy),
 - failure to be in harmony with nature,
 - punishment for immoral behavior or a curse.

Vietnamese Culture

Time Orientation:

- Present oriented with strong links to the past.

Religious Beliefs:

- A diversity of religions is practiced, which is continued as well in the U.S.
- Buddhism is the predominant religion and practiced by 90% of Vietnamese population.
 - Human suffering is believed to come from cravings and desires which need to be eliminated in order to achieve spiritual enlightenment.
 - Enlightenment is obtained through meditation.

Vietnamese Culture

Religious Beliefs:

- Confucianism is also practiced and is more of a code of behavior than a religion.
 - The emphasis is on filial piety and obligation, altruism and the belief that man creates his own destiny.
 - Music, respect for authority and social rites is all very important.
- Taoism involves the worship of many gods.
 - It values simplicity, patience, and contentment and strives for harmony between man and nature.

Vietnamese Culture

Religious Beliefs:

- Confucianism and Taoism have strongly influenced cultural traditions.
 - Many traditions are rooted in Confucianism, such as a respect for education, family and elders.
 - Taoism desires avoidance of conflict and stoicism is a highly respected trait.
- 30 % of Vietnamese Americans (2 million) practice Catholicism.
 - This is a remnant of Vietnam's occupation by the French, Portuguese and Spanish.
 - It is heavily influenced by Confucianism.

Vietnamese Culture

Religious Beliefs:

- Older refugees in the U.S. practice animism, worship of spirits and natural forces.
- Ancestor worship is practiced in conjunction with their declared religions.
 - Pictures of ancestors may be displayed on altar and incense is burned to pay tribute to them.
 - Everyday items such as fruit, money, replicas of houses and vehicles are offered daily as the ancestors pass into a new life for their enjoyment.

Vietnamese Culture

Holidays:

- Tet is Vietnamese New Year and is celebrated from January 9-February 20.
 - It is a symbol of new beginnings and a time to pay debts, forgive others, improve self, and make friends out of enemies.
 - This celebration has continued in the U.S. and includes gift giving like Christmas, door-to-door greeting like Halloween and a fresh start like New Years.
 - What happens on that day is believed to be a forecast on how the rest of the year will go.

Vietnamese Culture

Holidays:

- Trung Nguyen is Wandering Souls Day and is celebrated in the seventh month.
 - Tables are filled with food offered to wandering souls of ancestors.
- Trung Thu is Mid-Autumn Festival, celebrated in the eighth month.
 - Moon cakes are made out of sticky rice.
 - Lanterns of different shapes are made and taken as people travel through the streets dancing.

Vietnamese Culture

Conclusion:

- Maintaining Vietnamese traditions is a major concern in most Vietnamese American communities.
- Adult Vietnamese Americans often worry that their children may be losing distinctive cultural characteristics.
- Some Vietnamese Americans have made a conscious effort to assimilate completely into American society but most retain their sense of ethnicity.

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