Ho Chi Minh Gains Power in Vietnam

1. *– French* **Indochina** *is:* **when France combined three geographical regions late 19th century.**
2. *– The peasants became:* **Slave laborers under the French, but defiant, brutalized.**
3. *– Ho Chi Minh (1919)-fled to Paris to:* **attend WWI peace talks, appeal to W. Wilson/rejected.**
4. *– Moscow to:* **Meet Stalin, Trotsky-became a communist revolutionary, backing for independence**
5. *– Returned home to*: **form the Viet Minh, and oppose occupation by: France, China, Japan**

First Indochina War 1945- 1964 (400,000 died)

1. – *1945, declared:* **H.C.M. declared national independence and…**
2. – *Established a:* **united, provisional government.**
3. – *In response, France:* **reclaimed its colony, secured the south half and fought Ho in the north.**
4. – *US backed:* **the French in the south with money and arms** *Russ.& China backed***: the north**
5. – *1953, Dien Bien Phu:* **12,000French paratroopers invaded in the north, (10,000 surrendered)**

*Geneva Convention, 1964:* **French withdrawal plan.**

*Geneva Accords decided:* **Two countries split at 17thparrallel for two years, then elections to rejoin them.**

Ngo Dinh Diem Becomes President of South Vietnam

1. – *1954 Domino Principle is:* **If Vietnam falls to the communists, entire region will follow.**
2. – *Diem is described as:* **Aloof, corrupt, nepotistic, unsympathetic to his people, brutal.**
3. – *US promises:* **Millions of dollars in aid despite his “flaws”**
4. – *Government in the south kills:* **100,000-many innocents caught up in the rush to kill communists.**
5. – *The government and army in the south:* **Corrupt, brutal, undisciplined, poorly trained.**

North Vietnam Fights for Reunification

1. – *Land reforms in the north:* **Take from the rich, give to the poor.**
2. – *By 1959,* **Ho’s supporters are nearly wiped out in the south. The north pushes for civil war.**
3. – *1960 NLF (& goals):* **National Liberation Front will use guerrilla-style attacks in south.**
4. – *VC:* **Viet Cong- southern communist revolutionaries.**
5. – *Cold War effects were:* **Democratic countries supported the south, Russia and China- north.**

American Troops Assist South Vietnam with Counterinsurgency, becomes **“Quagmire”**

1. – *Kennedy’s policy:* **South Vietnam must not succumb, sent advisors, aid, (covert ops.)**
2. – Advisor numbers1961-1963: **700 – 3,000 in 1961 to 17,000 by 1963**
3. – 1962, US added: **Helicopters were brought in to move troops to the enemy location.**
4. – Diem’s “strategic hamlets”: **Built by Diem to isolate millions villagers from enemy in the south. Became virtual “prisons”.**
5. – Events turn in 1963: **People in the south provided food, shelter and information to the enemy.**

**Government Fails in South Vietnam**

**America’s War**

1. – The cost of war: **$ 2 million per day and the war was going badly.**
2. – The event that sent troops: **The Gulf of Tonkin Incident.**
3. – Congress gave the president: **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution gave the president unlimited power to wage war.**
4. – Operation Rolling Thunder: **Saturation bombing supposed to last 8 weeks, lasted 3 ½ years. Used 800,000 tons of bombs, at a cost of over 1 billion dollars.**
5. – March 1965: **Over 200,000 troops sent with more on the way.**

**In Country**

Fighting Continues in South Vietnam

1. – By 1967: **The country was transformed by the US with 1 million tons of equipment a month.**
2. – In the Sky: **Two million missions dropping every kind of explosive (except nuclear), defoliant.**
3. – NVA: **North Vietnamese Army, (ordered by H.C.M.) into the south and join the fight.**
4. – Summer of ’65: **First time the two armies clashed, lasting four days.**
5. – War of Attrition: **A ratio of 10 enemies killed to every US soldier. Considered favorable/ acceptable loss. Believed to be a winnable war.**

America's Anti-War Movement on **The Home Front**

1. –Great Society: **President Johnson’s plan to deal with a war on poverty and Vietnam in 1964. The majority of people supported the plan.**
2. – Credibility Gap: **Difference between US military reports and factual reports from people there.**
3. –Demonstrations: **500,000 NYC, 75,000 SF, 50,000 in D.C. Draft cards burned in defiance of war**
4. – Spending: **30 billion per year on the war caused tax increase, inflation and bad economy.**
5. – MLK: **US spent $ 323,000 for each enemy kill, $53.00 for each poor** **person program in US.**

The Tet Offensive

1. – January 30, 1968: **Every military and political center in South Vietnam was attacked with overwhelming force. More than half of all attacking troops died, but considered turning point in war.**
2. – Saigon: **Capitol city, attacked embassy and press corps was there and saw we weren’t winning.**
3. – Media: **After Tet offensive, press reported a different perspective on the war.**
4. – Walter Cronkite: **Popular broadcaster said he believed the war to be lost, US should withdraw.**
5. – LBJ away: **Public opinion, MLK turned against president. Johnson chose to not run for reelection.**

U.S. Public Opinion of War Shifts

1. – April: **MLK assassinated, widespread rioting in cities.**
2. – RFK: **Democratic anti-war candidate assassinated in LA.**
3. – Chicago, *outside*: **Demonstrations at DNC trigger violent attacks by police and Federal troops.**
4. – Chicago, *inside*: **Members of press attacked by Mayors’ special “security” people-mayhem.**
5. – November election: **Nixon defeats Humphries on a platform of “Peace with honor”, law & order at home.**

President Nixon Leads America through Final Chapter of War

1. – Kissinger: **Nixon’s special advisor on Vietnam meets with communists in Paris, but plots against them with the president.**
2. – Vietnamization: **Plan to turn the war back over to south Vietnam troops while bombing enemy.**
3. – Secrets: ***Nixon hid a secret plan* to expand the war from the public for three years. Outrage!**
4. – Kent State: **In response, college students held large, angry demonstrations. Four killed in Ohio, two at Mississippi State by National Guard troops (the same age as students).**
5. – Dissent: **The public and media are growing increasingly weary of Nixon and response to them.**

Easter Offensive and Ceasefire Called

1. – March ’72: **With only** **6,000 US troops left, the North launched a three pronged attack.**
2. – Lost ground: **It took six months to recapture lost ground.**
3. – 11 days in Dec.: **Nixon- 40,000 tons of bombs dropped on North Vietnam, many civilians died.**
4. – Cease Fire: **Jan. 9th -Jan. 27, 1973 Announced within 60 days, all troops out, POW’s exchanged.**
5. – Withdrawal: **Direct U.S. military involvement ended on 15 August 1973.**

Nixon Resigns

1. – Terms: **Agreed to allow NVA remain in the south.**
2. – Nixon promise: **To respond with “full force” if terms violated.**
3. – Unraveling: **Political opponents, media, anti-war movement individuals were targeted for criminal behaviors by Nixon administration.**
4. – Impeachment: **Congress passed articles (charges), Nixon to be put on trial in the Senate.**
5. – Flight: **Instead,** **Nixon agreed to resign and Gerald Ford replaced him as president (then gave Nixon an unconditional pardon one year later).**

Saigon Falls and Vietnam Is Reunited

**\*1975, Jan. to March, NVA attacks, two million try to flee the country. 50,000 escape before the fall.**

**\* April 29 & 30, 1975: Saigon- 7,000 helo’d to waiting offshore aircraft carriers. Communists win after 40 year struggle.**

The Ghosts of Vietnam

1. – Final tally, US: **$130 Billion, 2 million servicemen, 58,000 KIA, 300,000 WIA, 2,000MIA**
2. – The Wall: **1982, dedication of Vietnam War memorial in Washington D.C. honoring KIA**
3. – Syndrome: **Reevaluate our commitment to democracy in other countries, and its cost.**
4. – Final Tally, THEM: (**US figures) 3 million dead (½ civilians), the country in ruins, in Cambodia, 1 in 5 died, millions of boat people (refugees from communism).**
5. – A noble cause? **Fight only “winnable wars”? Was the government of the US -“afraid to let them (the troops) win?**