

What was the Gulf of Tonkin Incident?

- How does the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution impact President Johnson's power?
 - Which sphere does this represent?
- In the reading "Peace without Conquest" (1965),
 - What, according to Johnson, underlies the war in Vietnam?
 - What are America's objectives? Why do we need to keep seeking them?
 - How does this argument compare to times of the past?
 - Why do you think Johnson discusses "the work of peace" in his speech?

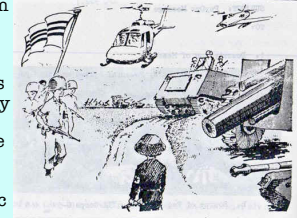


Who's Who in Vietnam?

Viet Minh: former nationalist group that supported the independence of Vietnam from France and later fought Japanese rule in WWII.

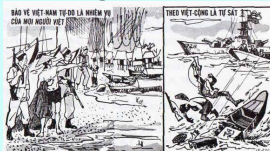
*** Viet Cong:** communist forces within SOUTH VIETNAM. They were supported by Ho Chi Minh & the communists of the north.

*** ARVN:** Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the South Vietnamese Army that was "aided" by the United States.



Fighting in the Jungle

- United States military was fighting a war with two sides: North Vietnam (Communists) and the Viet Cong, communist sympathizers in South Vietnam.
- To combat the Viet Cong and hinder their ability to engage the peasant population in South Vietnam, U.S. military tactics were to win the "Hearts and Minds" of the South Vietnamese.
- To expose Viet Cong tunnels, the U.S. dropped napalm, they sprayed Agent Orange and conducted search-and-destroy missions to discover villagers tied to the Viet Cong.

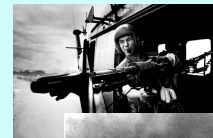


To defend a free Vietnam is the duty of every Vietnamese. Following the Viet Cong means suicide



The United States Begins Bombing North Vietnam: Operation Rolling Thunder

- In early 1965, Johnson ordered "Operation Rolling Thunder" sustained bombing missions over North Vietnam.
 - Objective: to overcome challenge of fighting in Vietnam in the dense jungle cover.
- Operation was backed up by phosphorous and napalm bombs - the latter causing horrific burns to thousands of innocent civilians.
- When this failed to break down the jungle cover the military started using Agent Orange to defoliate the jungle, which caused birth defects and cancers in people exposed to it.



VC Response: Protracted War Strategy

- After “Operation Rolling Thunder,” the Viet Cong (the communists) moved to a protracted war strategy: the idea was to get the United States bogged down in a war that it could not win militarily and create unfavorable conditions for their political victory.



How did the North Vietnamese Fight Back Against the U.S. Invaders?

- The North Vietnamese used classic Maoist guerrilla tactics. “Guerrillas must move through the peasants like fish through sea.”
- Viet Cong fighters would fight in the countryside among the peasants in SOUTH VIETNAM
Peasants will support them with shelter, food, storage, intelligence, and recruits.



North Vietnamese Tactics

- In areas held by the Viet Cong, the Communists distributed land and weapons to the peasants.
 - The AK47 assault rifle outperformed the American M16
 - The portable rocket launcher took out many US vehicles & aircraft.
 - Booby-traps
 - Recycled dud bombs dropped by the Americans



Video Clip!

- *Vietnam in HD*
- Episode 2: Search and Destroy
- 1:32-4:15
- 7:42-12:50
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPh1_BH5LXE

The War Goes from Bad to Worse

- By 1968, things had gone from bad to worse for the Johnson administration...
- Tet Offensive:
 - In late January, VC launched coordinated attacks against major southern cities.
 - Take the Americans by complete surprise
 - Americans and South Vietnamese regroup and ultimately beat back the Communists
 - Has a serious negative effect on public support and perception of the war:
 - Communists were more capable of launching serious attacks than the Americans thought
 - How was the leadership of the US military caught off guard?
 - Images of brutality by the South Vietnamese lead public to question US tactics

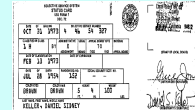


The Home Front: Death Tolls and the Draft

- Death Toll
- Draft
 - Since there were not enough volunteers to continue to fight a protracted war, the government instituted a draft.
 - Instituted in 1969
- Increasing public protest

Year of Death	Number Killed
1955-1964	401
1965	1,863
1966	6,143
1967	11,153
1968	16,592
1969	11,616
1970	6,081
1971	2,357
1972	641
1973	168
1974-1998	1,178

Source: The National Archives.^[45]



Video Clip!

- Vietnam Draft Lottery
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-p5X1FjyD_g