

Key Events

|    |                                                                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | <b>1954</b> – The battle of Dien Bien Phu. France leaves Vietnam.                   |
| 2  | <b>1963</b> – Ngo Din Diem is assassinated                                          |
| 3  | <b>1964</b> – The Gulf of Tonkin Incident                                           |
| 4  | <b>1965</b> – US troops enter Vietnam                                               |
| 5  | <b>1965</b> – Operation Rolling Thunder                                             |
| 6  | <b>1966</b> – Search and Destroy                                                    |
| 7  | <b>1967</b> – Operation Cedar Falls                                                 |
| 8  | <b>1968</b> – The Tet Offensive                                                     |
| 9  | <b>1968</b> – The My Lai Massacre                                                   |
| 10 | <b>1969</b> – Vietnamisation begins                                                 |
| 11 | <b>1970</b> – Invasion of Cambodia                                                  |
| 12 | <b>1971</b> – Invasion of Laos                                                      |
| 13 | <b>1973</b> – The Paris Peace Conference – peace agreed and US troops leave Vietnam |
| 14 | <b>1975</b> – The north invades and unites with South Vietnam                       |

Key concept

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| 15 | <p><b>The Cold War</b><br/>A period of hostility between the USA and the USSR after WW2. It was a clash between 2 ideologies, communism and capitalism.</p> <p>The USA was a capitalist country who wanted to stop the spread of communism from the USSR. They feared the USSR's influence was dangerous and must be stopped. This was a key reason for USA's involvement in Vietnam.</p> |
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***The Vietnam War, 1954-75***



Vietnam was split along the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel where no troops could be stationed. The north of Vietnam was under communist influence whereas the south was under a democratic system of government.

Key words

|    |                    |                                                                                                                   |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 | ARVN               | Army of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam)                                                                   |
| 17 | NVA                | North Vietnamese Army                                                                                             |
| 18 | Vietminh           | Communist Party of north Vietnam                                                                                  |
| 19 | Containment        | From 'Truman Doctrine' referring to stopping the spread of communism                                              |
| 20 | Domino Theory      | Theory that if Vietnam fell under communist influence all surrounding countries would follow, e.g. Laos, Cambodia |
| 21 | Tonkin Resolution  | In 1964, President Johnson gave legal power to attack North Vietnam                                               |
| 22 | Vietcong (VC)      | Communist fighters of South Vietnam                                                                               |
| 23 | Guerilla Warfare   | Tactics used by the VC, including ambushes and traps                                                              |
| 24 | Agent Orange       | Chemical weapon used by the US                                                                                    |
| 25 | Napalm             | Petrol based bombs used by the US airforce                                                                        |
| 26 | Search and Destroy | US tactic to hunt, interrogate and kill VC fighters in South Vietnam                                              |
| 27 | Vietnamisation     | US policy to train the ARVN to replace US soldiers to allow US troops to leave Vietnam.                           |

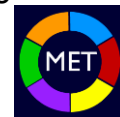
### Key Events

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|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 | <b>1954 – The end of French Rule in Vietnam.</b> Vietnam had been a French colony but Ho Chi Minh, with the support of China, gained independence in the north.                                                                                                                                                       |
| 29 | <b>A new government:</b> Diem lead South Vietnam, however he was incredibly unpopular. There were religious clashes and Diem was unsympathetic with the concerns of the peasants in the south                                                                                                                         |
| 30 | <b>1962 – The Strategic Hamlet Program:</b> The Green Berets (US special forces) trained villagers in the south to protect their villages from the VC. Villagers were resistant to the new program as they did not want to leave their homes and were still vulnerable to VC propaganda due to their dislike of Diem. |
| 31 | <b>1964 – The Gulf of Tonkin Incident:</b> The US and President Johnson believed that their ships of the Gulf of Tonkin had been attacked by the north Vietnamese. This led to Johnson proposing the Tonkin Resolution that officially allowed US troops to become involved in the Vietnam War.                       |
| 32 | <b>1965 – Operation Rolling Thunder:</b> This was a bombing campaign over North Vietnam by US forces. It targeted the Ho Chi Minh trail, small industry in North Vietnam and used napalm during the attacks.                                                                                                          |
| 33 | <b>1967 – Operation Cedar Falls:</b> This was an example of Search and Destroy tactics that failed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 34 | <b>1968 – The Tet Offensive –</b> North Vietnamese and VC attacks on US bases. This took place during the Tet Holiday as US troops wouldn't have been expecting an attack during a religious holiday.                                                                                                                 |
| 35 | <b>Vietnamisation–</b> This was the process of withdrawing US troops from Vietnam. The ARVN were to provide their own officers. The US would continue to provide training and equipment and south Vietnam would remain a separate country.                                                                            |

Further your knowledge:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zcpcwmn/revision/1>

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#### Key People

|    |                                                                    |                                                                                      |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8  | Ho Chi Minh –<br>Leader of<br>North Vietnam<br>and the<br>Vietminh |   |
| 9  | Ngo Din Diem<br>– Leader of<br>South Vietnam                       |   |
| 10 | President<br>Eisenhower                                            |   |
| 11 | President<br>Johnson                                               |  |

### Key Terms

|    |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 36 | Assassination      | The murder of an important or prominent person                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 37 | Ho Chi Minh trail  | The trail ran through Laos and Cambodia and connected the communist north with the democratic south. It took over a month to move from north to south and allowed the north to supply the VC with supplies and troops.                                |
| 38 | The Nixon Doctrine | Nixon gave a speech in July 1969 outlining the role of the USA in south east Asian politics. The USA would honour any treaty commitments, help allies against nuclear threat and provide aid and training (but not troops) to countries under threat. |
| 39 | Conscription       | Compulsory Military service                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 40 | Pacification       | Winning over the 'hearts and minds' of the local population, so they do not support guerillas..                                                                                                                                                       |
| 41 | Green Berets       | US special forces who trained local south Vietnamese citizens to resist communist influences of the VC.                                                                                                                                               |
| 42 | Limited war        | A war where a country supports a side in a conflict by sending supplies and training troops but not sending any of their own troops to fight.                                                                                                         |

#### Content of sources

**Nature** – what type of source are you studying?

**Provenance** – where has the source come from? Who created it? When? Why?

**Contextual knowledge** – What do you know about the event(s) described in the source? Does the content of the source match your own knowledge?