

APUSH—Kind**NAME** _____

Vietnam War Timeline

Event	Date	Significance
Democratic Republic of Vietnam established	1945	With defeat and withdrawal of Japanese, Ho Chi Minh leads new state with 15,000 French soldiers present
Ho retreats to hills	1947	French seek to depose Ho who leads Viet Minh troops in opposition to French colonial presence
French Defeat at Dienbienphu	May 7, 1954	French suffer huge defeat as 12,000 troops surrender and withdraw from Indochina. Although U.S. paid 80% of French costs, Eisenhower refused to send troops to Vietnam
Geneva Accords Signed	July 1954	Establish temporary division of Vietnam at 17th parallel. Vietnam divided into two nations with Ho leading the north and Ngo Dinh Diem leading the "free" South. Promise of free elections in 1956
Diem opponents form National Liberation Front (NLF)	1960	NLF, called the Vietcong by US, other Communists & nationalists attempt to overthrow Diem and unify Vietnam.
Diem overthrown & assassinated	November 2, 1963	With U.S. approval and support, Diem is replaced with military junta. 16,000 American military advisors in Vietnam
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution	August 5, 1964	Following alleged conflict between U.S. destroyers & North Vietnamese gunboats, LBJ is given authority to "prevent further aggression." Measure passes Congress 416-0 in House and 88-2 in Senate
LBJ defeats Goldwater for presidency	Nov. 1964	Portrayed as peace candidate, Johnson scores huge victory with 61% of the vote
Operation Rolling Thunder	February 1965	LBJ orders bombing of North Vietnam after attack at Pleiku kills 7 U.S. soldiers, but stops short of all-out bombing
20,000 U.S. troops sent to support South Vietnam	April 1, 1965	Violating his promises, LBJ raises U.S. troop level to 100,000 to fight Viet Cong
Tet Offensive begins	January 31, 1968	Viet Cong forces launch massive attack on American positions throughout Vietnam. Though a military failure, the offensive is a major blow to US moral at home & in Vietnam. LBJ's popularity ratings drop to 35%
My Lai Massacre	March 16, 1968	Lt. William Calley leads unit which kills at least 175 unarmed Vietnamese civilians. Calley is later court-martialed and convicted, though none of his superiors are charged. Nixon later pardons him.
LBJ announces withdrawal from 1968 presidential race	March 31, 1968	Johnson announces end of bombing & calls for peace talks after embarrassing performance in New Hampshire primaries
Paris Peace talks begin	May 1968	Longest war in U.S. history begins winding down
Nixon defeats Humphrey & Wallace	Nov. 1968	Nixon wins with 43.4% of popular vote

U.S. begins secret bombing of North Vietnam & Cambodia	March 1969	Nixon avoids antiwar protests by not telling Congress or people about bombings
Nixon announces withdrawal of 60,000 U.S. ground troops	Sept 1969	First reduction of U.S. troops since start of war
U.S. troops enter Cambodia	April 1970	Despite Nixon pledges that U.S. troops were withdrawing from Vietnam, Cambodia invasion & bombing brought huge domestic opposition
Kent State Massacre	May 4, 1970	National Guard forces kill four students protesting Vietnam involvement
Congress repeals Tonkin Gulf Resolution	June 24, 1970	In 81-10 vote, Senate repeals authorization of U.S. involvement
Laos invaded	Feb 1971	U.S. & South Vietnamese forces make incursion to "protect withdrawal of U.S. forces"
Pentagon Papers released	June 1971	New York Times begins publication of secret war study
North Vietnamese troops invade South	March 1972	U.S. responds by widespread bombing of North, including bombing of Hanoi & mining of Haiphong Harbor
Largest bombing of North Vietnam	Dec 17, 1972	American B-52s begin largest bombing of war, losing 15 aircraft.
Cease-fire accord achieved	Jan 27, 1973	All fighting to stop & American prisoners of war to be released by North Vietnam. US pledges continued aid to South Vietnam but never delivers.
Nixon resigns presidency	August 1974	Under pressure from members of his own party, Nixon ceases fight over Watergate scandal
North Vietnamese forces take Saigon	April 30, 1975	Communist forces occupy South, renaming Saigon Ho Chi Minh City. U.S. troops evacuate American embassy as South Vietnamese flee

Source: Feldmeth, Greg D. "U.S. History Resources"
<http://home.earthlink.net/~gfeldmeth/USHistory.html>