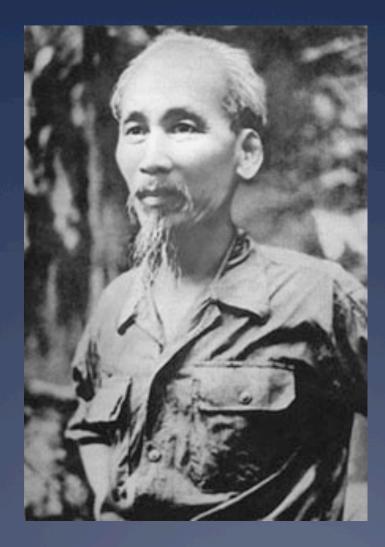
Vietnam Outcome: Background to the Conflict

Ho Chi Minh



Ho Chi Minh & Defeat of the French

- a. In 1958, area became a French colony: Indo-China
- b. In 1945, Ho Chi Minh organized a <u>Communist</u> Party and declared Vietnam's independence from France; his troops were called Viet<u>minh</u>
- c. <u>U.S.</u> gave French \$<u>2.5</u>^B in aid and military advisors to fight Vietminh
- d. French forces were defeated at **Dien Bien Phu** and left
- e. U.S. stayed fulfilling Cold War goal of **Containment** (Domino Theory)

Vietnam Divided



2. A Divided Vietnam

- a. The <u>Geneva</u> Accords temporarily divided Vietnam at the <u>17</u>th parallel
- b. North Vietnam was led by <u>Ho Chi Minh</u>
- c. South Vietnam was led by Ngo Dinh Diem
- d. The U.S. and <u>7</u> other nations formed <u>SEATO</u> pledging to protect S.V.
- e. Free elections were to be held in 19<u>56</u> to re-<u>unify</u> the Vietnams under one elected leader; never happened <u>S</u>.Vietnam blocked the elections fearing <u>North</u> Vietnam would win

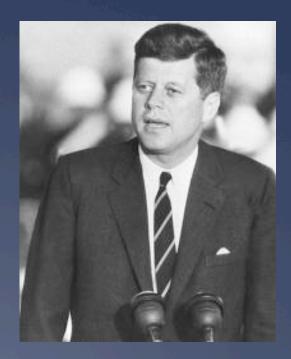
Ngo Dinh Diem



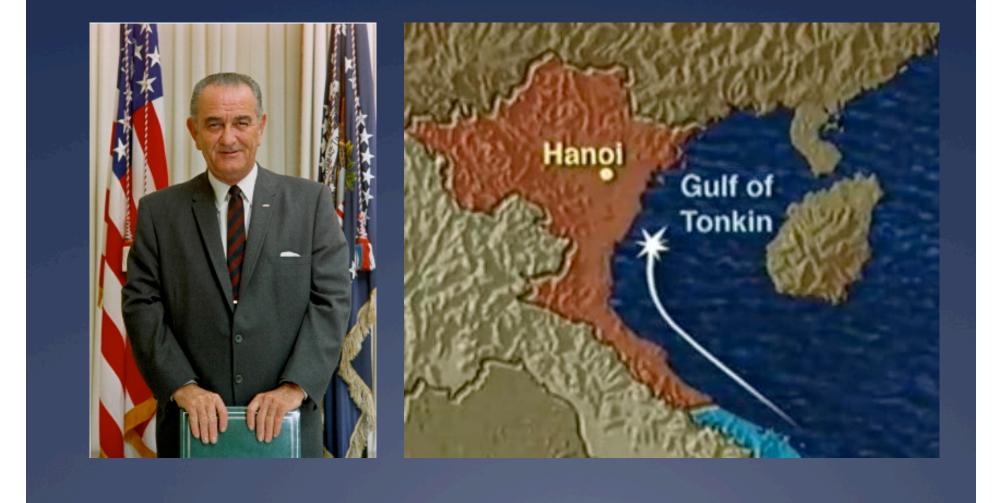
3. Early US Involvement

- a. U.S. supported Ngo Dinh Diem because he was an anti-Communist
- b. U.S. trained the A<u>rmy</u> of the R<u>epublic</u> of V<u>ietnam</u> in the South (ARVN)
- c. Ho Chi Minh built up the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and the Vietcong or <u>VC</u> guerrilla fighters in the south
- d. U.S. Goal was to train ARVN well enough to win Civil War

- e. Kennedy had committed <u>16,000</u>+ military advisers in South Vietnam
- f. Ho Chi Minh was promised aid from the **Soviet Union** and **China**
- g. November 22, 1963 Kennedy is assassinated while in Dallas
- h. Lyndon Johnson is sworn in



The Gulf of Tonkin



4. The Gulf of Tonkin

- a. August 1964, U.S. patrol ships were allegedly attacked by NVA gun boat(s) in the Gulf of <u>Tonkin</u>, causing Congress to pass the Tonkin Gulf <u>Resolution</u>, granting President <u>Johnson</u> the power to take "all necessary measures to repel any further armed attacks"
- b. No declaration of war was ever made
- c. This started the Americanization phase of the Vietnam conflict