

# Vietnam

Outcome: Background to the Conflict

# Ho Chi Minh



# Background to the Conflict

## 1. 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 **Communist** Party and declared Vietnam's independence from France; his troops were called Viet**minh**
- c. **U.S.** gave French \$**2.5B** 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



# Background to the Conflict

## 2. A Divided Vietnam

- a. The Geneva Accords temporarily divided Vietnam at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel
- b. North Vietnam was led by Ho Chi Minh
- c. South Vietnam was led by Ngo Dinh Diem
- d. The U.S. and 7 other nations formed SEATO pledging to protect S.V.
- e. Free elections were to be held in 1956 to re-unify the Vietnams under one elected leader; never happened S.Vietnam blocked the elections fearing North Vietnam would win

# Ngo Dinh Diem



# Background to the Conflict

## 3. Early US Involvement

- a. U.S. supported Ngo Dinh Diem because he was an anti-Communist
- b. U.S. trained the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in the South (ARVN)
- c. Ho Chi Minh built up the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and the Vietcong or VC guerrilla fighters in the south
- d. **U.S. Goal** was to train ARVN well enough to win Civil War

# Background to the Conflict

- e. Kennedy had committed 16,000+ 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



# Background to the Conflict

## 4. The Gulf of Tonkin

- a. August 1964, U.S. patrol ships were allegedly attacked by NVA gun boat(s) in the Gulf of Tonkin, causing Congress to pass the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, granting President Johnson 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

# Background to the Conflict

# Background to the Conflict

# Background to the Conflict