

# American Military Experience



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HI 104 – World History



# BOOK REVIEWS and PRESENTATIONS



<b>15 APR</b>	<b>Paper Due .....</b>	<b>Ashley Conrad</b>
<b>20 APR</b>	<b>Paper Due .....</b>	<b>Amanda Graham</b>
<b>22 APR</b>	<b>Presentation .....</b>	<b>Ashley Conrad</b>
	<b>Paper Due .....</b>	<b>Brandi Diket</b>
<b>27 APR</b>	<b>Presentation .....</b>	<b>Amanda Graham</b>
<b>29 APR</b>	<b>Presentation .....</b>	<b>Brandi Diket</b>

# Key Dates



<b>15 APR</b>	<b>Article #3 (II-7 – II-14) sélection due</b>
<b>18 APR</b>	<b>Quiz Chapters II 9 &amp; 10</b>
<b>22 APR</b>	<b>Article Review #3 due</b>
<b>25 APR</b>	<b>Quiz Chapters II 11</b>
<b>29 APR</b>	<b>Quiz Chapters II 12, 13, &amp; 14</b>
<b>4 MAY</b>	<b>Final Exam (Book II)</b>

# Vietnam (1950-1975)

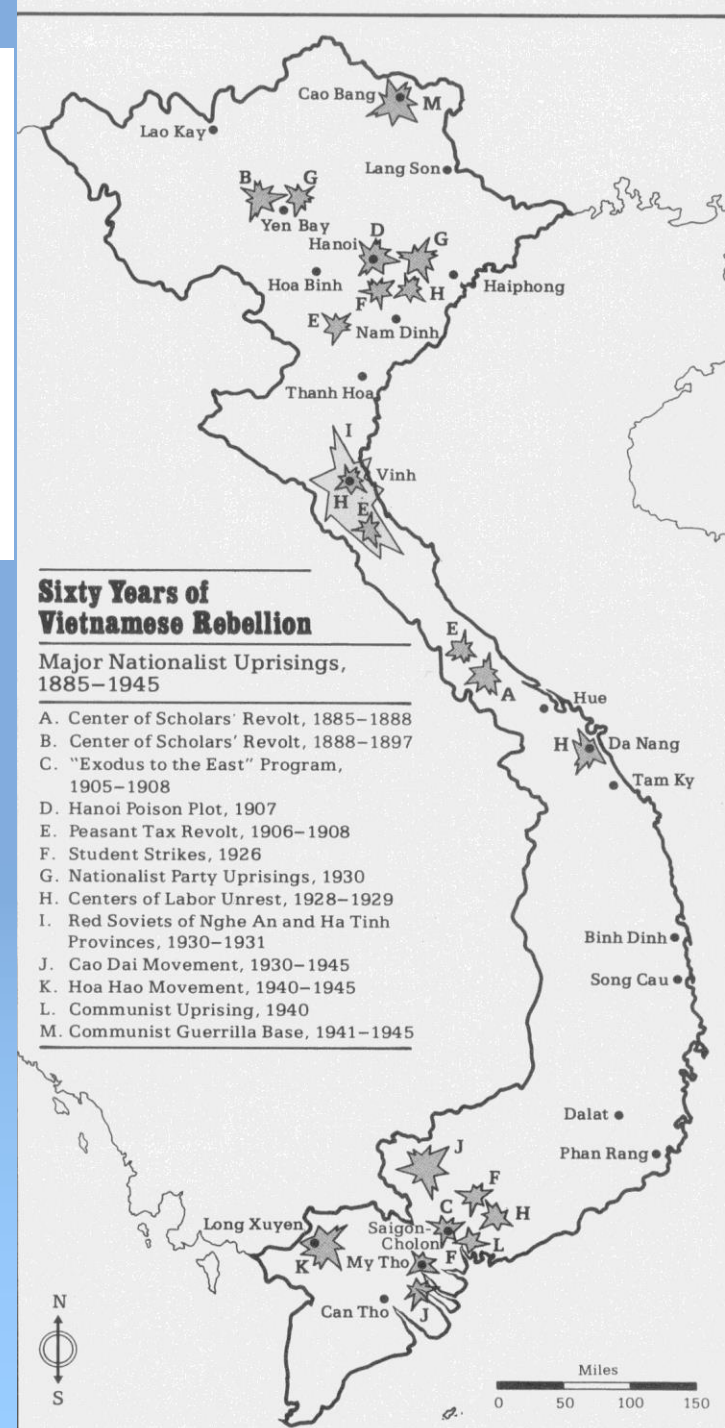
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Indochina War



# Background to Vietnamese Fight for Independence 1885-1945



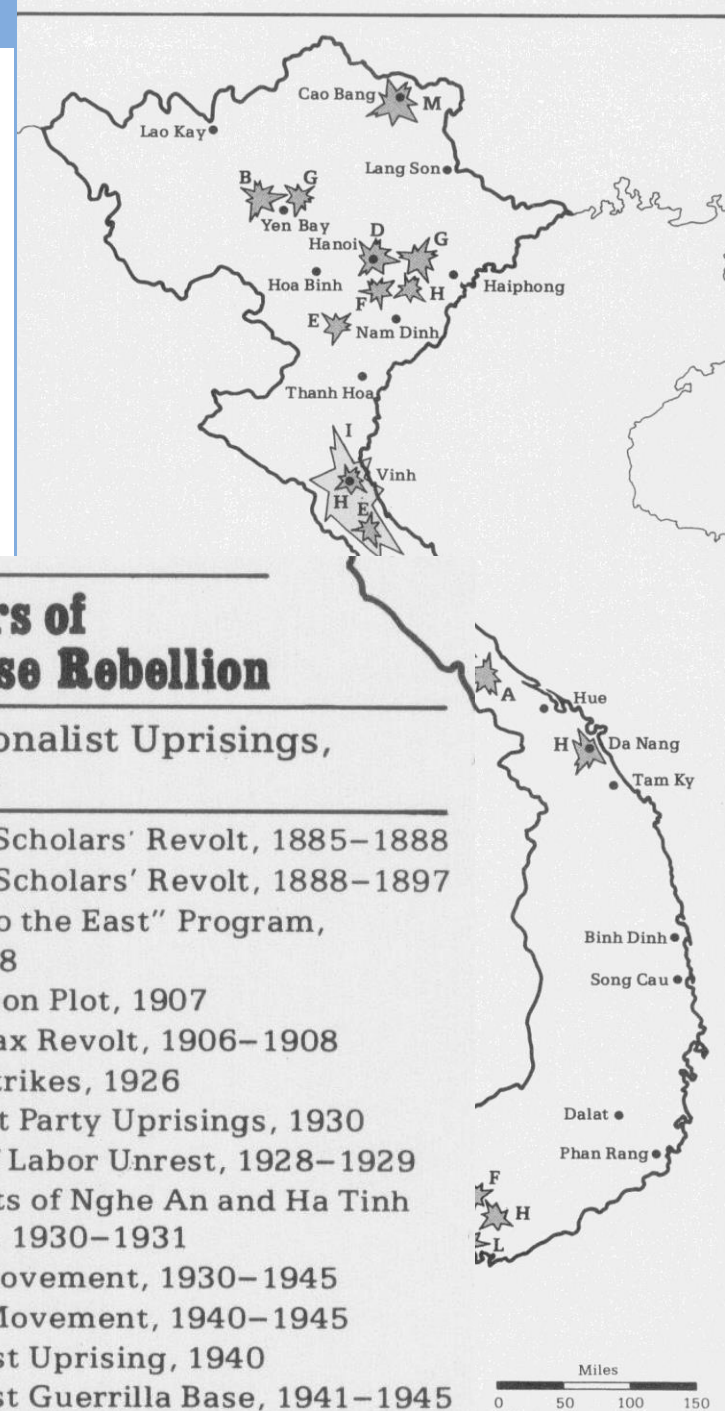
**Ho Chi Minh**



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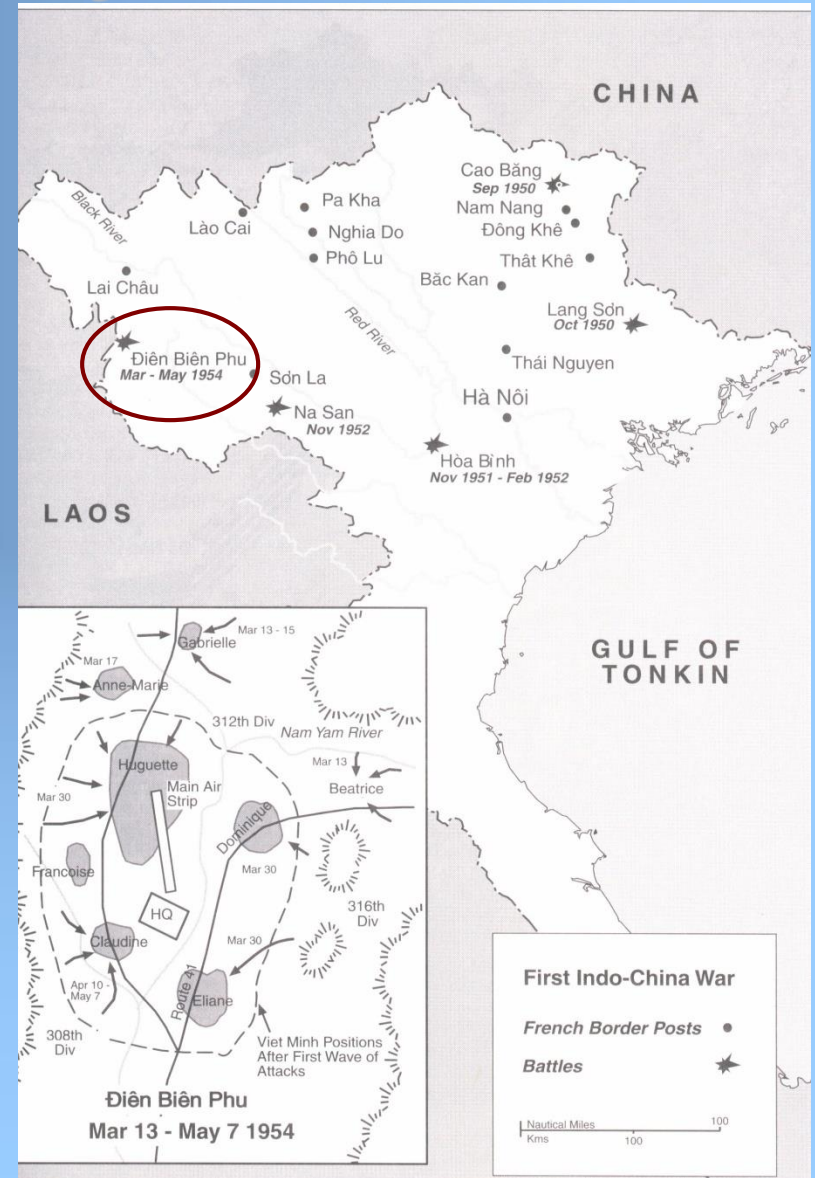


**Ho Chi Minh**



# Battle Of Dien Bien Phu

13 March - 7 May 1954



# Battle Of Dien Bien Phu

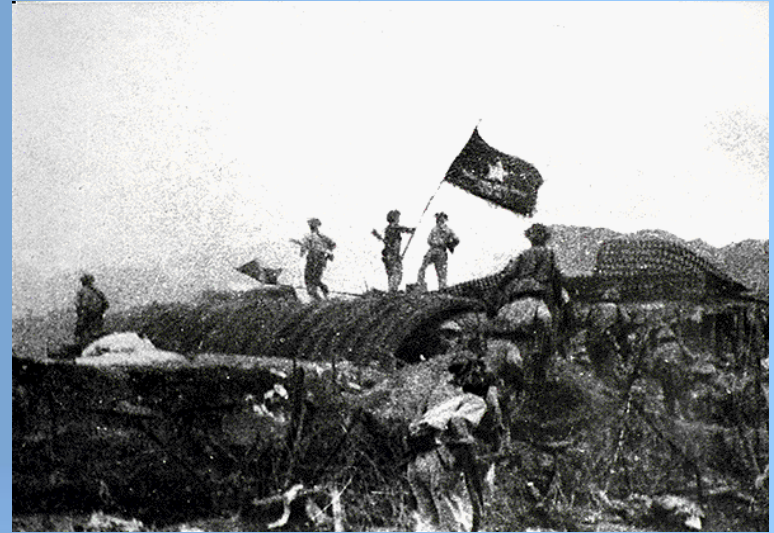
13 March - 7 May 1954

## POSSIBLE REASONS FOR FRENCH DEFEAT (Viet Minh Victory):

- French Tactics, strategy, arrogance, political factors
- Viet Minh tactical competence, determination, surprising array of weapons and capabilities

## RESULTS:

- **FRENCH: 7184 KIA,**
- **11000 CAPTURED**
  
- **VIET MINH: 8000 KIA, 12000 WIA**





# The First Vietnam War Aftermath

- **Geneva Accords, 21 July 1954**
  - Vietnam divided at 17th parallel
  - Elections to be held in two years
  - 300 days allowed for free movement between north and south
- **French depart Hanoi on 9 Oct 1954**
- **Viet Minh formally take over Hanoi and North Vietnam on 11 Oct 1954**



# The Domino Theory



“You have a row of dominoes set up; you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is that it will go over very quickly. So you have the beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences.”

-- President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 7 Apr 1954  
on the impending fall of Vietnam to communism

# U.S. Response to Insurgency, 1957-63

- Advisors
- Special Forces
- Air Support
- Strategic Hamlets



# JFK and Vietnam

- **Late 1960: National Liberation Front established in the South**
- **11 May 61: JFK approves increased aid to RVN and sends 400 SF troops**
- **11 Dec 61: first U.S. Army helicopters arrive in Vietnam**
- **Sep 1962 - Feb 1963: 5th SF Group established at Nha Trang**
- **12 Jan 62: first “Ranch Hand” missions**
- **13 Jan 62: U.S.A.F. pilots fly first “Farm Gate” missions**
- **8 Feb 62: USMACV established in Saigon**
- **2 Nov 63: Diem and brother assassinated during coup**
- **22 Nov 63: JFK assassinated in Dallas**



# Gulf of Tonkin Incident

## Aug 64



No fouling



No fouling



- 2 Aug: attack on *Maddox*
- 4 Aug: attack *Maddox* and *C. Turner Joy*?
- 5 Aug: Operation PIERCE ARROW
- 7 Aug: Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed

# National Strategy?

- Guns and Butter
  - protect Great Society programs
  - expand draft, but no major call up of reserves
  - lack of candor with the news media and public concerning military commitments in SE Asia
- “Out of country” -- graduated escalation through airpower
- “In country” -- troop buildup and logistic expansion



# American Military Personnel in South Vietnam



(end of year)	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
U.S. military personnel	875	3,164	11,326	16,263	23,310
Deaths from hostile action	NA	1	31	77	137
USAF sorties flown	NA	NA	2,334	6,929	5,362
U.S. aircraft lost to hostile action:					
Fixed-wing	NA	NA	7	14	30
Helicopters	NA	NA	4	9	22



# American Military Personnel in South Vietnam

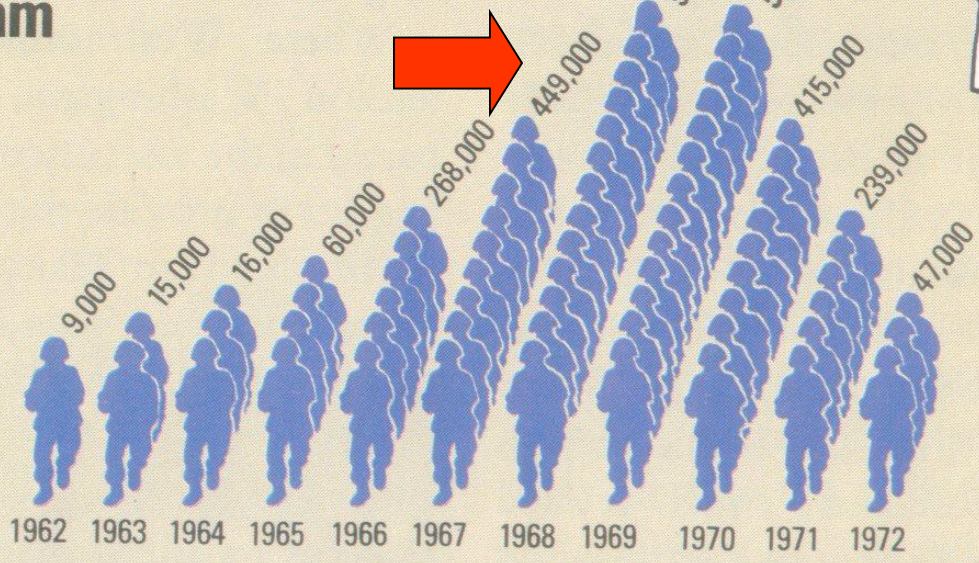


	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Troops	760	900	3,205	11,300	16,300	23,300
Deaths		5	16	53	122	216
	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Troops	184,300	485,300	485,600	536,100	549,500	335,800
Deaths	1,928	6,143	11,153	16,592	11,616	6,081
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	
Troops	250,900	24,200	50 + 7,000 civ		0	
Deaths	2,357	641	168	23	22	



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# US forces committed in South Vietnam 1962-72



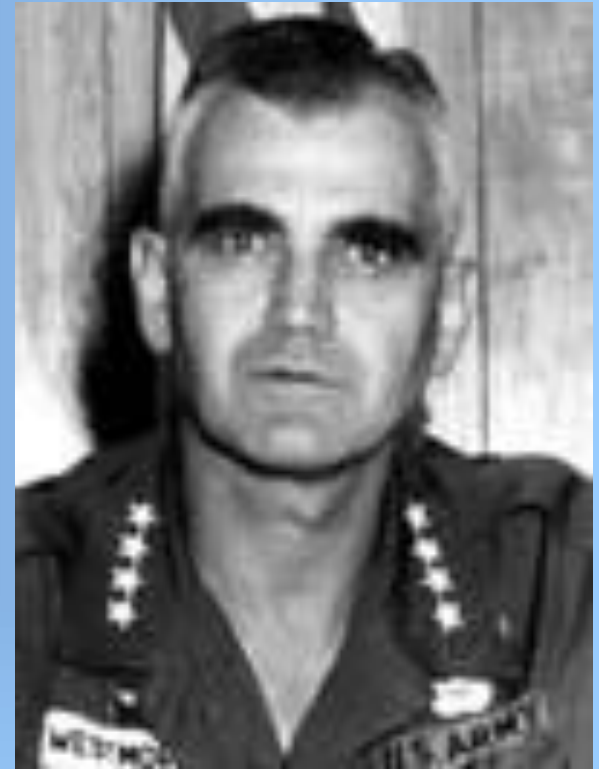
# ***The Situation According to Gen Westmoreland (and LBJ)***

**“With 1968 a new phase is now starting... We have reached an important point where the end begins to come into view.”**

**General William Westmoreland  
National Press Club, Washington, DC  
21 Nov 1967**

**“The concept [of his way of conducting the war] is compatible with the evolution of the war since our military commitment [began] and portrays to the American people ‘some light at the end of the tunnel.’ ”**

**General William Westmoreland  
Briefing to MACV Staff, Saigon,  
late 1967**



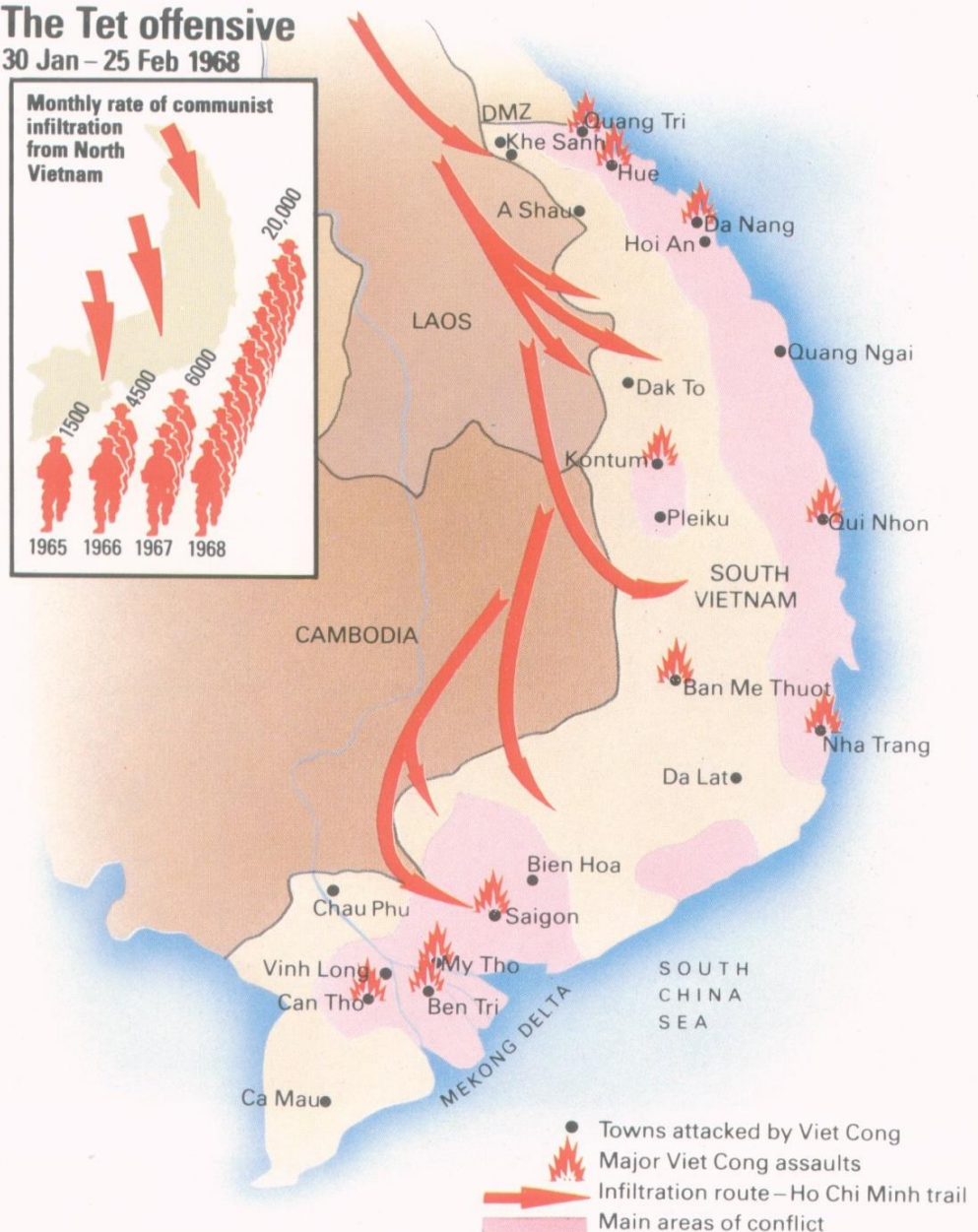
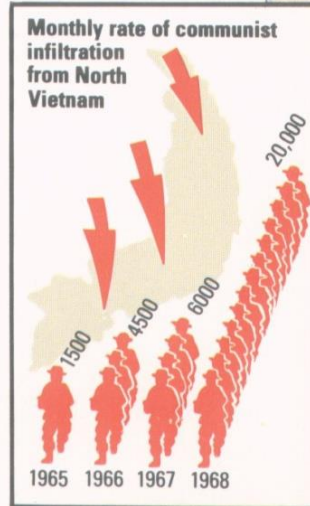
**What Is the Effect of Raising  
Expectations With the American Public ?**

# Tet: Communist Plans

- **General Offensive**
- **General Uprising**
- **Forces and Deployment**
  - 80,000 NVA and VC troops
  - 36 of 44 province capitals;  
5 of 6 autonomous cities
  - 23 airfields/bases

## The Tet offensive

30 Jan – 25 Feb 1968



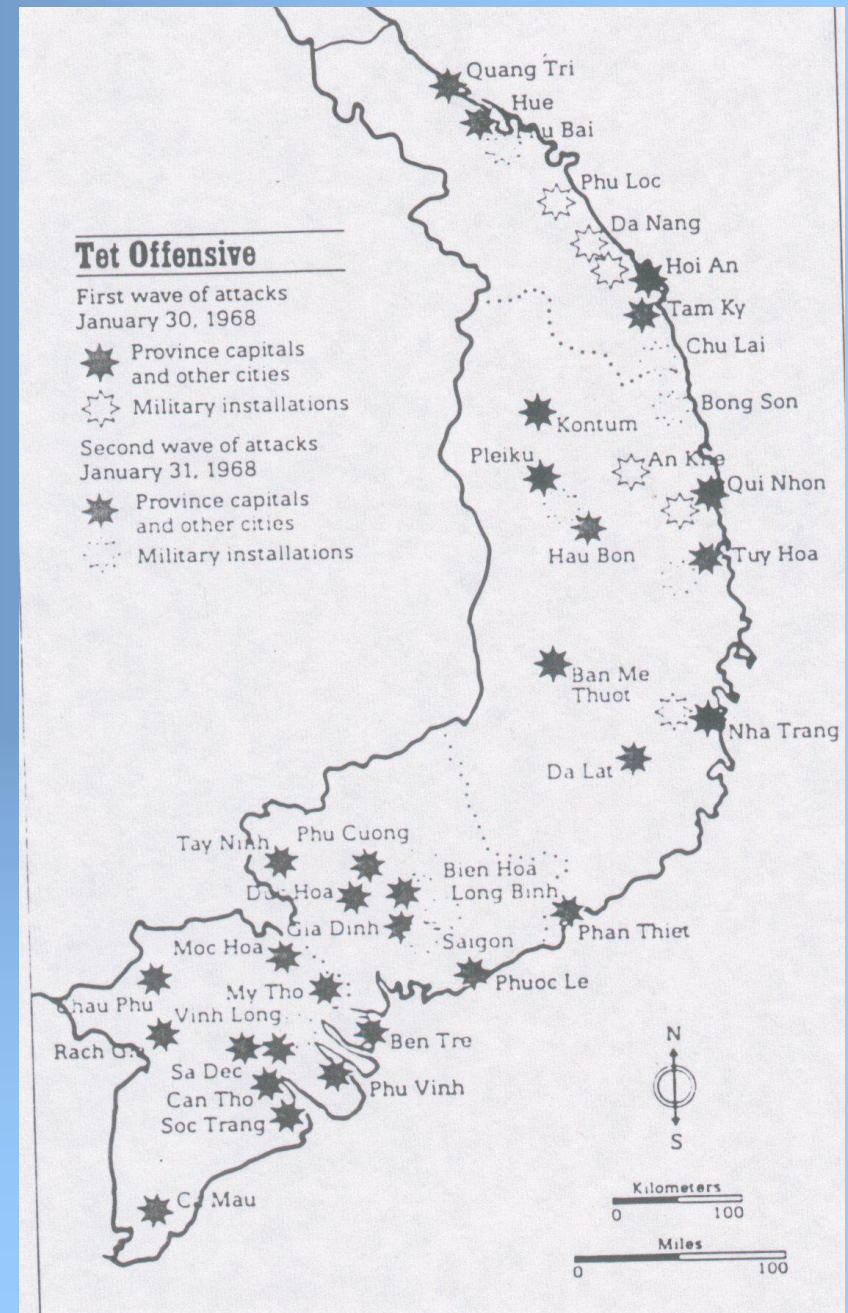
# Tet 1968: the Attack

**21 Jan: Khe Sanh besieged by North Vietnamese forces**

**30 Jan: the attack begins; NVA and VC achieve temporary control of 10 province capitals**

**31 Jan: the attacks on Hue and Saigon**

- 15 VC sappers attack U.S. Embassy
- 5 VC/NVA battalions attack Saigon (Cho Lon)
- 4 NVA battalions and 6 VC battalions attack Hue



# TET 1968: Military Results

- ARVN and U.S. forces initially hard pressed, then react quickly to retake most objectives in short time
- Hue and Khe Sanh are most costly battles
- U.S. losses = 1,001 KIA
- Allied losses = 313 KIA;  
2,082 RVNAF KIA
- People's Liberation Army  
and PAVN = 40,000 KIA
- 14,300 South Vietnamese  
civilians killed



*What are the impacts and effects?*

# TET 1968:

## Political Results

### U.S.:

- Johnson administration's loss of credibility
- 31 March: LBJ announces unilateral bombing halt and decision not to run for re-election
- May: peace talks begin in Paris
- Anti-war sentiment in U.S. grows
- Nixon elected

### NORTH VIETNAM:

- Hanoi leadership admits errors, cuts losses
- VC virtually destroyed
- shifts strategy



# Tet and the Role of the U.S. Media

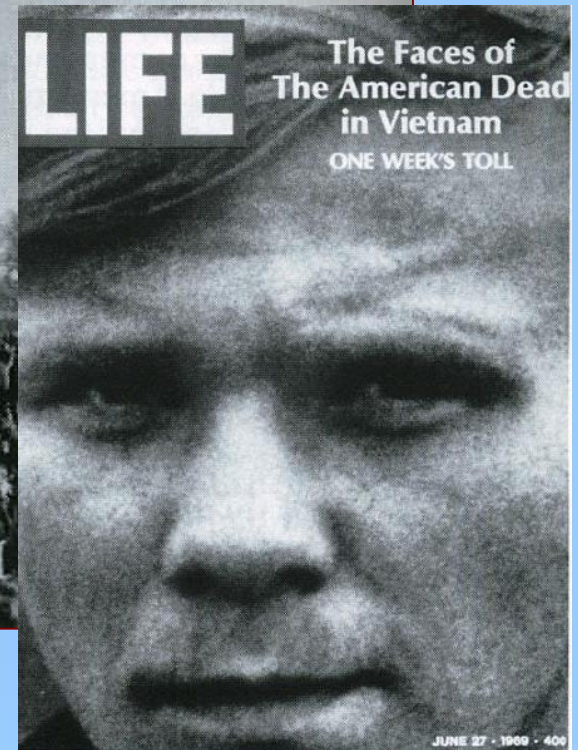
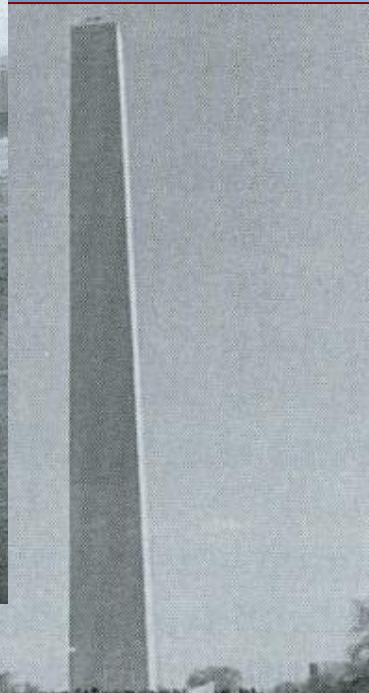
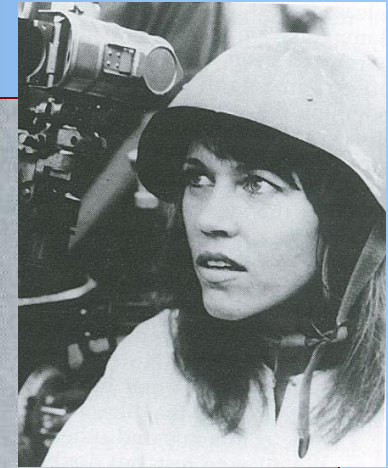


**“To say we are closer to victory today is to believe, in the face of the evidence...optimists who have been wrong in the past. To suggest that we are on the verge of defeat is to yield to unreasonable pessimists. To say we are mired in stalemate seems the only realistic yet unsatisfactory conclusion.**

**It is increasingly clear to this reporter that the only rational way out would be to negotiate...as an honorable people who have lived up to their pledge to victory and democracy and did the best they could.”**

**Walter Cronkite, CBS News  
27 February 1968**

# The Mood In America





# The Mood In America



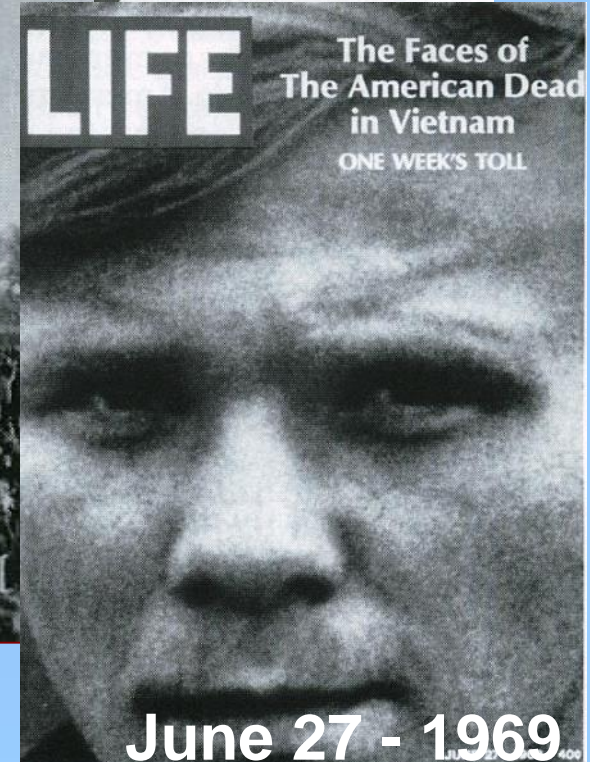
**Kent State - May 4, 1970**



**July - 1972**



**November 15, 1969,  
Moratorium March on Washington**



**June 27 - 1969**

# Vietnamization (1969-1973)

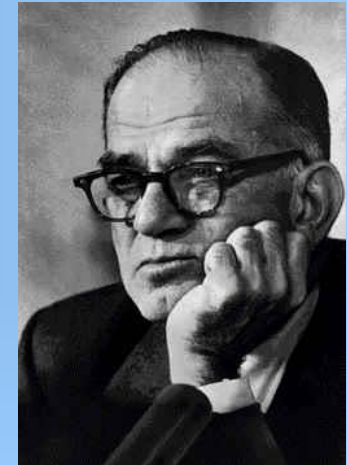
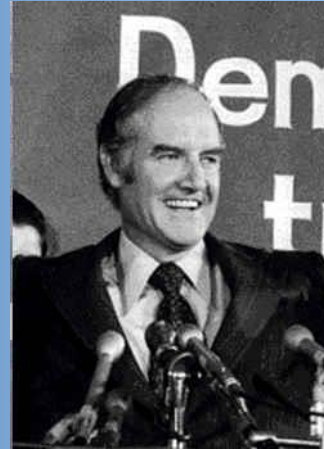
- Increase size of RVNAF
- Equipment and force modernization
- Partnership with U.S. units
- Improve advisory effort (replace MACV)

**Objective: Turn the war over to the South Vietnamese forces as U.S. troops departed**



# Declining U.S. Support

- **Nixon besieged by Watergate scandal**
- **Congress cut all funds for combat action in/over Laos and Cambodia, June 1973**
- **Arab-Israeli War, Oct 1973**
- **Congress passed War Powers Act, 7 Nov 1973**
- **Congress cut military aid to RVN for FY 74**



# U.S. Troop Withdrawals



- Announced By RN In June, 1969
- First increment departed Aug 1969
- 15 increments followed
- Supposedly predicated on enemy activity and progress of Vietnamization
- Once started, achieved its own momentum
- Continued even during 1972 NVA Offensive

# Nixon Resigns



**August 9, 1974**

# “Poor Man’s War”

## 1974

- U.S. aid cut by \$964 million in 1974
- American way of war using up war stocks
- drastic shortages of ammo, fuel, and spare parts, etc.
- NVA pressuring ARVN



# The Fall of Saigon

30 April 1975





## **Vietnam War**

(National Defense Service Medal)

**Jan. 1, 1961 – Aug. 14, 1974**

**Wikipedia**

**Nov. 1, 1955 – Apr 30, 1975**