

Name: _____
Date: _____

AP US History
Mrs. Waters

Vietnam War Terms

1. Ho Chi Minh

- North Vietnamese Communist leader from 1945-1969. The principal force behind the Vietnamese struggle against French colonial rule.

2. Domino Theory

- Governed a great deal of U.S. foreign policy during the early 1950's; stated that a communist victory in one nation would soon lead to a chain reaction of communist takeovers in neighboring states.
- The U.S. used this theory to justify its support of a non-communist regime in South Vietnam against the communist government of North Vietnam (Vietnam War).

3. Ho Chi Minh Trail

- Elaborate system of mountain and jungle paths from North Vietnam through Laos to South Vietnam used to infiltrate troops and supplies.

4. Tonkin Gulf Resolution

- Gave U.S President LBJ authority to use conventional military force in Southeast Asia without a formal declaration of war from Congress.

5. Robert McNamara

- U.S. Secretary of Defense from 1961-1968 under Presidents JFK and LBJ.

6. General William Westmoreland

- United States Army general who commanded U.S. military operations in Vietnam during the peak of the war and the Tet Offensive.

7. Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)

- South Vietnamese army that fought alongside the US and against the Viet Cong.

8. Napalm

- A jelly-like substance that sticks to practically anything and burns at 2000 F. Used in bombs to destroy landscapes and kill people.

9. Agent Orange

- A toxic chemical herbicide used to deprive Vietnamese farmers & guerilla fighters of clean food and water, forcing them to relocate.

10. Credibility Gap

- Public skepticism about Johnson's administration and his control over the escalating

conflict.

11. Draft (selective service)

- The first draft lottery held since 1942; Called up for induction and then a medical examination.

12. New Left

- Activists and intellectuals who supported Tom Hayden and the SDS's new ideas about social revolution.

13. Dove

- People who oppose the use of military pressure to resolve a dispute, less aggressive.

14. Hawk

- Favor entry into the war, advocates for war, against Soviet-backed communists' aggression in southern Vietnam.

15. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)

- Radical students, lead by Tom Hayden, believed in Port Huron Statement- university students through participatory democracy have voice in decisions affecting their lives.

16. Tet Offensive

- On the occasion of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year (Tet) in January, the Viet Cong launched a surprise attack on all the American bases in S.Vietnam. The U.S. counterattacked (inflicting greater losses on the Viet Cong). Tet was a political victory for Viet Cong because they demoralized the American public.

17. Robert Kennedy

- Senator from NY who decided to enter the presidential elections. He supported U.S. involvement in Vietnam and also believed that the war would end through a negotiated settlement. He was shot (and killed) by a young Arab nationalist.

18. Richard Nixon

- President from 1969-1974, implemented "Vietnamization," gradually removing military personnel from Vietnam.

19. My Lai

- Massacre of between 347 and 504 unarmed civilians in South Vietnam by US soldiers.

20. Kent State University

- Monday May 4th, 1970: 500 university students protested against Nixon's Cambodian Campaign.

21. Pentagon Papers

- Documents of U.S. political and military involvement in Vietnam that hit the front page of the NY Times in 1971.
- Revealed Presidents Truman-Johnson had lied to Congress & public and that main motivation for war was to “avoid humiliating defeat.”

22. Vietnamization

- Introduced by President Nixon as strategy to end U.S. involvement in war by transferring all military responsibilities to South Vietnam.

23. War Powers Resolution

- 1973. President can send troops into action abroad only by authorization of Congress or if America is already under serious threat or attack.
- Has 48 hours to notify Congress, if unauthorized troops must be removed within 90 days.