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US FOREIGN POLICY IN THE COLD WAR ERA: JOHNSON TO THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

From the PowerPoint presentation on the Cold War Era 2
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WRITTEN BY
ELAINE SARNOFF
HERSCHEL SARNOFF
DANA BAGDASARIAN

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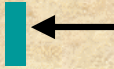
CONTACT INFORMATION:

hsarnoff@lausd.k12.ca.us

VERSION 1.0

drb7270@lausd.k12.ca.us

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Vietnam: An American Nightmare

Background: 1945 - 1963

Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy

- **DOMINO THEORY**
- **FRENCH OCCUPATION OF VIETNAM**
- **17TH PARALLEL**
- **BATTLE OF AP BAC**
- **DIEM ASSASSINATED**

The Domino Theory

**First proposed by President Eisenhower in 1954.
It was the foundation for the war in Vietnam.**

"But when we come to the possible sequence of events, the loss of Indochina, of Burma, of Thailand, of the Peninsula, and Indonesia following, now you begin to talk about areas that not only multiply the disadvantages that you would suffer through loss of materials, sources of materials, but now you are talking really about millions and millions and millions of people.

Finally, the geographical position achieved thereby does many things. It turns the so-called island defensive chain of Japan, Formosa, of the Philippines and to the southward; it moves in to threaten Australia and New Zealand.

It takes away, in its economic aspects, that region that Japan must have as a trading area or Japan, in turn, will have only one place in the world to go -- that is, toward the Communist areas in order to live.

So, the possible consequences of the loss are just incalculable to the free world. " President Eisenhower, 1954

President Kennedy on Vietnam



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FRENCH INDOCHINA

HO CHI MINH

After WW II Ho Chi Minh, leader of the communist Vietnamese, believed that the U.S. would not allow France to reoccupy its former colony. When French soldiers returned, with the approval of President Truman, to reassert their authority and reclaim their colony a bitter nine year war began that ended in a French defeat at Dien Bien Phu.



PICTURES ARE OF HO CHI MINH AND A BATTLE PHOTO FROM DIEN BIEN PHU THE DECISIVE COMMUNIST VICTORY THAT LED THE FRENCH TO PULL OUT OF INDOCHINA.



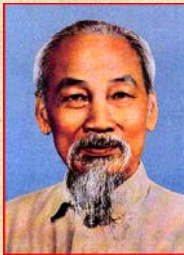
IN JULY OF 1954 THE GENEVA ACCORDS WERE SIGNED DIVIDING VIETNAM AT THE 17TH PARALLEL FOR TWO YEARS UNTIL ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD TO UNIFY THE NATION.

THE NORTH BECAME COMMUNIST WHILE THE SOUTH WAS SUPPORTED BY THE U.S.

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER AND SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN FOSTER DULLES (FROM LEFT) GREET SOUTH VIETNAM'S PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT, 05/08/1957



A NATIONAL NIGHTMARE BEGINS: JFK AND THE ORIGINS OF THE VIETNAM WAR



**PRESIDENT HO
CHI MINH,
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM**



**PRESIDENT
NGO DINH
DIEM,
REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM**

THE U.S. SUPPORTED A CATHOLIC, NGO DINH DIEM, WHO WAS HATED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WHO WERE BUDDHIST. HIS MISRULE LED TO A SMALL REBELLION WHICH GREW INTO A MAJOR WAR IN THE EARLY 1960's. PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SENT A SMALL TRAINING UNIT TO HELP BUILD DIEM'S ARMY IN 1955.



PRESIDENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM NGO DINH DIEM, LEFT, IS WELCOMED IN CEREMONIES AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT. WITH HIM IS PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, AND BEHIND THEM, FROM LEFT, AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL NATHAN TWINING, SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN FOSTER DULLES, AND PRESIDENTIAL AIDE AND PILOT, COLONEL WILLIAM C. DRAPER. 05/08/1957



U.S. ARMY ADVISORS TRAINING SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS IN 1961-62

BOTH KOREA AND VIETNAM WERE PRODUCTS OF THE U.S. DOMINO THEORY :
THE IDEA THAT COUNTRIES BORDERING COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WERE IN MORE DANGER OF FALLING TO COMMUNISM UNLESS THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS WORKED TO PREVENT IT.

THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (NLF) WAS ORGANIZED IN 1960 BY ANTI-DIEM GROUPS. IT WAS CONTROLLED BY FORMER COMMUNIST VIETMINH CADRES WHO HAD FOUGHT AGAINST THE FRENCH. THE NLF WAS ULTIMATELY CONTROLLED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.



NLF FLAG

EISENHOWER'S MILITARY ADVISORY AND ASSISTANCE GROUP WAS REPLACED BY MACV (MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND VIETNAM) UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL PAUL HARKINS. OVER 11,000 ADVISORS WITH MODERN WEAPONS AND AIRCRAFT WERE SENT TO HELP THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. THIS NUMBER GREW TO 16,000 BY NOVEMBER 1963.



MACV HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN SAIGON

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Cadre is defined as the remains of a military unit that can be used to form a new unit.

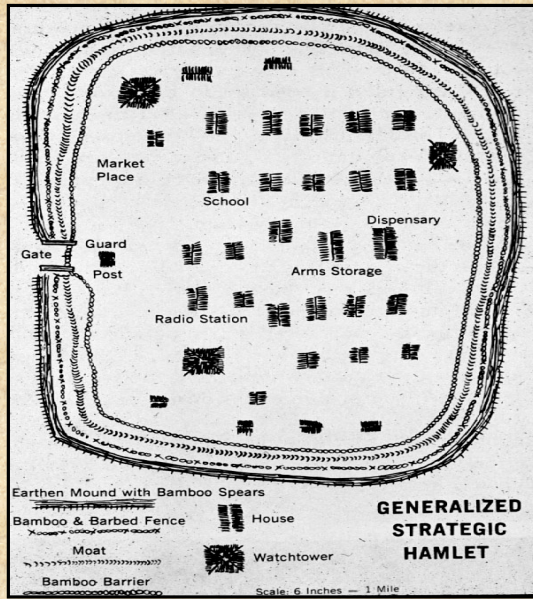
GENERAL HARKIN'S OVERLY OPTIMISTIC REPORTS LED TO A CONFUSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY WAS NOT FIGHTING WITH ANY SPIRIT OR SKILL AND WOULD LOSE WITHOUT A MASSIVE U.S. TROOP DEPLOYMENT.



**"BY CHRISTMAS IT WILL BE ALL OVER."
(AMERICAN GENERAL PAUL HARKINS, APRIL
1963). BUT IT WASN'T OVER UNTIL 1975
WHEN THE COMMUNISTS WON AND TOOK
CONTROL OF SOUTH VIETNAM.**

VIETNAM 1962

STRATEGIC HAMLETS: OPERATION SUNRISE



VIETNAMESE PEASANTS WERE FORCED TO BUILD AND MOVE INTO THESE FORTIFIED VILLAGES TO PREVENT CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST VIETCONG GUERRILLAS. 6800 WERE BUILT BY 1963. THEY WERE UNPOPULAR WITH THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND THIS ALONG WITH OTHER ABUSES BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE SAIGON GOVERNMENT CAUSED MANY TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNISTS.



**HUNDREDS OF
BLOCKHOUSE STRONG
POINTS WERE BUILT
THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRYSIDE TO
"PROTECT" THE
PEASANTS FROM THE
VIETCONG (VC).
THESE WERE
EQUIPPED WITH
THOUSANDS OF
RIFLES AND MACHINE
GUNS MOST OF
WHICH ENDED UP IN
THE HANDS OF THE VC
TO BE USED AGAINST
THE SOUTH
VIETNAMESE AND
AMERICANS.**

**THE BATTLE OF AP BAC MADE IT CLEAR THAT TO
SAVE SOUTH VIETNAM U.S. GROUND TROOPS
WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT**

A NEW PHASE OF THE VIETNAM WAR BEGAN ON JANUARY 2ND 1963. 340 VIET CONG GUERRILLAS HELD OFF THE COMBINED ASSAULTS OF MORE THAN 1500 SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TROOPS NEAR THE SMALL VILLAGE OF AP BAC. THEY SHOT DOWN FIVE AMERICAN HELICOPTERS AND WITHSTOOD M113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT. THE VC WITHDREW IN GOOD ORDER WITH FEW CASUALTIES, MUCH TO THE AMERICAN ADVISOR'S FRUSTRATIONS. AP BAC'S WARNING SIGNS, WHILE UNDERSTOOD BY THE LOWER-LEVEL ADVISORS AND THE PRESS, WERE LOST ON THE SENIOR AMERICAN CIVIL AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP.

**THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY WOULD NOT FIGHT. WAS IT
WORTH THE LIVES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO DEFEND THEIR
COUNTRY WHEN IT'S OWN PEOPLE WOULD NOT?**



**MODERN VIETNAM
MONUMENT TO THE
COMMUNIST
VICTORS AT THE
BATTLE OF AP BAC.**

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