Vietnam

- Ho Chi Minh felt deceived by Wilson’s 14 points.
- 1883 France gained control of Vietnam
- Ho Chi Minh lived in China and the Soviet Union in the 1920’s and 1930’s: There he became convinced only a communist revolution would free his people.
- After WWII Ho Chi Minh expected America to support Vietnamese independence.

After WWII

- After WWII France returned and claimed Vietnam
- Truman supported France because Ho Chi Minh supported communism.
- Plus China, Korea, and many southeast-Asian countries were turning communist.
- Domino Theory: The US feared that if Vietnam fell to communism, the rest of the neighboring countries would too.
- The US sent military and economic supplies to help the French.
France defeated

- The Vietnamese used Guerilla tactics of fighting to beat the French.
- Finally the French surrendered in the valley of Dien Bien Phu.
- **Geneva Conference**: Was called to arrange for Indochina’s future
- Vietnam was split into two, North and South
- Elections would later be held to unify Vietnam under one gov.
- US felt the communists would win and turn all of Vietnam to communism.

**Essential Question**

1. How was Ho Chi Minh let down by Woodrow Wilson?
2. Who controlled Vietnam after WWI?
3. Why did Truman support France over Ho Chi Minh?
4. What was the Domino Theory? How was it applied to Vietnam?

**Growing Conflict**

- Eisenhower did not want to see South Vietnam turn Communist.
- The US pinned their hopes on South Vietnam leader **Ngo Dinh Diem**
- He had turned down an offer from Minh and lived in the US and impressed US leader **with his anti-communism**.
- But Diem’s government was **corrupt and brutal**.
- Diem **barred the election to unify** Vietnam (Geneva Conference) and this was unacceptable to Ho Chi Minh.
The Civil War

- By 1959 Diem’s opponents were in open rebellion with his government.
- Ho Chi Minh supplied these rebels.
- These rebels called themselves the Vietcong (Vietnamese Communists).
- Ho Chi Minh decided to start sending troops into South Vietnam to help the Vietcong.
- Eisenhower decided to send money, supplies, and advisors to train the South Vietnamese in order to prevent loss.

Essential Question

1. Who did the United States support to run South Vietnam?
2. Why did the people in South Vietnam dislike him (#1)?
3. Who were the South Vietnamese communists that fought against Diem’s government?
4. How did the North Vietnamese help the Vietcong?

Increasing U.S. Involvement

- Kennedy was a firm believer in the “Domino Theory” and wanted display U.S. strength in Vietnam.
- Kennedy did not send the army, but did send military advisors and “Green Berets”
- Diem’s government continued to repress the people and Buddhists Monks
- Even US government preferred to remove Diem from power
- In 1963 South Vietnam forces killed Diem.
Johnson takes over

• Kennedy was assassinated and LBJ takes over.
• The Vietcong was taking over little by little and he wanted to send the army.
• Kennedy believe the **Vietnamese were responsible** for winning their war.
• Johnson wanted to expand the war to help the South Vietnamese but needed Congress’s permission
• Johnson got what he needed when North Vietnam attacked the **USS Maddox in the Gulf of Tonkin**
• Congress issued the **Tonkin Gulf Resolution** which enabled the President to repel any armed attack on the US military.

Essential Question

1. How did Kennedy aid the South Vietnamese?
2. Why does the United States turn on Diem who they once supported for power in South Vietnam?
3. What was the difference between Kennedy and Johnson on how we should help South Vietnam?
4. Why was the Gulf of Tonkin so important for LBJ?