

### The Build-Up to the Korean War

Korea had been a single country for 5,000 years before WW2. After WW2 Russia & USA decided to divide the country into separate North & South. Both set up governments using elections. Both accused each other of cheating, fake elections and forcing COMMUNISM or CAPITALISM on their part of the country.



### Causes of the Korean War "DUCKS"

- (D) **DOMINO THEORY** - The US fear that COMMUNISM would spread across a whole region if it allowed any country to become communist. The US promised to help any country fighting COMMUNISM with money, weapons and men if necessary (TRUMAN DOCTRINE).
- (U) **USA & UNITED NATIONS** - US promised to help anyone fighting communism in the TRUMAN DOCTRINE 1947. (e.g. support for South Korea v N. Korea). They drag the UN in to make it look like it was not a US war but US soldiers = 90% of UN "Police" force.
- (C) **COMMUNISTS** - USSR (Russia) & China supported N. Korea with weapons and money.
- (K) **KIM IL SUNG** - Fiery Communist leader of N. Korea. War of Words with South Korea. Set himself up as a dictator after Russian supported elections. Hated Syngman Rhee.
- (S) **SYNGMAN RHEE** - Fiery Capitalist leader of S. Korea. War of Words with N. Korea. Set himself as a dictator after US supported elections. Hated Kim Il Sung.

### EVENTS of the Korean War (1950-53)

1. **NORTH Korea attack first** - N.Korea launches surprise attack and pushes the South Korean army all the way south to the PUSAN region.
2. **UN "Police" Army launch counterattack in double attack** - Americans push N.Korean army north back to the border after attacks from PUSAN (south) and INCHON (west).
3. **UN Army invade NORTH Korea and push them north to the CHINESE border** - General MacArthur asked President Truman for permission to invade and conquer N.Korea.
4. **CHINESE Army pushes the UN Army back South to the border** - Chinese had warned US that they should not approach the N.Korean/ China border. US MacArthur and his 100,000 men had underestimated the 250,000 Chinese Army.
5. **ACCORDION WAR - Stalemate 1951-53**: Neither side could get control and fighting remained around the original border of North/ South Korea.

### OUTCOMES of the Korean War (1953 - )

1. **NORTH KOREA claimed victory** - N.Korea had nearly destroyed S. Korea. N. Korea had survived the UN invasion. Remained communist and isolated.
2. **SOUTH KOREA claimed victory** - SK had survived the NK invasion and had pushed them back with UN help.
3. **CHINA claimed victory** - No longer seen as a backwards nation. US had underestimated their power and they held the UN army to stalemate in final years 1951-53.
4. **USA claimed victory** - They had pushed the UN into military action. Communism had been CONTAINED and had not spread out of their original N. Korean base.
5. **USSR / Russia propaganda victory** - USA embarrassed by the stalemate (draw) with so-called "backwards" nations like N. Korea & China. N. Korea remained COMMUNIST.

### Who Won?



### The Cold War: Conflict & Tension in Asia (1945 - 1975)

The Cold War: When is a war not a war? The Cold War was a war of attitudes, competing ideas and PROPAGANDA. It was a "COLD WAR" because the 2 main sides; USA & USSR (Russia) did not directly fight each other in a "hot war". Wars instead were fought by countries sponsored by the USA & USSR - the winners would spread the influence of COMMUNISM or CAPITALISM.



### COMMUNISM

1. System of government sponsored by Russia (USSR).
2. The Communist Party would run the country in a DICTATORSHIP.
3. Any ELECTION would not be a free choice- only communist party members could be elected.
4. All business & public systems would be controlled by the Government.
5. Society would be more EQUAL in a COMMUNIST country.



### CAPITALISM

1. System of government sponsored by USA.
2. Capitalist countries had FREE ELECTIONS and a FREE DEMOCRACY.
3. ELECTIONS would have different parties and politicians to choose from.
4. All businesses would be owned by PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.
5. Society would be DIVIDED into richer or poorer groups.



Communist countries during the Cold War



### Fear of Communism

After WW2, Russia had taken over the Eastern half of Europe, and did not intend to give up that control. The "WEST" (USA & Western Europe) had a fear of a Communist Revolution & Global take over. US President Truman promised to help any country fighting COMMUNISM with money, weapons and men (TRUMAN DOCTRINE - 1947). The US started the plan of CONTAINMENT, to stop the spread and keep COMMUNISM boxed into its existing areas. The US were scared that once one country turned COMMUNIST, it would influence those around it and cause them to turn communist too. This fear was called the **DOMINO THEORY**.

### The Build-Up to the Vietnam War (1945-75)

Vietnam had been under the control of the French since the 1880s. They were invaded and conquered by the Japanese in WW2. After WW2, the French wanted to take back control of Vietnam but the Vietnamese did not want to be under French control.

The Vietnamese asked for help from their northern COMMUNIST neighbour China. They defeated the French at the Battle of DIEN BIEN PHU (1954). It led to the GENEVA AGREEMENT (1954). It created a COMMUNIST North Vietnam and a separate CAPITALIST South Vietnam.

The embarrassed French were forced to leave Vietnam, but it left Vietnam open to a COMMUNIST take over. The US were worried that this would lead to the start of the **DOMINO THEORY** across Asia. President Eisenhower promised the new South Vietnam government to help.



### Increasing US involvement in Vietnam (1945-65)

**French Indochina War (1945-1954)** - US President Eisenhower invested over \$2 Billion to support French War vs the Vietnamese (Viet supported by Chinese communists). Defeat of French led to US fears about **DOMINO THEORY**.

**South Vietnam (1954-1965)** - Eisenhower invested \$1.6 Billion supporting South Viet President Diem. President Kennedy increased support by sending **MILITARY ADVISERS** to South Vietnam. **1962 = 11,500 advisers. 1963 = 23,000 advisers.** Rumoured US CIA involvement in the assassination of Diem in 1963.

**GULF OF TONKIN (1963)** - US battleship claims to be attacked by N. Viet boats. It gave US President Johnson the excuse to declare war on N. Vietnam. US Congress passed the **TONKIN RESOLUTION** to start bombing raids (Operation Rolling Thunder) on N. Vietnam and send full US Army (**over 180,000 men**) to South Vietnam (1965).



### Vietnamese Tactics

The **VIET CONG "VC"** - The South Vietnamese Communist Army. Supplied from the North from Communist North Vietnam & China via the "HO CHI MINH TRAIL".

**GUERRILLA Warfare** - Ambush "hit and run" style warfare used by a smaller army avoiding open warfare with a larger enemy. VC Army disguised as normal people.

**Underground Bases** - VC Army hiding underground in the Jungle, hidden from US bombing.

**BOOBY TRAPS** - Hidden traps in the jungle. Caused injuries and deaths of small numbers of US soldiers but slowed the US Army and caused mental fear.



### US Tactics

**US Bombing** - Started with bombing of N. Vietnam and HO CHI MINH TRAIL (supply route to the Viet Cong). **Operation Rolling Thunder.** Use of **NAPALM** and **PHOSPHORUS Bombs** - special chemical weapons that could continue to burn the jungle after explosions or intensify heat/ fires.

**AGENT ORANGE** - Use of chemical weed-killers (herbicide) to kill jungle and stop VC from hiding in the bushes. 81 Million litres sprayed. Caused toxic poisoning for decades. **Turned Viet people to VCI**

**SEARCH & DESTROY Missions** - US Army destroyed villages around the jungle to stop VC using them as bases. Forced Viet villagers out to STRATEGIC HAMLETS. **Huge Viet resentment to US.**

**STRATEGIC HAMLETS** - US created fenced off camps for those families forced out from Search & Destroy Missions. Looked like prison camps.



### KEY EVENTS (1965-75)

**Tet Offensive (1968)** - VC surprise attack 100 cities in one weekend.

**My Lai Massacre & the Trial of Lt. Calley (1968-69)** - US Search & Destroy goes wrong and kills village of 400 innocent women & children. Only 1 man on trial after the cover-up was exposed by journalist.

**Fall of Saigon (1975)** - End of the fighting. US Army withdraw in 1973. Viet Cong and N.Viet Army march into Saigon (S.Viet capital).



## KEYWORDS

Hot War  
Cold War  
Communism  
Capitalism  
Accordian War  
Truman Doctrine  
Containment  
Domino Theory  
Propaganda  
Dietatorship  
Election  
Free Election  
Geneva Agreement 1954  
Military Advisers  
Gulf of Tonkin  
Tonkin Resolution  
Viet Cong (VC)  
Ho Chi Minh Trail  
Guerrilla Warfare  
Booby Traps  
Napalm  
Phosphorus  
Agent Orange  
McCarthyism  
Woodstock  
Draft Dodging  
Paris Peace Accords 1973  
Vietnamisation

## The Cold War in the USA (US Attitudes to the Vietnam War)

The Cold War did not just change events in Asia but back at "home" there were huge changes politically and socially in the USA in the 1960-70s. The attitudes of the US public towards this war would change from open support against Communism in the 1950s to an anti-war campaign that would bring down a President and leave a country divided.

### US Attitudes to the Cold War before Vietnam (1950s-1965)

McCarthyism & Anti-Communist Campaigns  
In the 1950s Senator McCarthy had launched a public campaign that targeted anybody who potentially could be a Communist. Although he was discredited, the anti-Communist feelings of the US remained throughout the 20th century.

"Better Red than Dead!"

This was a common anti-Communist phrase heard in the 1950s for the recruitment of men into the US Army to help fight communism. This showed the fear that communism was trying to take over the World, just like it had done after WW2 in Eastern Europe. The TRUMAN DOCTRINE only whipped up the fears caused by ideas like the DOMINO THEORY.

## The Changing Attitudes of "Middle America"

**Middle America**  
At the start of the Vietnam War, the attitudes of Middle Class/ Middle Aged America (the core of the USA) were supportive against Communism.

**Cuban Missile Crisis 1961**  
Only 4 years before the official war, Russia had tried to place nuclear missiles directly below the US in Cuba, so anti-Communist attitudes were common.

**Tet Offensive 1968**  
After 3 years of fighting, Middle America was tired of the Vietnam War and its costs. \$20 Billion a year in tax money. 500 dead young men per week in 1968. President Johnson had to cut back his plans on the "Great Society" to fund the war!

**My Lai 1968-69**  
My Lai Massacre showed the corruption of the US Government and the cover-ups in the war. The US were not the heroes and saviours but the Villains of Vietnam!

**Critical Media Coverage after 1968**  
After 1968, the Media stopped supporting the Government and images of bloodshed and problems could be seen on the news in colour every night!

## Student Protesters 1960s-70s

The Original ANTI-WAR Campaigners  
From the very start it was the young of the US that rebelled against the Vietnam War. From 1964-73, it was the young (men aged 18-26) who were "drafted" or forced to go into this war.  
War went against the cultural beliefs of the young in the 1960s. From the music and anti-war protesters more young people disagreed with traditional society and dropped out. These "hippies" were originally seen by US Governments as un-American and dangerous to traditions. Alongside marches, young people protested through music concerts - WOODSTOCK (1969). College Strikes (400 students on strike in 1970); DRAFT DODGING (running away to Mexico / Canada to avoid the draft).  
By 1968, the youth protest had become so vocal across the country, that President Johnson (LBJ) refused to stand for re-election as they had changed the minds of many middle class / parents. After the story of My Lai was released, students would chant, "Hey, hey, LBJ! How many kids have you killed today?"

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## Peace Talks & the End of the War (1973-75)

**Paris Peace Accords 1973**  
Peace talks in Paris. USA tried to scare N. Vietnam into agreeing by using the "MADMAN" strategy. They pretended to want to use nuclear weapons like a mad man! N. Vietnam were not scared off!

**Vietnamisation**  
USA set up a plan to train south Vietnam to protect itself from Communist North. In theory, it would allow the US to gradually pull their soldiers out as the S. Viet could look after themselves.

**US Withdrawal (1973)**  
N. Vietnam insisted the US pulled out of S. Vietnam by 1973. US Public pressure wanted their US soldiers out too. New President Nixon had said he would end the war but spread war into neighbours Cambodia and Laos in 1971. Fall of Saigon 1975  
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