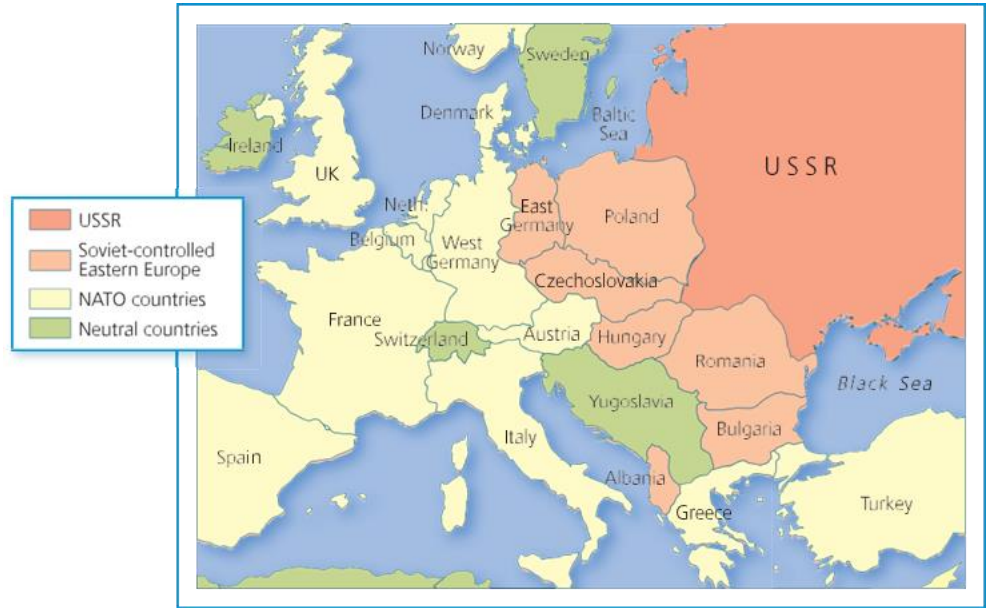


American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

Headings	Notes
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1945–1948: THE COLD WAR BEGINS

- In **Greece**, a civil war broke out between communists and royalists.



CONTAINMENT, THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE AND MARSHALL AID

- Truman and his advisers thought these developments showed that Stalin planned to take over Europe.
- To stop him, they adopted a policy called '**containment**'. That meant **containing** Soviet power **within the area it controlled in 1945** – not letting it expand any further.
- They issued the **Truman Doctrine**. It promised American aid to any government fighting a communist takeover.
- They then sent military help to the Greek government.
- To stop the Soviets taking over the rest of Europe they decided to:
 - Keep US troops in Europe
 - Give billions of dollars in **Marshall Aid** to European governments to rebuild their economies. They hoped this would undermine support for communism.

Keywords	Summary
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American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

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EUROPE DIVIDED

- Western European governments accepted Marshall Aid and developed their economies along capitalist lines.
- Stalin would not let the Eastern European countries he controlled accept Marshall Aid. He forced them to become communist.
- This divided Europe into the **pro-American capitalist West** and the **Soviet-controlled communist East**.
- The dividing line between them, known as the **iron curtain**, ran through Germany. This created a number of crises during the Cold War.
- In 1946, Churchill called the line dividing Stalin's Europe from the rest '**the Iron Curtain**'.

1948–1949: GERMANY AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR



- As the war ended in 1945, the allied leaders met in **Yalta** and **Potsdam**.
- They agreed to **divide Germany** and its capital **Berlin** into four zones, each run by one of the Allies, the USSR, the US, Britain and France.
- In 1948, the three western Allies joined their zones together, accepted Marshall Aid and began to develop a democratic German government.

Keywords

Summary

American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

Headings	Notes
1948–1949: GERMANY AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1949, this became the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany).• Stalin refused to let his zone accept Marshall Aid and imposed a communist dictatorship on it. It became the German Democratic Republic (East Germany).
1948–1949: THE BERLIN BLOCKADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Berlin was deep inside the Soviet zone. In 1945, it too was divided into four zones. Two million people lived in the zones which the western Allies controlled (West Berlin).• To get to West Berlin, the western Allies had to use road, rail and air transport which crossed Soviet-controlled territory.• In 1948, as tension rose between the two sides, Stalin closed all land routes from West Germany to West Berlin. He did not think the western allies could supply Berlin by air alone.• Truman decided to challenge Stalin's blockade. For 11 months, US aircraft carried food, fuel and other supplies to the people of West Berlin (the Berlin Airlift).• In 1949, Stalin gave in and allowed land transport to resume.
1949: THE KEY YEAR IN THE COLD WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As well as the Berlin blockade, a number of other developments made 1949 the crucial year in the Cold War.• China becomes communist<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the Second World War the Chinese joined the Allies against Japan, which occupied large parts of China.• When the war ended, Chinese nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek fought a civil war with the Chinese communists, led by Mao Zedong.• In 1949, the communists won. China became a communist state, the People's Republic of China.• Chiang's Chinese nationalists withdrew to the island of Taiwan and claimed they were the real government of China.• The Americans recognised this claim. For many years they refused to let communist China take China's place on the United Nations Security Council.
Keywords	Summary

American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

Headings	Notes
1949: THE KEY YEAR IN THE COLD WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Military Alliances: NATO<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Berlin Blockade, Stalin's treatment of Eastern Europe and communist victory in China encouraged the US, Canada and ten democratic countries in Europe to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).• It was an American-led military alliance that aimed to stop Soviet expansion in Europe.• The Soviet Union's atom bomb<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From 1945 to 1949, the US was the only country with an atom bomb. This gave it an advantage over the USSR. But in 1949, Soviet scientists exploded the USSR's own A-bomb. This equalised the relationship between them.• This began an arms race between the two superpowers.
MCCARTHYISM AND THE COLD WAR INSIDE AMERICA ANTI-COMMUNIST 'WITCH-HUNTS' IN AMERICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The start of the Cold War and communist expansion in Europe and Asia led to a 'red scare' in America.• People saw communist conspiracies everywhere. A Loyalty Program was set up to root out government workers suspected of communist sympathies.• In 1947, the House of Representatives set up the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). It searched out '<i>communist sympathisers</i>' especially in the film industry.• Artists and writers were called before it and asked about their involvement in left-wing activities.• The only way to escape censure was to denounce others. Some did; others did not and were blacklisted, making it hard for them to find work.• The panic increased in 1949 with the communist victory in China and the Soviet A-Bomb. Many believed that there were communist spies in the US government and several people were tried in sensational spy trials.• Republicans accused the Democrats of being '<i>soft on communism</i>' and Truman for '<i>losing China</i>'.• This anti-communist hysteria reached its peak between 1950 and 1953, under the leadership of Senator Joseph McCarthy. Because of this it is sometimes referred to as McCarthyism.
Keywords	Summary


American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

Headings	Notes
<p>JOSEPH MCCARTHY (1908–1957)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Born in Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy was first a Democrat, but joined the Republicans after he failed to be chosen as a Democratic candidate. In the war he had a desk job, but he won a Senate seat by lying about his war record.• In 1950, fearing he would not be re-elected, he launched an anti-communist witch-hunt using information leaked to him by journalists and his friend J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI.• He claimed that 57 people in the State Department (Foreign Ministry) were members of the Communist Party and were passing information to the Soviets. The Truman government, he said, knew this and did nothing.• None of this was accurate, but when Democrats protested he said this proved they were communist sympathisers. Some of those who opposed him lost their seats in the 1950 elections. That made others cautious about challenging him.• As chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Operations he was able to call civil servants before him, questioning them about past left-wing sympathies. He made it clear that the only way to show they were loyal to the US was to name others who might have been involved with them in the past.• At first many Americans believed McCarthy. His campaign, which was aimed mainly at Democrats, helped the Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower win the 1952 election.• Eisenhower disapproved of McCarthy, but dared not oppose him publicly.• In 1953, a TV documentary damaged McCarthy's credibility. Then he attacked the US army, and his investigations were televised. This exposed and discredited his bullying tactics. In 1954, the Senate censured him and ended his brief reign of terror. He died, of alcoholism, in 1957.• About 10,000 Americans were imprisoned or lost their jobs as a result of the McCarthy's witch-hunts.• McCarthyism damaged America's image as a free country and gave a propaganda victory to the Soviet Union.
<p>Keywords</p>	<p>Summary</p>

American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

Headings	Notes
THE RESULTS OF THE KOREAN WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• About 2.5 million people died, including over 30,000 American soldiers.• Concern about the war helped Eisenhower become President.• US spending on arms increased greatly.• The Americans became more involved in Asia, setting up another anti- communist alliance, the South-East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO).• They also developed the 'domino theory' which led to their involvement in Vietnam.
EISENHOWER AND KHRUSHCHEV	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After Stalin's death, the new Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev said he wanted 'peaceful co-existence' with the west.• That eased the tensions between the Americans and the Soviets.• Khrushchev visited America and met Eisenhower. This began the 'summit conferences', by which the leaders of the two superpowers kept in touch throughout the Cold War.
SUPERPOWER TENSIONS IN THE 1950S	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• But rivalry between the two sides remained and could sometimes erupt into a crisis.• Khrushchev<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He continued the arms race. At first it seemed the Soviets had gained the upper hand when they launched the first man-made earth satellite (sputnik) in 1957 and sent the first man into space (Yuri Gagarin) in 1961.• He also supported independence movements in Asia and Africa, hoping the newly independent countries would adopt communism.• His biggest coup was to get Fidel Castro to agree to set up Soviet missiles in Cuba.• Eisenhower<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He supported anti-communist regimes around the world, even when they were unsavoury dictatorships.• But when people rebelled against Soviet tyranny in East Germany in 1953 and Hungary in 1956 he did nothing to help them because they were already under Soviet control.• To counter Soviet success in space, he set up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958 and increased military spending.
Keywords	Summary

American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

Headings	Notes
<p>WAR BETWEEN THE VIETMINH AND THE FRENCH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They did this because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They believed Ho Chi Minh was a communist allied to Stalin and Mao Zedong. If he won, communist power would expand in southeast Asia, thus breaching their policy of containment. • They had developed the 'domino theory'. It said that if one country in Asia fell to the communists, were bound to fall too (like a row of dominoes). • Republicans accused Truman of 'losing China' and won the 1952 Presidential election as a result. No later President dared to 'lose' Vietnam.
<p>1954: DIEN BIEN PHU AND THE GENEVA ACCORDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giap used guerrilla tactics to wear down the French, and in 1954 he defeated a big French army at Dien Bien Phu. • This forced the French to make the Geneva Accords which divided Vietnam along the 17th parallel into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Vietnam, with Hanoi as its capital, under a communist regime headed by Ho Chi Minh • South Vietnam, with Saigon as its capital, under a capitalist regime led by Ngo Dinh Diem • France also recognised the independence of Cambodia and Laos • The Geneva Accords said there would be elections to unify Vietnam, but Diem refused to hold them, fearing he would lose. The Americans backed this decision.
<p>THE WAR RESUMES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1954 to 1959, Ho Chi Minh consolidated his grip on North Vietnam. He imposed collectivisation on the peasants and brutally suppressed resistance. • In 1957, Ho Chi Minh and Giap began their campaign to reunite Vietnam. They used South Vietnamese communists (Vietcong) and the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) to wage a guerrilla war against the South Vietnamese government. • Soldiers and supplies went to South Vietnam through Laos and Cambodia along the route known as the Ho Chi Minh trail.
 <p>The map illustrates the geographical context of the Vietnam War. It shows North Vietnam in the north, South Vietnam in the south, and the Ho Chi Minh Trail as a red line connecting the two. Neighboring countries like Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand are also shown, along with the Gulf of Tonkin and the Mekong Delta.</p>	
<p>Keywords</p>	<p>Summary</p>

American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

Headings	Notes
THE END OF DÉTENTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Détente ended in 1979 when:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President Carter's concern about human rights in the Soviet Union angered the Russians.• Republicans attacked SALT II as weakening America. To appease them, Carter approved a new missile system and increased military spending.• The Russians invaded Afghanistan.• Carter then imposed trade sanctions on the USSR, stopped the ratification (i.e. implementing) of SALT II and announced a US boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games in 1980.
RONALD REAGAN AND THE END OF DÉTENTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reagan, a former film star, saw the Cold War as a conflict between good and evil and was not interested in diplomacy.• He abandoned SALT II and constantly criticised the Soviet record on human rights.• He helped Islamic militants who were fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan and supported various right-wing dictators in South America.• He increased military spending by 50%, and in 1983 announced the Strategic Defence Initiative (nicknamed 'Star Wars') to build a counter missile system• The Soviets saw this as a return to the arms race, but realised they could not match US spending. They thought Reagan was a warmonger and they seriously feared a US attack.
MIKHAIL GORBACHEV AND THE END OF THE COLD WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1985, a younger man, Mikhail Gorbachev, became the leader of the Soviet Union. He wanted economic and political reform, but to do so he needed to improve relations with the US.• Meetings between Reagan and Gorbachev led to the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces in 1987. Both sides eliminated many missiles.• Gorbachev's reforms in the USSR encouraged people in the communist countries of Eastern Europe to demand democracy.• In 1989, Gorbachev made it clear that the Soviets would not send in tanks to support the communist governments there.• Starting in Hungary, one communist government after another collapsed. In November 1989, the East Germans opened the Berlin Wall, thus symbolically ending the Cold War.• In 1991 the Soviet Union itself collapsed.
Keywords	Summary

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Headings	Notes
EXAM QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which posed the greater threat to US security, the Korean War or the Cuban Missile Crisis? Argue your case, referring to both. (HL 2023)• Which President had the more effective foreign policy, Truman or Johnson? Argue your case referring to both. (HL 2022 DP)• How effectively did US leaders deal with problems posed by two of the following: Korea; Cuba; Vietnam? (HL 2022)• [DBQ] How did US involvement in Vietnam affect the presidency of Lyndon Johnson? (HL 2020)• Why and how did the US become involved in war in Korea and/or Vietnam? (HL 2019)• What was the importance, for both countries, of US involvement in Vietnam? (HL 2018)• Who was the greater president, Truman or Johnson? Argue your case, referring to both in your answer. (HL 2016)• During the period 1945-1989, what was the importance for US foreign policy of one or more of the following: Berlin; Korea; Cuba? (HL 2015)• What were the strengths and weaknesses of Lyndon Johnson as a political leader? (HL 2014)• Which president was more successful in his handling of US foreign policy, Harry Truman or Lyndon Johnson? Argue your case, referring to both. (HL 2013)• How well did President Harry Truman or President Lyndon Johnson handle the challenges he faced? (HL 2012)• What part did one or more of the following play in US foreign policy: Korea; Cuba; SALT and Star Wars? (HL 2012)• Why did the US lose the Vietnam War and/or what was the significance of the Moon landing? (HL 2011)• What was the importance for US foreign policy of one or more of the following: Berlin; Korea; Cuba? (HL 2010)• What were the successes and failures of the presidency of Lyndon Johnson? (HL 2010)• [DBQ] Why was President Johnson unable to win the war in Vietnam? (HL 2008)• What were the significant developments in US foreign policy, 1973-1989? (HL 2007)• Which had the greater impact on the United States: involvement in Korea or involvement in Vietnam? Argue your case, referring to both. (HL 2006)• What were the successes and failures of the political career of Ronald Reagan? (HL 2006)

American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

Potsdam July 1945

1. Germany & Austria divided in 4 zones
2. Nazis to be tried for crimes
3. Transfer of land from Germany to Poland
4. Russian support against Japan
5. Successful atomic test
6. Atomic bomb raised tensions

Eastern Europe

1. Stalin worried about invasion
2. Establish buffer zone
3. USSR Communist regimes in East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania, Romania, Czechoslovakia
4. Yugoslavia also communist but outside the USSR influence

US response

1. Growing concern about spread of communism
2. Churchill – Iron Curtain speech
3. Increased support for French & Italian Communist Parties
4. Civil War in Greece – US send military supplies
5. Truman Doctrine
6. Marshall Plan

Truman Doctrine

1. March 1947 – Aid to Greece and Turkey
2. America 'would support free peoples who are resisting subjugation by armed minorities'
3. Policy of 'containment'
4. Direct military support for anti-communist governments around the world

Marshall Plan

1. Economic recovery in Europe key to stopping the spread of communism
2. Massive economic aid to Europe – particularly Germany
3. Stalin told Eastern Europe not to accept money.
4. German recovery triggered economic growth

Berlin Blockade

1. City divided in 4 zones
2. Deep in East Germany
3. Marshall Plan led to new currency – Deutschmark – triggered crisis
4. Stalin orders blockade of Berlin
5. Twenty mile air corridor
6. **Operation Vittles** – massive airlift
7. Blockade lasts 320 days
8. Stalin ends blockade – Berlin centre of Cold War

Results of Crisis

1. USA, Canada and most of Western Europe form NATO
2. Division of Germany now permanent – new West Germany and Russian controlled East Germany
3. Communist countries form Warsaw Pact in 1955 when West Germany joins NATO
4. Cold War now dominant – USA and USSR enemies – crisis could lead to war.

McCarthy Witch-hunts

1. 'Are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?'
2. Anti-Communist campaign
3. Federal Employee Loyalty Programme – root out communists among government employees
4. House Un-American Activities Committee
5. Hollywood – Charlie Chaplin, Paul Robeson and Arthur Miller
6. McCarthy prominence 1950 – Republicans used him to undermine Truman – supported by FBI
7. McCarthy discredited when he accused the army of harbouring communists

Korean War 1950-1953

1. Korea divided after WW2 – Russia controlled the North – USA controlled the South – 38th Parallel
2. North Korea invades in June 1950
3. North takes control of most of the country
4. After the 'loss' of China (Mao in 1949) Truman's view that loss of Korea would be a blow to US prestige
5. USA used the USSR boycott of the UN to condemn the North Korea invasion
6. A UN force (mostly from USA & UK) sent to Korea under General MacArthur
7. North Korean forces pushed almost to border with China
8. China intervenes and pushes back South
9. MacArthur criticises Truman and is sacked
10. Stalemate results – Stalin dies in 1953 and a DMZ established at 38th Parallel – 'containment' success
11. Massive increase in defence spending
12. Unpopular war and Truman does not stand for re-election

American Foreign Policy 1945–1989

Eisenhower

1. Elected President 1952
2. Stalin dies 1953 – replaced by Khrushchev
3. Hungarian Uprising 1956
4. US does not intervene
5. Hungary in USSR's 'sphere of influence'
6. Eisenhower pursues diplomacy – refuses to increase military spending

Divisions over Berlin

1. As West Germany prospered – East Germany remains poor
2. Thousands of Germans move to West Berlin
3. Khrushchev pressurises West to give up Berlin
4. Eisenhower refuses
5. Kennedy replaces Eisenhower in 1960
6. Vienna Summit June 1961 – Khrushchev tries to bully Kennedy
7. In effort to stop refugees East Germany builds 'Berlin Wall'
8. Eases crisis – becomes symbol for East-West divisions

Cuba

1. Castro's forces overthrow dictator Batista in 1959
2. Castro approaches USA for support – turns to USSR when rejected by USA
3. USA impose trade embargo
4. Kennedy assists anti-Castro Cubans
5. Bay of Pigs invasion
6. Castro declares Cuba 'socialist'

Cuban Missile Crisis

1. USSR secretly begins building missile bases in Cuba
2. CIA notice increase in Russian ships to Cuba
3. Spy planes take photos of missile bases
4. Kennedy decides to blockade Cuba
5. US forces placed on alert
6. Kennedy press conference to tell world about missiles in Cuba – says US will search all ships and turn back any with weapons
7. Calls on Khrushchev to stop 'provocative threat to world peace'
8. The World holds its breath – panic buying in USA
9. Khrushchev backs down and removes missiles

Vietnam War 1963-1968

1. Case Study – separate Handout
- ### Prague Spring 1968
1. Reforms introduced in Czechoslovakia by Dubcek
 2. Fearing change – USSR sends in tanks to remove Dubcek
 3. USA does nothing – sphere of influence
 4. Coup in Chile 1973 – overthrow of Socialist Government of Allende

Détente

1. Nixon and Brezhnev want to relax tensions
2. Arms race placing massive drain on resources (USSR)
3. Nixon wants to develop US-China relations
4. USSR and China fall out in 1955
5. 1969 – Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) – Helsinki
6. Nixon visits Moscow in 1972 to sign SALT 1
7. Détente politically popular in USA
8. Yom Kippur War in Oct 1973 causes tensions
9. Détente continues under President Ford
10. SALT 2 signed by President Carter in 1976

Decline of Détente

1. Criticism of Détente because of growing support for Communism in Africa
2. Carter considered weak
3. US increases military spending
4. USSR invades Afghanistan in 1979
5. Carter warns USSR to keep out of Middle-East oil-region
6. Carter Doctrine
7. Ratification of SALT 2 suspended
8. USA boycotts Moscow Olympics 1980

Ronald Reagan

1. Anti-communist crusader – elected 1980
2. 'evil empire'
3. Confront USSR from a position of strength
4. Renewal of Cold War – massive increase in military spending
5. Increased support for Reagan after Solidarity in Poland suppressed
6. USA funds anti-communist rebels and dictatorships in Central and South America
7. Star Wars – defensive shield – escalation of arms race
8. USSR in financial trouble – cannot compete

Fall of USSR

1. Gorbachev USSR leader 1985
2. Perestroika (restructuring)
3. Glasnost (openness)
4. Wanted improved relations – no money
5. Reagan wanted to be remembered for ending Cold War
6. Meeting in Reykjavik – leads to signing of INF Treaty in 1987
7. Demands for reforms in Eastern Europe grow
8. Communist regimes collapse like dominoes – fighting in Romania
9. Gorbachev tells Bush (elected 1988) USA not an 'enemy'
10. USSR disintegrates in 1991
11. Attempted coup fails - Yeltsin

LBJ and Vietnam War – Part 1

Vietnam After WWII

1. **Ho Chi Minh** has led communist resistance (the **Vietminh**) to France, Japan or the USA
2. USA distrusted European colonialism – opposed French regaining control after WWII
3. Policy changes when France becomes Cold War ally
4. Vietminh seize North Vietnam (**DRV**) after defeat of Japan - try to help comrades in south do same to France
5. French unable after WWII to fight guerrilla war – Vietminh gets help from communist China
6. USA sees issue in Cold War terms – **containment** - provide financial & military aid to France
7. By 1954 USA is paying 80% of French costs and sending increasing numbers of advisors

USA gets Involved

1. USA underestimates Vietminh resolve
2. French defeat at **Dien Bien Phu** (1954) sees them pull out of Vietnam
3. **Geneva Accords** splits country along 17th parallel
4. Division temporary pending all-Vietnam elections – USA stops this due to fear communists would win
5. USA tries to turn South Vietnam into another South Korea – prosperous, industrialised & anti-communist
6. Puppet ruler, **Ngo Dinh Diem**, deeply unpopular – favours Catholic minority, postpones land reform & embezzles \$millions of US aid
7. 1959 - Ho Chi Minh organises Southern Vietminh into a guerrilla army (**Vietcong**) which begins attacking South Vietnamese army (**ARVN**)

Military Advisors

11. JF Kennedy President 1961 – accepts containment – sends 400 Green Berets to help ARVN
2. Vietcong very elusive – supplied with men & materials along the **Ho Chi Minh trail** running to North Vietnam through Laos & Cambodia
3. 1963 – anti-Diem riots across Vietnam demanding unification
4. ARVN deals harshly with protestors (Buddhist monk sets himself alight) & US loses faith in Diem & has him murdered
5. Military government takes over – one of many – more instability in South Vietnam

Johnson Replaces Kennedy

1. By late 1963 there are 16,500 US military advisors in South Vietnam. He is assassinated in November 1963.2. LBJ continues policies & retains **Rusk** (State) & **McNamara** (Defence) both of whom are hardliners
3. Pulling out would damage US prestige & encourage spread of communism4. LBJ also wary of Republican opponents pouncing on any sign of weakness
5. Vietnam (“that raggedy-ass little fourth-rate country”) will divert funds from his **Great Society** programme, the “Beautiful Lady” will be ruined by the “Bitch” of a war

Gulf of Tonkin Incident

1. 1964 – **Gulf of Tonkin incident** provides excuse to send in ground troops
- USS Maddox** claims North Vietnamese torpedo boats fired on it
3. Some evidence suggesting incident was engineered to give opening to step up the war
4. US military superiority makes anything other than victory unthinkable5. **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution** passed by Congress – vague but wide powers granted to LBJ to take “all necessary steps” with no declaration of war – 85% approval ratings at this time6. US immediately begins bombing North Vietnam – encourages more volunteers into the Vietcong

USA Intervention

1. 1964 Presidential Election sees LBJ trounce his aggressive Republican candidate **Barry Goldwater**
2. Promises not to send “American boys 9,000 miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves”
3. 1965 – **Operation Rolling Thunder** – massive aerial bombardment to bomb North Vietnam “back to the stone age”
4. Last 3 years instead of the original 8 weeks, 12,000 raids per month by 1966 & more bombs dropped than on Germany, Italy & Japan combined during WWII
5. Flaws – North Vietnam fairly “stone age” already
 - Restrictions on hitting SAM sites for fear of killing Soviet technicians
 - nothing within 40km of Chinese border limits effectiveness6. ORT hands massive propaganda victory to Ho Chi Minh

LBJ and Vietnam War – Part 2

Ground Troops Arrive

1. 1965 – first ground troops arrive at **Da Nang** having been requested by **General Westmoreland** to protect the airbase
2. 200,000 troops by end of 1965, 500,000 by 1968 & 2.7m will have served in Vietnam by end of the war
3. Draft system seen as unfair, rich can dodge it by going to university/leaving the country
4. Most US troops working class Whites, Blacks and Hispanics
5. Leads to racial tensions in USA
6. Fighting conditions – jungle & guerrilla warfare, booby traps, heat, humidity & disease, tunnels, deliberate or accidental civilian deaths, herbicides & **napalm, fragging**, no clear goals, falling support at home, low morale, going AWOL, drug use

Opposition Grows

1. Unrestricted media access meant it had powerful influence on public opinion
- Slaughter beamed into homes on TV & prominent newspapers become more anti-war
3. Prominent figures oppose it – **Norman Mailer, Martin Luther King & Muhammad Ali**
4. Growing frustration of US troops results in atrocities like 1968 **My Lai massacre** – 347 men, women & children killed
5. Opposition at home growing earliest & fastest on University campuses – **teach-ins**, draft card burnings etc
6. Culminates in Kent State and Jackson State Massacre – 4 students shot and 9 wounded by National Guard in Ohio during anti-war protest – 2 more killed and 12 injured in Jackson
8. Four million students engage in university occupations and strikes in response

Tet Offensive

1. LBJ estimates 70 attempts at diplomatic solution – all end in failure due
2. January 1968 **Tet Offensive** is massive turning point – huge military defeat for Vietcong (70% of soldiers killed – 58,000)
3. But Vietcong had driven deep into South Vietnam, even attacking the US embassy in Saigon
4. **Walter Cronkite**'s “what the hell is going on?” speech leads LBJ to admit that if he had lost Cronkite he'd lost America
5. Johnson's approval rates plummet to 26%
6. Ever growing opposition, bad news & discontent within his own administration means LBJ decides not to run for re-election
7. 220,000 US troops killed or wounded under his presidency

Nixon

1. **Richard Nixon** takes over – policy of **Vietnamization** or strengthening ARVN to do most of fighting so that US can begin withdrawing its troops
2. 1969 – 1972 troops numbers from 543,000 to 69,000
3. Despite attempts to discredit them as “pro-communist” & “anti-American”, protests continue & highlight divisions in US society
4. Vietcong tries to capitalise on falling US troop levels & attacks in 1972 – ARVN much stronger now & pushes offensive back
5. Nixon presses advantage with **Operation Linebacker** – biggest bombing raid in history, 41,500 attacks on **Hanoi** & 6 other cities
6. These two factors weaken North Vietnam sufficiently to revive peace negotiations – **Paris Peace Accords** of 1973

US Withdrawl

1. US ceases all military activity & withdraws all personnel within 60 days,
2. North Vietnam ceases all military activity & releases all US PoWs
3. Nixon says it is “peace with honour”
4. North Vietnamese troops allowed remain in South – occupying 40% of the country
5. By 1975 South Vietnam has collapsed to the North & Ho Chi Minh's dream of united, communist Vietnam is realised
6. US = 58,000 dead, ARVN = 224,000 dead, Vietminh/Vietcong = 1,100,000 dead, Civilians = 1,500,000 dead

Results

1. Massive death & destruction
2. Huge cost of \$112 bn – could have been much better spent
3. Containment in ruins – Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia all communist
4. US military morale at lowest ebb & US wary of any international involvement for next 20 years
5. Very divisive domestically
6. Publication of leaked Pentagon Papers showing just how much LBJ's administration had misled the public
7. Lack of trust or respect for US governments
8. Conservatives who had voted Democrat now saw it as dominated by anti-war faction & voted Republican instead