

Moving Toward Conflict Guided Reading Questions

1. Describe French rule in Vietnam.
 - Since the late 1800s France had owned Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.
 - The Vietnamese people did not like being under French control – their freedom of speech and assembly were restricted.
 - Ho Chi Minh led a group (Vietminh) fighting for independence and was communist.
2. Describe the fighting between the French and Vietnam.
 - The US helps France in the fighting against the Vietminh -\$1 billion in aid to help defeat Ho.
 - The Vietminh controlled the North and was fighting to defeat the South.
3. What is Domino Theory?
 - Proposed by President Eisenhower – states that if country falls to communism, surrounding countries will fall as well.
4. What were the Geneva Accords?
 - When the Vietminh defeat the French (1954) a conference is set up.
 - Agreement – Vietnam is divided at 17th parallel, NV is communist, SV is not-communist, and both sides agree to free elections in two years.
5. Describe Diem's government in South Vietnam.
 - Led a corrupt government
 - Failed at land distribution
 - Restricted Buddhist practices
6. Who were the Viet Cong?
 - Lived in South but supported North Vietnam

- Carry out assassinations on officials in the Diem government.
 - Known for their guerilla tactics.
7. Describe the Ho Chi Ming Trail.
- Ran from North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia and it's how North supplied the Vietcong in the South.
8. Describe President Kennedy's approach to Vietnam.
- Did not want to appear to be weak on communism so he sends military advisors to train the South Vietnamese (by 1963, 16,000 Americans)
 - The US support a coup against Diem in 1963.
9. How did President Johnson expand the conflict in Vietnam?
- Johnson did not want to appear to be soft on communism and decided to continue US involvement in Vietnam.
10. What happened at the Gulf of Tonkin?
- Next to North Vietnam
 - In 1964, the *USS Maddox* engaged in fighting against the North Vietnamese.
 - The second time it happened the crew claimed they were being shot at but this was not true.
 - The US destroyer was in the area spying on North Vietnam.
11. What was the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution?
- Congress signs the resolution giving President Johnson the power to take military action without a formal declaration of war from Congress.
 - In 1965, Johnson orders the bombing of NV "Operation Rolling Thunder" and sends 50,000 troops to fight in the conflict.