

The End of the War and its Legacy

President Nixon and Vietnamization

- **Vietnamization** was the gradual plan to withdraw US troops from SV and give the fighting back to the South Vietnamese.
- In 1969, the first 25,000 troops came back.
- Nixon's plan to end the Vietnam War was called "**Peace with Honor**" which meant ending the war with dignity and respect.
- In order to end the war Nixon ordered the secret bombings of North Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos in order to really scare the enemy.
- Seeking to win support for his war policies, Richard Nixon appealed to what he called the **silent majority**—moderate, mainstream Americans who quietly supported the U.S. efforts in Vietnam.

The My Lai Massacre and the Bombing of Cambodia

- The **My Lai Massacre** takes place in 1968 in a village in northern South Vietnam.
- American troops kill about 200 innocent Vietnamese women, children, and elderly men after they find NO Vietcong in the village.
- 25 officers are charged but only the Lieutenant Calley is convicted of murder.
- In 1970, President Nixon ordered the invasion and bombing of neutral **Cambodia** because the NV were using the Ho Chi Ming trail to deliver supplies to the Vietcong
- Effects – rise in college protests – 1.5 million students in 1,200 campuses.

Violence on Campuses and the Pentagon Papers

- On May 4, 1970 National Guards killed 4 students at **Kent State University** in Ohio who were protesting the bombing of Cambodia.
- At **Jackson State** in Mississippi, 2 students are killed by the National Guards.
- In 1971, an employee of the Defense Department leaked the **Pentagon Papers**, 7,000 pages of classified documents demonstrating that the American government had lied to the public about the Vietnam War. Ex. President Johnson committed troops even when he said he wouldn't.



**John Filo's
Pulitzer Prize
winning
photograph of
Mary Ann Vecchio
kneeling over the
body of Jeffrey
Miller minutes
after he was
fatally shot by the
Ohio National
Bank**

America's Longest War Ends

- There's a final massive bombing on North Vietnam in 1972, 100,000 bombs are dropped.
- After calls to end the war grow bigger and on January 27, 1973 the US signs a peace agreement with North Vietnam.
- On March 29, 1973, the last combat troops left for home.
- In April 1975, the North Vietnamese captured the capital of South Vietnam Saigon.
- The entire country became communist.

The War Leaves a Painful Legacy

- 58,000 Americans died, 303,000 wounded
- Americans are more cautious of foreign affairs and distrust for the government grows.
- Vietnam 2 million casualties, left with unstable government and destruction.
- About 15% of the 3.3 million soldiers who served developed PTSD.
- Some became addicted to drugs and alcohol. Several thousand committed suicide.

- Vietnam – 400,000 SV are sent to reeducation camps, 1.5 million leave Vietnam, poor Vietnamese called “boat people” because they left in boats leave (50,000 die at sea)
- Because of the instability caused by the Vietnam War in Cambodia the **Khmer Rouge** killed about 1 million educated people in a Civil War and established a communist government in 1975 (lasted until 1979)
- The draft is abolished because of all the antiwar sentiment.
- **War Powers Act (1973)** – limited the power of the president. The president had to inform Congress within 48 hours of committing troops to a conflict and troops could only be sent for 90 days. Meant to limit power of president.
- Americans became distrustful of government because of all the lies.
- **26th Amendment (1971)** lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.