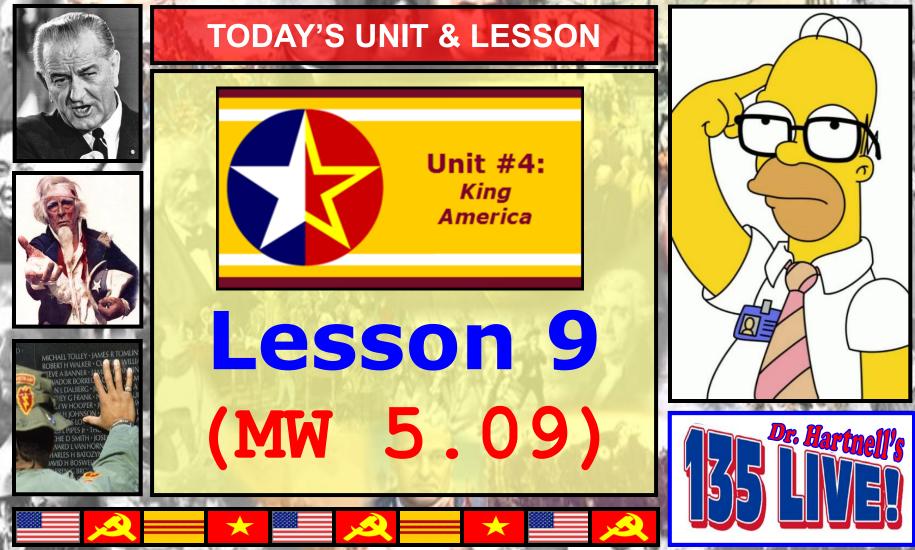


World on Ice









The Vietnam War is also called the Second Indochina War.

It was fought in Vietnam from 1955-1975.



It was fought between Communist North Vietnam and South Vietnam; South Vietnam was aided by the U.S.







The First Indochina War was fought from 1946-1954 and was a struggle for Vietnam's independence from France.

France lost.



The country stayed divided into North and South Vietnam along the 17th parallel.







The North came under the control of Vietnamese Communists who had opposed France and wanted a unified Communist Vietnam.



The South was controlled by non-Communist Vietnamese.

U.S. believed communism posed a threat in Asia.





The U.S. feared if Vietnam fell, communism would spread everywhere ("Domino Theory").

This got the U.S. involved in the Korean War (1950-1953).

This policy is also known as "containment".







During the 1940s, Truman sent aid to help France in Indochina.

When France lost Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, U.S. grew especially concerned and stepped up involvement.

From 1955-1961, Eisenhower sent economic aid to South Vietnam.







In 1960, the Communists and the Nationalists in South Vietnam formed the National Liberation Front (NLF), a.k.a. Viet Cong.

The NLF was organized to

challenge South Vietnam's

President Ngo Dinh Diem and

to foster unification.





JFK continued Ike's efforts by tripling U.S. aid to S. Vietnam; expanded number of military "advisers" from 700 to 16,000.

In 1963, JFK was assassinated and Lyndon Baines Johnson (a.k.a. LBJ) became President.

War became LBJ's "Waterloo".



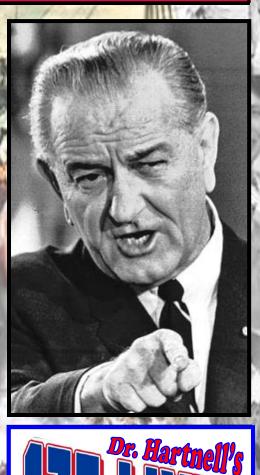




LBJ inherited problem of U.S. commitment to South Vietnam.

LBJ's dilemma was this:

If he increased U.S. military aid, he would have to divert funds from his "Great Society" domestic programs... and in so doing, he might prod China or U.S.S.R. into war.









If he withdrew aid, he risked being labeled "soft" on communism... but he also didn't want to be the first President to lose a war.

In the end, he enlarged the war.











After an allegedly unprovoked attack on U.S. warships in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964, LBJ authorized bombing raids on North Vietnam.

Congress passed the Gulf of

Tonkin Resolution that gave the

President power to use military

force in Vietnam.



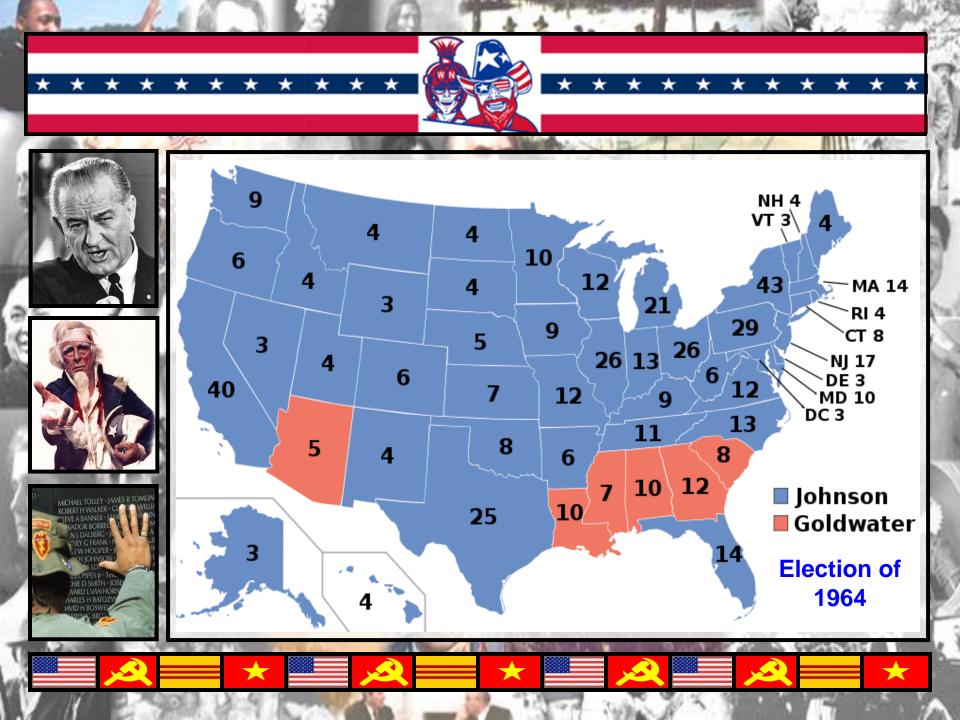




In 1965, after a landslide victory in the Election of 1964 (when voters endorsed his platform of domestic reform but peace abroad), LBJ again escalated U.S. involvement. VIETNAM Hanói Gulf of Tonkin South China Sea Dr. Hartnell's

By 1968, over 500,000 U.S. troops were in Vietnam.

The Cold War was "hot" again.





U.S. never declared war on North Vietnam nor made a total commitment to winning.

Vietnam remained a "limited war", one in which the U.S. refrained from employing *all* its military strength.

It is very difficult to win a war when you limit your troops.





Vietnam War (1955-1975) BATTLE Ap Bac January 2, Tien Giang, 1963 SV US/SV NV 205 total 57 total (US: 3 KIA, 8 WIA (18 KIA, SV: 86 KIA, 108 39 WIA) WIA) Viet Cong attack U.S. and SV

using guerilla warfare; shows a divided South Vietnam.











In November 1965, the 1st Cavalry Division fought one of the largest battles of the war in the la Drang Valley, inflicting a serious defeat on North Vietnamese forces.







Vietnam War (1955-1975) BATTLE Ia Drang Valley November Central 14-19, 1965 Highlands, SV US/SV NV 849 total (US: 237 KIA, 258 1,745 KIA WIA, 4 MIA SV: 350 losses) First battle between U.S. and North Vietnamese troops; NV changes tactics after defeat.









From then on both would fight at times of their choosing, hitting rapidly, with surprise if possible, and then withdrawing just as quickly to avoid the impact of American firepower.

By 1967, the ground war had reached a stalemate, which led to increasing the air war.









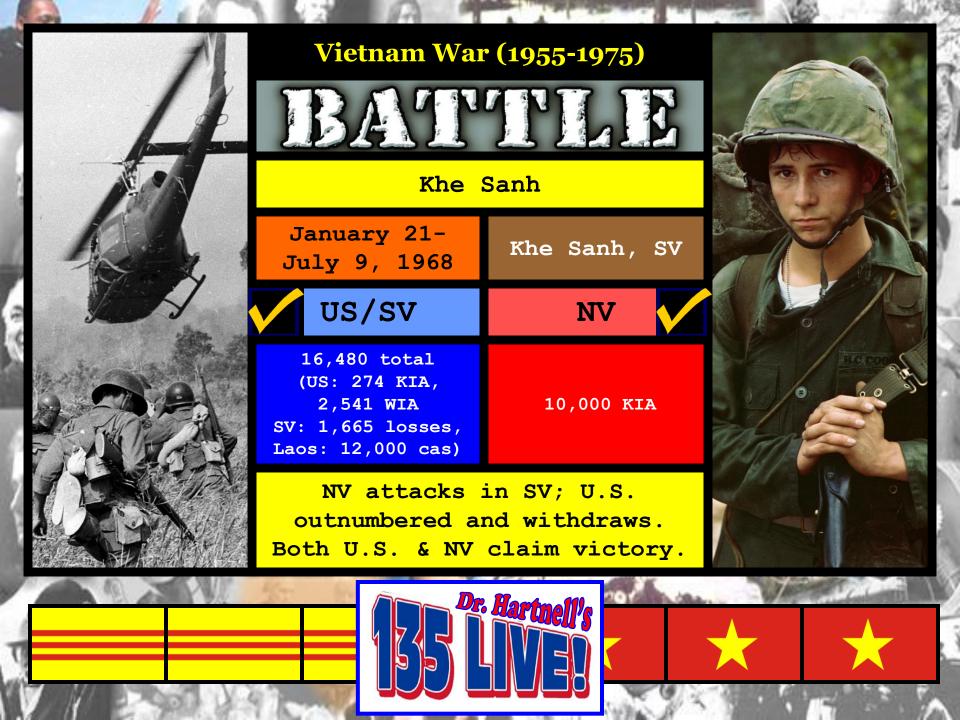
U.S. General William Westmoreland sought to inflict heavy losses and destroy North Vietnam's morale.

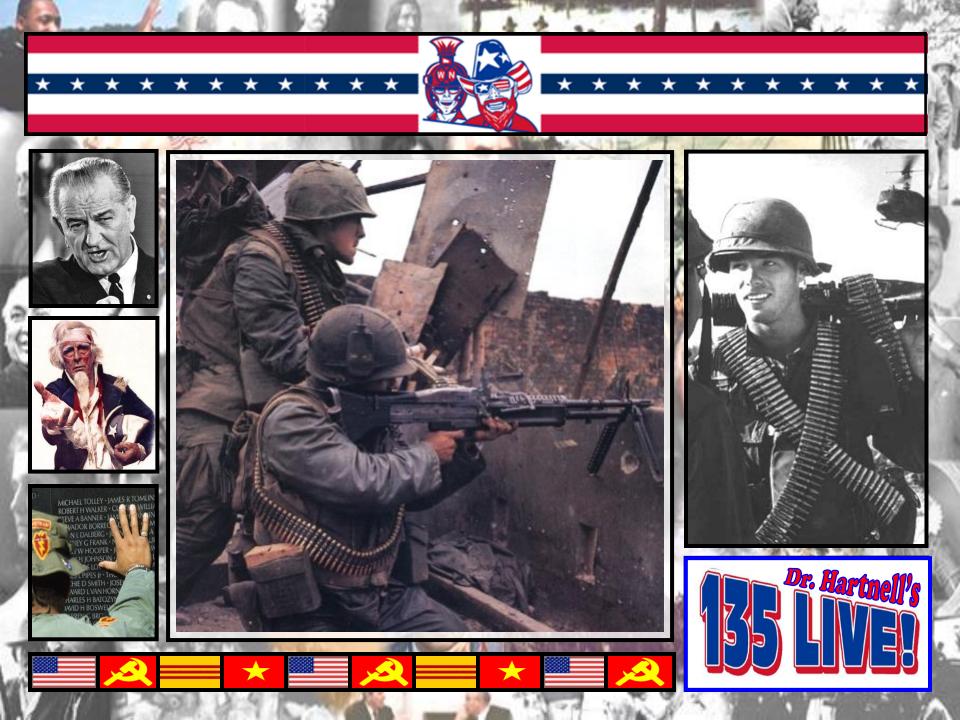
Agent Orange and Napalm (deforestation weapons) were used; fierce guerilla war was waged.



N. Vietnamese were tenacious.













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In January 1968, North Vietnam launched Tet Offensive.

It damaged U.S. forces and troop morale by reaching the American embassy in Saigon (South Vietnamese capital).

U.S. stopped Tet Offensive, but took heavy losses.









Proved to U.S. public that U.S. was NOT winning the war.

Americans couldn't see end; Anti-Vietnam War Movement had arisen in 1964 and 1965 as LBJ escalated the conflict.

Protests came in the form of marches, boycotts, rallies, etc.













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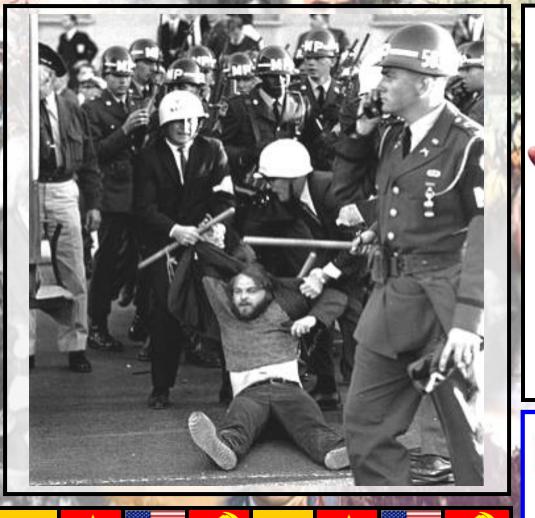








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VIETNAM WAR:

Most anti-war activists were white, middle class, educated.

Colleges were most important sites of anti-war activism.

In 1965, the University of Michigan held the first "teachin" where people gathered to discuss what they could do to change U.S. foreign policy.







Society divided into "Hawks" and "Doves"; demonstrations often ended in violence.

Early on, Civil Rights leaders were cautious about criticizing the war for fear of losing LBJ's support of Civil Rights.

Eventually, Malcolm X and MLK spoke out against war.







VIETNAM WAR:

My Lai Massacre in 1968 (300-500 unarmed civilians killed) turned many against war.









VIETNAM WAR:

In 1968, LBJ decided not to run for re-election.

He was still eligible since he took over for JFK past the halfway point of his term.

The war had taken its toll.











1. How was Vietnam divided? Who support which side?







2. Why did the U.S. get involved in the Vietnam War?







3. What (allegedly) happened in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964? How did Congress react?





QUESTION

4. The Anti-Vietnam War Movement grew stronger in 1964 and 1965. What did they do to protest the war? Who were these anti-war activists? What were "teach-ins"?







5. What was the significance of the following battles:

- a. Ap Bac
- b. Ia Drang Valley
 - c. Khe Sanh
 - d. Tet



