

# Vietnam #1

Ch. 29 1965-1969

# Quote #1

- "War is a continuation of diplomacy by other means."
- Prussian Military leader & strategist Karl von Clausewitz, often called the Father of Modern Warfare

## Quote #2

- “In war there is no substitute for victory.”
- General Douglas MacArthur, American general in WWII and the Korean War. He was removed from command by President Harry Truman

# Quote #3

- “All’s fair in love and war.”
- William Shakespeare, quote is often used as an excuse to cheat to get what people want

# Quote #4

- “War is to a man, what childbirth is to a woman.”
- Adolf Hitler

# Quote #5

- “Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime.”
- Ernest Hemingway, American author

# Quote #6

- “The essence of War is violence. Moderation in war is imbecility. Hit first. Hit hard. And hit anywhere.”
- John Arbuthnot Fisher, 1st Baron Fisher, British admiral and first sea lord of the Royal Navy during World War I.

# Quote #7

- “Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount.”
- General Omar Bradley, Five-Star General of WWII



# Quote #8

- “Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. The statesman who yields to war fever must realize that once the signal is given, he is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events.”
- Sir Winston Churchill

# Quote #9

- “War is a man’s business, not a woman’s.”
- Scarlett O’Hara, fictional character in the classic novel “Gone with the Wind”

# Quote #10

- “All wars are follies, very expensive and very mischievous ones. In my opinion, there never was a good war or a bad peace. When will mankind be convinced and agree to settle their difficulties by arbitration?”
- Benjamin Franklin

# What do you know about Vietnam and the American War in Vietnam?

- Time for Think/Pair/Share
- In your notes, write 10 things you know about Vietnam and the Vietnam War
- Then, share and compare with your neighbor for 2 minutes after you have written your own list

# Vietnam Facts



83 Million People  
Very Fertile  
Many Natural resources  
Hot & Wet Climate

# Why did we go to Vietnam?

- “Domino Theory” - if one nation falls to communism then their neighbors will fall next
- At first the US wanted to support the Vietnamese against communism and did so by supplying arms and money
- Gradually led to troops
- *USS Maddox* was sunk near Vietnam
- If the US pulled out right now, it would be embarrassed
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1XbciM-kss>

1965

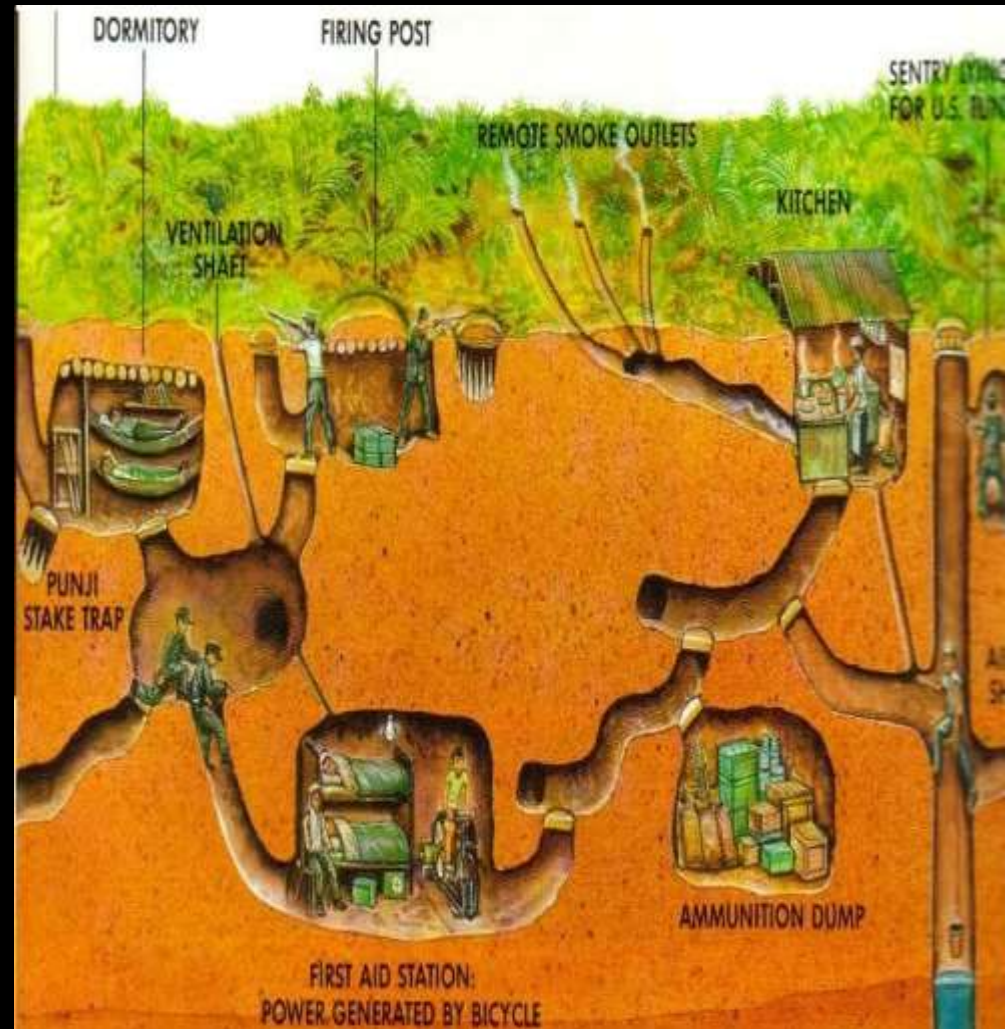
- President Johnson began to send troops to South Vietnam with Americas support (61%).
- By the end of 1965 U.S. sent more than 180,000 Americans by 1967 500,000 troops in Vietnam.





# Fighting in the Jungle

- Vietcong used the jungle to their advantage and guerilla war tactics. Hit and run attacks, moved in and out of the general population (enemy lived with civilian population.) Hard to distinguish.
- Women, young children posed as spy's and soldiers ready to attack.
- Vietcong tunnels allowed them to withstand airstrikes, have surprise launch attacks and then disappear quickly. Tunnels connected villages, people could live underground.





Can you spot the trap door?









Duong Thanh Phong

# “Tunnel Rats”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgLyKGz-h9g>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jNx4Gcm54c>

## Frustration

- Vietcong refused to surrender even after constant U.S. attack.
- In order to expose Vietcong tunnels and hideouts U.S. Planes dropped napalm (gasoline-based bomb) to set the jungle on fire. Agent Orange (leaf killing toxic chemical.) Goal to chase enemy out. Wounded civilians and ruined villages.
- Brutal warfare and no progress lead to frustration. Started fighting a war they did not support. ..lead to alcohol, marijuana and other drugs.
- Johnson thought the war would end quickly but it dragged on.





# Living Room War

- Number of troops increased and so did the cost. Inflation rate went up, tax increase.
- T.V. made Vietnam America's first "living room war." Combat footage was shown, quoting body counts, body bags, and credibility gap increased. **Television brought the brutality of war into the comfort of the living room. Vietnam was lost in the living rooms of America, not on the battlefields of Vietnam.**
- 1967 War protest skyrocket





- Most soldiers who were called into combat by the Selective Services System or draft. All males had to register with their local draft boards when they turned 18. In event of war males between 18-26 could be called for military services. Lottery. Medical and college students were excluded.
- First capsule drawn – September 14 001 = 1944-1950. Over 1 million drafted
- Continued 67'-70' until phased out. Gov accused 200,000 of offensive, imprisoned 4,000 and about 500,000 men fled “draft dodgers” to Canada.

## The Draft







- Groups at several colleges nation wide held organized protests against the war. Belief that the war was a civil war and the U.S. had no business being there.

## Protest

- Returning veterans, folk singers voiced opinions.
- Nations divides into two: Doves opposed the war and Hawks wanted greater military forces.
- By 67' 70% opposed the war and felt the middle class was suffering the most.
- 69' largest peaceful anti-war protest, 250,000



# End of the War 1968-1975 #2



# Tet Offensive

- Tet Offensive – Vietnamese New Year Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 1968. VC launched an overwhelming attack over 100 towns and cities in South Vietnam.
- N.V. attacked U.S. Embassy in Saigon. Killing 5 Americans. Major set back for south and U.S.





# Turmoil 1968

- 2 assassinations – Robert Kennedy and MLK.  
Americans continue to lose faith.
- Presidential Election of 68' – LBJ steps down, Nixon wins presidential election. Nixon promises to restore law and order. Appealed to the middle class who was tired of riots, protests and war.



# 1969

- Nixon announces withdrawal of troops.
- Vietnamization – gradual withdrawal of troops in order for S.V. to take on a more active combat role in the war.



# Violence On Campus

Kent State (Ohio) 70'–  
Massive student  
protest lead to the  
burning of the ROTC  
Building. National  
Guard was called.

National Guard fired on  
protesters wounded 9,  
killed 4.



# 1975

- North Vietnam launched full scale attack in the South. America supplied aide but no more troops. South surrenders. Communism takes over south and Vietnamese are tortured.





# Toll

- 58,000 Americans killed, around 303,000 wounded
- More than half were Vietnamese civilians
- North and South Vietnamese – 2 million killed
- Veterans return home- no parade, bands but negativity and hostility.
- 15% of soldiers PTSD.
- Divided the nation. Many returning veterans faced negative reactions from both opponents of the war (who viewed them as having killed innocent civilians) and its supporters (who saw them as having lost the war), along with physical damage including the effects of exposure to the harmful chemical herbicide Agent Orange

