



What were the causes and effects of the Vietnam War?

Section 1 The War Begins

- Ho Chi Minh and the Vietminh fought for Vietnam's independence from France.
- After the Vietminh defeated the French at Dienbienphu in 1954, the Geneva Accords divided Vietnam.
- The United States opposed Ho's Communist government and its attempts to take over South Vietnam.

Section 2 American Involvement Grows

- President Johnson sent half a million U.S. combat soldiers to South Vietnam, citing the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution as his authority.
- The U.S. role in the war caused sharp divisions among Americans.
- The Tet offensive in 1968 shocked Americans and undercut support for the war.

Section 3 The War Ends

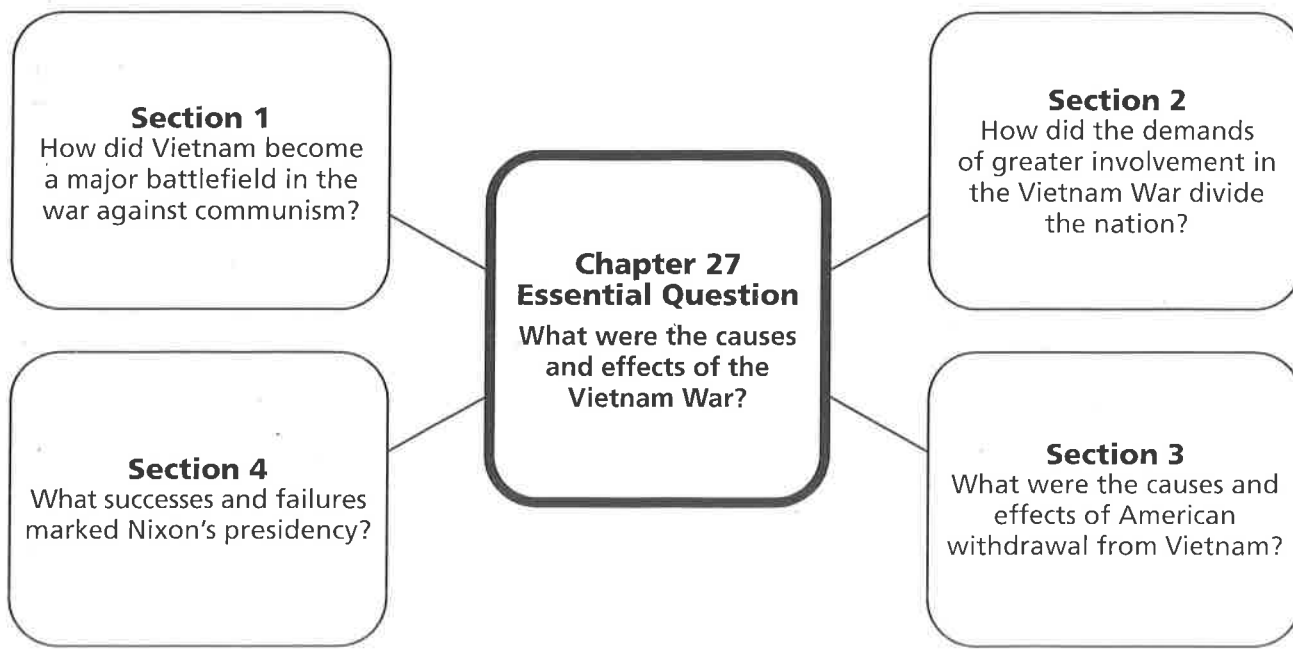
- With Democrats divided over the war, Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 and began a policy of Vietnamization.
- The Paris Peace Accords of 1973 led to the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam.
- The war between the Vietnamese continued until South Vietnam was forced under Communist rule in 1975.

Section 4 A Time of Uncertainty

- U.S. astronauts landed on the moon in 1969.
- Nixon's visit to China and a treaty with the Soviet Union eased Cold War tensions.
- Nixon resigned over the Watergate affair, after being forced to reveal evidence that he had conspired to conceal crimes.
- Nixon's successor, Gerald Ford, granted him a pardon.

Exploring the Essential Question

Use the online study guide to explore the essential question.



CHAPTER 27 | Review and Assessment

Key Terms

Read each sentence below. If the sentence is true, write YES. If the sentence is not true, write NO and explain why.

1. **Hawks** were more likely to take part in antiwar demonstrations than were **doves**.
2. As part of his Vietnamization program, President Nixon began to **escalate** U.S. military involvement in Vietnam.
3. **Guerrillas** are people who oppose a government by holding demonstrations.
4. **Conscientious objectors** believe it is morally wrong to go to war.
5. According to the **domino theory**, if the United States sent troops to Vietnam to fight the Communists, other countries would then send troops to help.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

6. (a) **Describe** What was the South Vietnamese government like under President Diem? What was it like after the fall of Diem?
(b) **Apply Information** How did the nature of the South Vietnamese government hamper the fighting of the war?
7. (a) **Summarize** What was the Tet Offensive?
(b) **Apply Information** How did the events of the Tet Offensive affect the popularity of President Johnson? Explain.
8. (a) **Identify** What was Nixon's policy of Vietnamization?
(b) **Draw Conclusions** How effective was Vietnamization in achieving President Nixon's goal of "peace with honor"?
9. (a) **Classify** Make a table listing the strengths and weaknesses of the American–South Vietnamese side in the Vietnam War.
(b) **Compare** Make a similar table showing the strengths and weaknesses of the Communist side.
(c) **Evaluate Information** Based on an analysis of the information in your tables, why did the Communists eventually succeed?

10. (a) **Describe** What action did President Gerald Ford take to try to restore confidence in the nation's leaders?

(b) **Clarify Problems** How did his action create new problems for his presidency?

Reading Skill

11. **Ask Questions** Ask a useful question about what you have read in this chapter. Remember, when possible, to ask questions that examine the text or require learning beyond the text.

Writing

12. **Write two paragraphs giving an eyewitness view of an event covered in this chapter. Your description should:**

- identify the eyewitness and the event discussed;
- indicate why the eyewitness is there;
- include details appropriate to the time, place, or circumstances of the event;
- include the eyewitness's description of and response to the event.

13. **Write a Dialogue:**

A Vietnam veteran meets Maya Lin at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Think about the veteran's point of view as a soldier having fought in Vietnam. Then, consider Lin's viewpoint as an artist. Write a conversation the two might have about the memorial.

Skills for Life

Synthesize Information

Study the excerpt and photograph in Section 3, Reading Primary Sources, "A Nurse Reflects." Then, answer the following questions.

14. Who is the author of the primary source?
15. Compare the photograph and the source. What does each reflect about the role of nurses in the Vietnam War?
16. Based on the photograph and the primary source, what can you conclude about women's roles in the Vietnam War?

Test Yourself

- The killing of four students by National Guardsmen at Kent State University came after which of these events?
 - the North Vietnamese attack on American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin
 - the Tet offensive
 - the U.S. attack on North Vietnamese bases in Cambodia
 - the fall of Saigon to North Vietnamese forces
- One foreign policy change of Richard Nixon's term as President was
 - important summit meetings with leaders of Eastern European nations.
 - the start of better relations with the People's Republic of China.
 - the start of better relations with Cuba.
 - the signing of nuclear arms agreements with Korea.

Refer to the quotation below to answer Question 3.

"We are pursuing our policy . . . on the grounds that a stable peace . . . is difficult to envisage [view] if 800 million people are excluded from a dialogue with the most powerful nation in the world."

- The reasons for which event are explained in the quotation above?
 - the Geneva Accords after the French defeat at Dienbienphu
 - the Paris Peace Accords that led to the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam
 - Nixon's meeting in China with Mao Zedong in 1972
 - the signing of the SALT agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union

Document-Based Questions

Task: Look at Documents 1 and 2, and answer their accompanying questions. Then, use the documents and your knowledge of history to complete this writing assignment:

Write an essay describing the effects of the Vietnam War.

Document 1: Thousands of Americans were killed in combat during the Vietnam War. *How does the graph below reflect the pattern of U.S. involvement in Vietnam?*

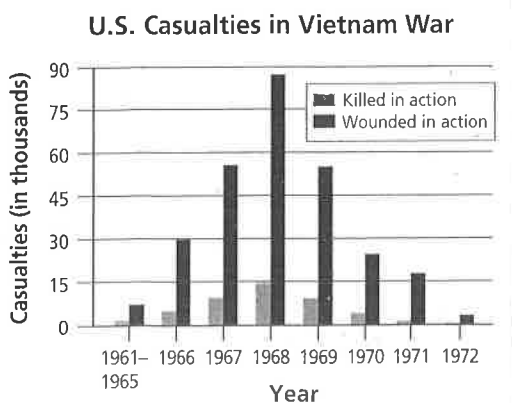
Document 2: In a short essay, Mike Murphy, a Vietnam veteran, describes his experience. *How does Murphy view his Vietnam service? Why?*

"In 1987, I planned a trip to Washington, D.C. I told [my wife] . . . I wanted to see the Museums but the real reason was the Wall. . . . I wanted to see it, . . . but I was also afraid to see it.

On the second day [my wife] asked me where the Vietnam Memorial was; I tell her. . . . As we walk toward the Wall I fall silent, . . . my heart is pounding. . . .

Then I saw the Wall. Black granite half buried in the ground. Half buried like the war, . . . half hidden like the conscience of the country. The tears flowed, I couldn't stop them. . . .

I close my eyes and I am back . . . in Vietnam. I can see it, smell it, touch it and hear it. I quickly open my eyes and I see the Wall. So many names. . . . I close my eyes and let Vietnam flow over me. . . . I cry for the ones that I had known, and for the ones that I did not know. We were all brothers. We went to a land that hated us and came home to a land that hated us. It wasn't supposed to be like that."



Source: National Archives and Records Administration