

The Vietnam War

**I. Colonial Struggle to
International War**

II. 1954 Geneva Conference

**III. Superpower Involvement and
the Widening of the War**

Ho Chi Minh-Leader, Vietnamese Independence Movement



Landscape of Vietnam



Peasant Culture of Vietnam



Viet Cong Soldiers: Colonial War Against France: 1940-1954



Geneva Conference of 1954

- 1. Gathers world powers to discuss future of Vietnam after French defeat.
Representatives from U.S.,USSR, China,
French, British, Vietnam**

Geneva Conference of 1954

cont...

2. Agree to temporarily divide Vietnam into North and South:

- North-Viet Cong & Ho Chi Minh-Soviet and Chinese backed.**
- South-General Diem and South Vietnamese Army-U.S. backed.**

Geneva Conference of 1954

cont...

- 3. Agree to hold fair and free elections in 1956 for a united Vietnam.**

U.S. Cold War Perspective: Domino Theory and Vietnam



Vietnam War in Global Perspective

- 1. North Vietnam: (Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Regular Army) Communist, led by Ho Chi Minh and General Giap. Backed by USSR and China.**
- 2. South Vietnam: (South Vietnamese Army) Led by Diem and Military. Backed by U.S.**

Opposing Interpretations of the Vietnam War

Pro-War

- 1. War against communism.**
- 2. U.S provoked.**
- 3. Show world can militarily stop communism**

Anti-War

- 1. Civil war and nationalism**
- 2. U.S. no right to intervene**
- 3. Military-industrial might**

U.S. Army Advisors in Vietnam, 1956-1964



Vietnam War



Vietnam War

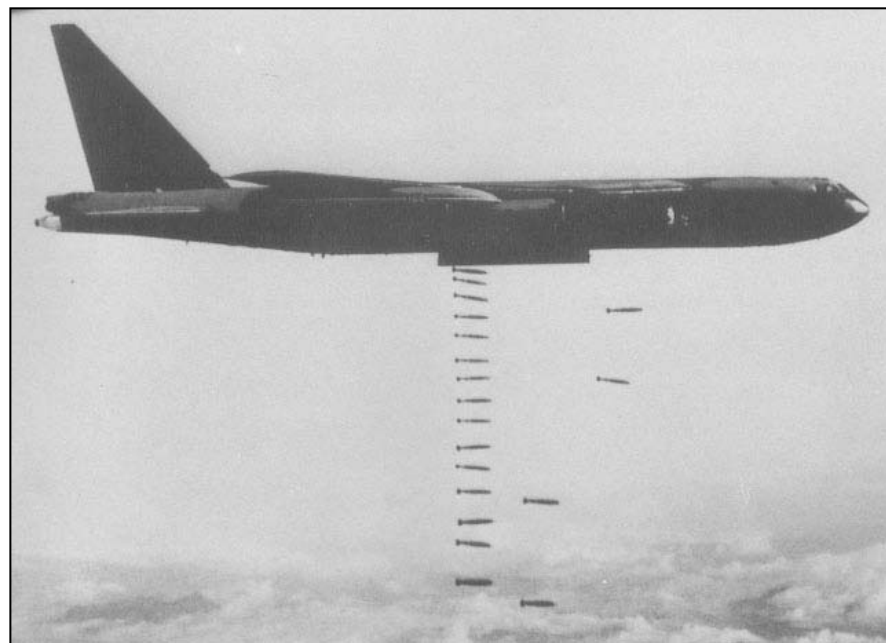


Vietnam War



Escalation of the War 1964-1968

- **1964-Tonkin Gulf Resolution. U.S to send soldiers and supplies to “retaliate” against North Vietnamese “aggression”**
- **1965-Beginning of massive buildup of U.S. forces in Vietnam.**



Escalation of the War (cont.)

- 1965-1966- U.S. Selective Service or “the draft”.
- 1965-184,000 U.S soldiers in Vietnam
- 1968-500,000 U.S soldiers in Vietnam



1965: Divisions over the War

U.S. Policy Supporters

- War to stop NV communist aggression.
- Defend independent South Vietnam.

U.S. Policy Opponents

- Students, professors and intellectuals worldwide question U.S. motives.
- Internal civil war in Vietnam
- Ho Chi Minh and NLF represented the “people” of Vietnam.

International Anti-War Movement

- **Emerged within college campuses**
- **U.S. initiated the anti-war movement in 1965 with “teach ins” on campus. Spread to other campuses.**
- **International dimensions-Focused counterculture, New Left and youth dissatisfaction on one issue.**

Country Joe and the Fish

“I Feel Like I’m Fixin to Die Rag”

- **Yeah, come on all of you, big strong men,
Uncle Sam needs your help again.
He's got himself in a terrible jam
Way down yonder in Vietnam
So put down your books and pick up a gun,
We're gonna have a whole lotta fun.**
- **And it's one, two, three,
What are we fighting for ?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn,
Next stop is Vietnam;
And it's five, six, seven,
Open up the pearly gates,
Well there ain't no time to wonder why,
Whoopee! we're all gonna die.**
- **Well, come on generals, let's move fast;
Your big chance has come at last.
Gotta go out and get those reds —
The only good commie is the one who's dead
And you know that peace can only be won
When we've blown 'em all to kingdom come.**
- **And it's one, two, three,
What are we fighting for ?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn,
Next stop is Vietnam;
And it's five, six, seven,
Open up the pearly gates,
Well there ain't no time to wonder why
Whoopee! we're all gonna die.**
- **Huh!**
- **Well, come on Wall Street, don't move slow,**

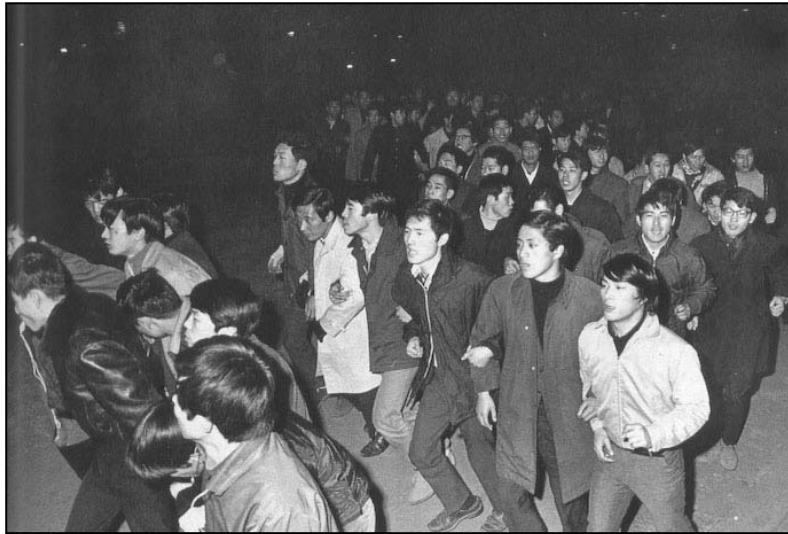
- **Why man, this is war au-go-go.
There's plenty good money to be made
By supplying the Army with the tools of the trade,
Just hope and pray that if they drop the bomb,
They drop it on the Viet Cong.**
- **And it's one, two, three,
What are we fighting for ?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn,
Next stop is Vietnam.
And it's five, six, seven,
Open up the pearly gates,
Well there ain't no time to wonder why
Whoopee! we're all gonna die.**
- **Well, come on mothers throughout the land,
Pack your boys off to Vietnam.
Come on fathers, don't hesitate,
Send 'em off before it's too late.
Be the first one on your block
To have your boy come home in a box.**
- **And it's one, two, three
What are we fighting for ?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn,
Next stop is Vietnam.
And it's five, six, seven,
Open up the pearly gates,
Well there ain't no time to wonder why,
Whoopee! we're all gonna die.**

International Protest Movements

- **International SDS forums on the war.**
- **Student protests in Japan, England, Ireland, France, Germany, Mexico City, United States and many other places.**
- **Leads to violent confrontation with police and riot squads**



Anti-Vietnam Protests in Japan



Anti-Vietnam Protests in Japan



Anti-Vietnam Protests in the U.S.



Anti-Vietnam Protests in London

