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
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.
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

2. South Vietnam: (South Vietnamese Army) Led by Diem and Military. Backed by U.S.
## Opposing Interpretations of the Vietnam War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro-War</th>
<th>Anti-War</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. War against communism.</td>
<td>1. Civil war and nationalism</td>
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<td>2. U.S provoked.</td>
<td>2. U.S. no right to intervene</td>
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<td>3. Show world can militarily stop communism</td>
<td>3. Military-industrial might</td>
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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”
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.
“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.

- 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 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