

AMERICAN HISTORY

THE VIETNAM WAR

Name: _____

Geography and Combatants of the War



Background of the Vietnam War

- Vietnam had previously been known as “ _____ ” because it was a colony of _____.
- After WWII, Communist leader _____ led a rebellion against the French to try and help his country become independent.
- Ho Chi Minh had actually studied the _____ Revolution and was inspired by the Declaration of Independence.
- He had attempted to gain American support for an independence movement and even had the support of _____ during WWII.
- Unfortunately, Ho Chi Minh had also studied and was inspired by _____ writings.
- Roosevelt’s death and the beginning of the _____ after WWII meant that he would not receive American support.
- Ho Chi Minh began a revolutionary struggle against French forces for _____.
- Vice President _____ had urged President Eisenhower to send American forces in right away to help the French and stop the spread of communism.
- Eisenhower _____. He had been a five star general, and was wary about sending more American troops to fight and die in a complex war.
- Still, Eisenhower was first to propose the so-called “ _____ ” – that the fall of one country in Asia to communism would surely lead to another, and then another – like a chain of dominos.
- He sent a handful of American military _____ as well as aid to help the non-communist south.
- In 1954, Ho Chi Minh’s communist forces – the _____ – finally defeated French colonial forces at the battle of Dien Bien Phu.
- Soon after, the 1954 _____ divided Vietnam into two parts along the 17th Parallel. The north fell under communist control, while the south remained free.
- Under the agreement of the 1954 Geneva Conference, the South part of Vietnam was supposed to allow free elections so the people could decide whether or not to unify with the communist north.
- Fearing that he would lose power, however, the leader of South Vietnam Ngo Dinh Diem rigged the elections so he would win.