



Vietnam

Outcome: Americanization

Americanization

1. Gulf of Tonkin Incident

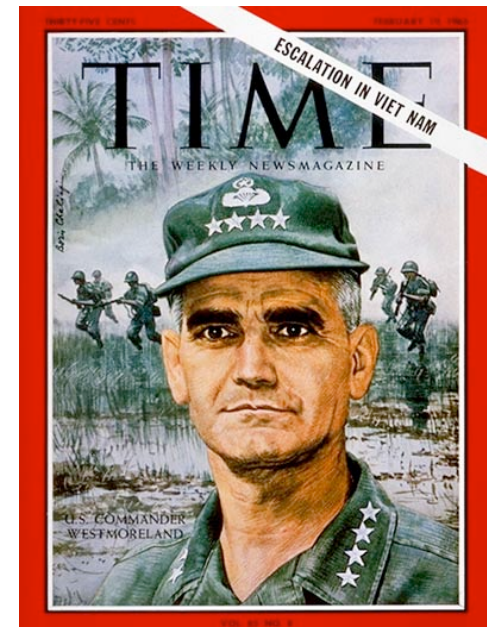
- a. [Johnson](#) was not soft on Communism
- b. U.S. attacked in the Gulf of Tonkin; allowed President Johnson to send more troops to Vietnam [without a declaration](#) of war
- c. Was it a [hoax](#)?



Americanization

2. Escalation

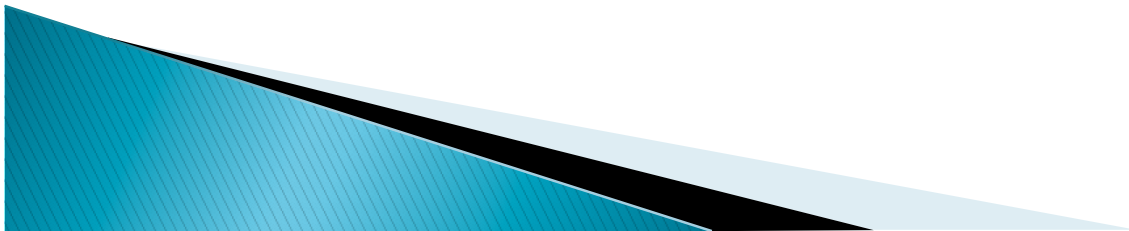
- a. U.S. troops were led by Gen. William [Westmoreland](#)
- b. Due to the draft, U.S. troops numbered [540,000](#) by 1968
- c. Draft was seen as [unfair](#) to blacks and poor

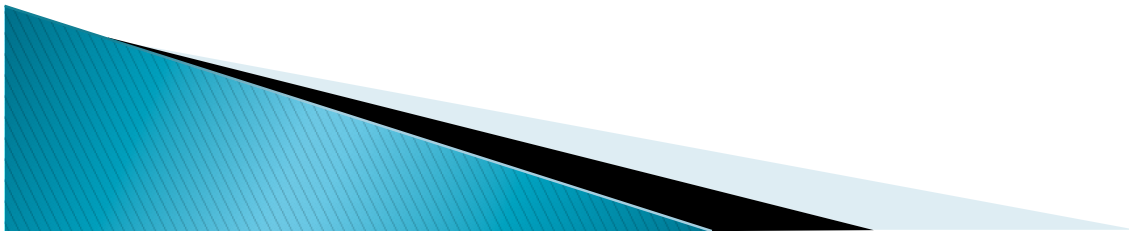


Americanization

3. The Fighting

- a. Fighting was very difficult due to:
 - i. Intense heat
 - ii. Dense jungles with razor sharp leaves
 - iii. Invisible enemy: Vietcong blended in with South Vietnamese
 - iv. Vietcong used elaborate tunnels systems to hide and move troops
 - v. U.S. soldiers torched whole villages and destroy food supplies so as to remove supplies that could be used by VC
 - vi. U.S. soldiers often became addicted to drugs
 - vii. Some U.S. soldiers killed innocent civilians due to uncertainty of enemy whereabouts





Vietcong Tunnels



Americanization



4. 1968

- a. U.S. low point --> Public support began shifting against the war due to:
 - i. Intense media coverage (TV)
 - ii. Tet Offensive: Simultaneous **NVA** attack on nearly every major S.V. city; public opinion questioned were we winning or not?
 - iii. Skyrocketing U.S. casualties (14,000+ died in 1968 alone)
 - iv. President Johnson dropped out of election race on March 31
 - v. My Lai Massacre: **Mass murder** of 300–500 innocent unarmed citizens in South Vietnam; Ordered by Lt. Calley; not publicized until 1969 and made many wonder if U.S. was the “bad guys”

Lt. William Calley



Americanization

5. Election of Richard Nixon

- a. Nixon is elected in 1968 after Johnson decides not to run for re-election
- b. Nixon promises troop with-drawl and to turn war back over to S.V.
- c. This begins the Vietnamization phase of the conflict

