

Vietnam Conflict

Outcomes: Vietnamization & End of U.S. Involvement



Vietnamization & End of U.S. Involvement

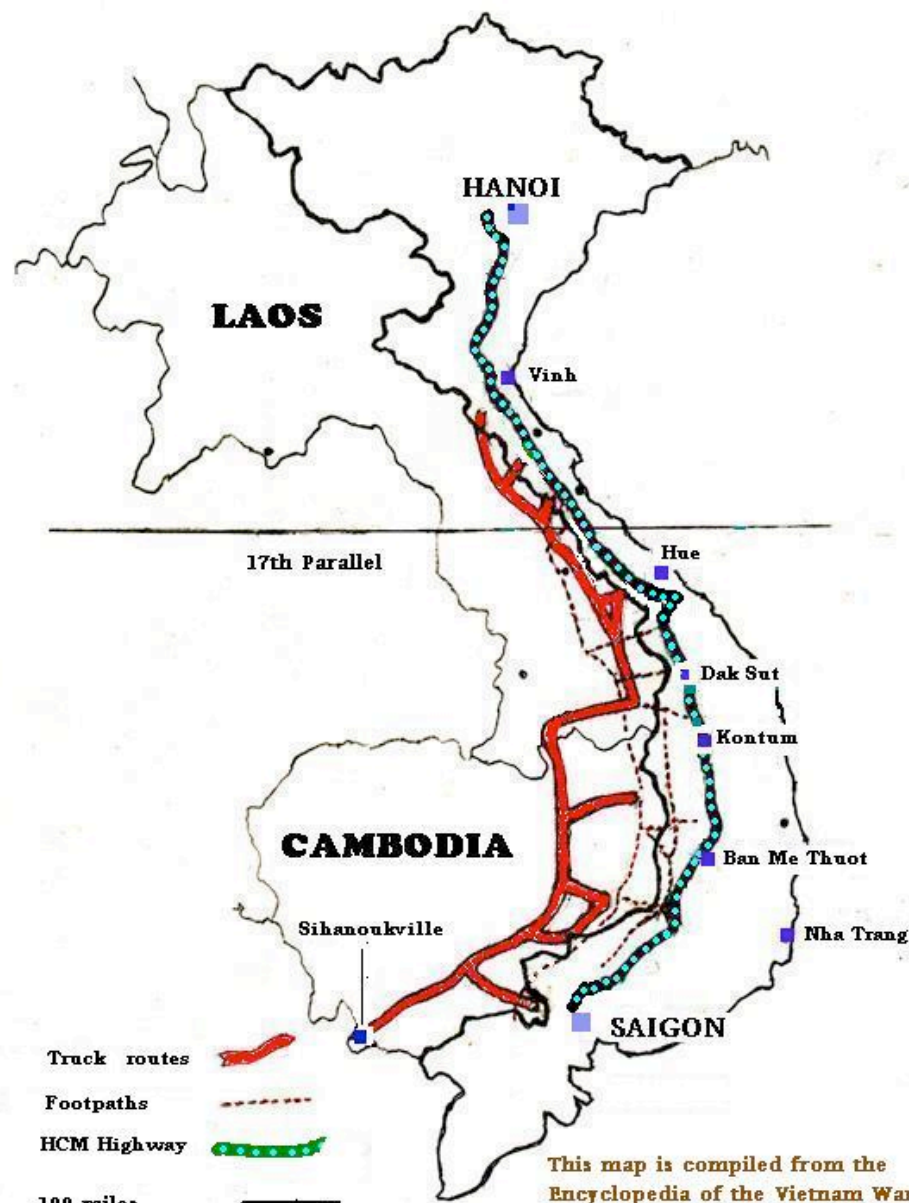
1. Nixon's Election
 - a. Nixon narrowly defeats Hubert Humphrey of MN and George Wallace of Alabama
 - b. Nixon promised to bring troops home
 - c. Vietnamization: With-drawl of U.S. troops so that S.V. can fight own war








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2. Draft Lottery

- a. The draft had been seen as **unfair** to blacks and the poor
- b. New draft lottery ended racial & economic discrimination



- Truck routes 
- Footpaths 
- HCM Highway 
- 100 miles 
- 100 kilometers 

This map is compiled from the Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War by Spencer C. Tucker, ABC-CLIO, 1998, and from Hanoi press agencies.

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3. Nixon's Secret War

- a. Nixon widened the war into Laos & Cambodia by bombing the Ho Chi Minh trail
- b. **Goal:** to cut off supplies to VC & bomb NVA camps there
- c. **Impact:** Mass protests like at Kent State U. in Ohio (4 students dead)



Kent State



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4. Paris Peace Talks

- a. 1972 Nixon was re-elected & a cease-fire was negotiated (“Peace with honor”)
- b. January 27, 1973 Paris Peace talks concluded calling for an end to U.S. involvement and the release of Prisoners of War (POWs)
- c. South Vietnam “must fight its own fight now”



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5. Dominos Fall & Impact

- a. [Saigon fell](#) to the NVA (Communists) on April 30, 1975
- b. Last Americans [fled](#) Vietnam
- c. Saigon is renamed [Ho Chi Minh](#) City
- d. [58,000+](#) U.S. deaths; justified?



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6. Long Term Consequences/Effects
 - a. Physical & Psychological damage to soldiers
 - i. 1971- 4x as many were treated for drug abuse as combat wounds
 - ii. Agent orange is linked to cancer & birth defects
 - iii. Homecomings were made more difficult due to:
 1. Lonely returns --> 395 day tour; no hero's welcome
 2. A short transition from soldier to civilian status
 3. Some soldiers experienced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSS) and survivor's guilt

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b. Cynicism toward Government & Military Leaders

- i. Gulf of Tonkin Affair (Was it a hoax or an excuse??)
- ii. Lies & Cover-Up led to a widening credibility gap w/the public
 1. Public received mixed messages on the war's progress
 2. Tet Offensive
 3. My Lai Massacre
- iii. Bombing of Cambodia (broken promise)



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- c. Fear of Future Military Involvement (Vietnam Syndrome)
 - i. We realized our nation's vulnerability (moral defeat)
 - ii. The U.S. “Didn't win, but didn't lose”
 - iii. Congress passed the War Powers Resolution (Act) of 1973 which stated that the President may send troops to hostile areas, but must:
 1. Notify Congress within 48 hours
 2. Return troops within 90 days if no declaration of war is passed

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d. Attempts at Healing:

- i. 1971: The [26th](#) Amend. was passed lowering the voting age to 18
- ii. 1973: The [draft](#) was abolished
- iii. 1977: President [Carter](#) granted amnesty to 10,000+ draft dodgers
- iv. 1982: The [Vietnam Wall](#) (Memorial) was completed in Wash. D.C.
- v. 1995: President [Clinton](#) normalized U.S. relations with [communist](#) Vietnam



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- Result: Vietnam proved the U.S. military was not invincible. Our Containment goal failed and public opinion on U.S. involvement around the globe has been forever impacted. Was it our responsibility to go fight in Vietnam? The invasion of Iraq is very similar today.