

1. Nixon's War

1	Who was Nixon?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Johnson decided not to re-run for election in 1968 The Republican candidate, Nixon, became president of the USA in 1969
2	What were his views on the Vietnam War?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nixon promised an 'honourable peace' to end the war in Vietnam He also claimed to have a 'secret plan' to end fighting
3	What problems did Nixon face?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> He could not win the Vietnam War using normal tactics It was too much of a risk to use nuclear weapons with North Vietnam being backed by China and the USSR If troops were withdrawn straight away communism would spread There was a growing anti-war movement in the USA

3. Why and how did the US attack Laos and Cambodia?

1	Laos	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> February 1971, the ARVN attacked North Vietnamese troops in Laos, supported by US helicopters and bombers The attack failed and communists in Laos gained more support
2	Cambodia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In March 1969, Nixon authorised the secret bombing of Cambodia In April 1970, Nixon ordered the invasion of Cambodia with troops The Khmer Rouge gained more support because of US tactics

2. Nixon's Strategies

1	What was Vietnamisation?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nixon announced this policy on 3rd November 1969 Money would be sent to continue to equip the ARVN against the Vietcong The ARVN would be trained to a high standard to continue fighting without US troops The US soldiers could then return home
2	Pressuring S. Vietnam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nixon pressurized South Vietnam's leaders to negotiate with North Vietnam
3	Negotiation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nixon visited the USSR in 1970 to discuss reduction of nuclear weapons and ask them to pressure North Vietnam to end the war Nixon visited China in February 1972 and asked them to persuade North Vietnam to end the war Nixon's adviser, Henry Kissinger, negotiated with North Vietnam to bring about a ceasefire
4	Renewed Bombing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nixon ordered the increased bombing of North Vietnam He also authorized the bombing of Laos and Cambodia This was aimed to disrupt the Ho Chi Minh Trail and force the communists to look for peace

Key word	Definition
Khmer Rouge	A Communist organization in Cambodia
Vietnamisation	Vietnamese Communist resistance forces, based in northern Vietnam and led by Ho Chi Minh

4. How effective was Nixon?

1	Was Vietnamisation successful?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end of 1969, 85,000 US soldiers had returned home (16%) By early 1972, it was clear that Vietnamisation was not working Vietnamisation was seen as a failure because of increased bombings
2	Did the war de-escalate?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In June 1972, the ARVN dropped a napalm bomb, which killed and injured innocent children – nothing had changed The fighting continued until 1975 – a further 20,500 US soldiers died
3	Was renewed bombing successful?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nixon authorized 2 new bombing campaigns on North Vietnam – Operation Linebacker I in 1971 and Linebacker II in 1972 They did little to alter the eventual military outcome. However, they did have some impact in pushing North Vietnam to the negotiating table It also convinced President Thieu's South Vietnamese government that US support would continue after withdrawal of ground troops.

5. Opposition to the War

1	The USA wasn't winning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Vietcong and North Vietnamese army were still strong The USA was not close to winning the war despite all the lives lost and money spent - Events like the Tet Offensive proved this
2	US politicians	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Some politicians started arguing that the money should be spent on domestic issues such as education, housing and healthcare
3	Lack of support for S. Vietnam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Many Americans felt that the government of South Vietnam was corrupt and brutal Photographs of ARVN tactics (like the Tet photograph) showed their brutality
4	The Draft System	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The US army gained new recruits through the draft system. This was a lottery based on birthday and fitness for service Nearly 2 million men were drafted into the US army between 1964 and 1972 There was intense hatred of this system as it unfairly recruited men from poorer backgrounds Some people began to refuse or run away from the draft when their name was called . Many burned their draft cards
5	The Civil Rights Movement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King spoke out against the war's cost They also objected to how the draft system disproportionately called black Americans into the army Mohammed Ali was famously arrested for refusing the draft when he was called
6	Casualties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There was shock at the number of dead and injured US soldiers Around 300 US soldiers died each week The average age of a US soldier killed was just 23
7	Student protest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition to the war was particularly strong among college and university students To them the war symbolised the control and authority of the government Hippie culture was popular at this time and its key themes were peace and love

6. Anti-war protests

1	How did people protest ?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 1968 and 1969 there were many anti-war demonstrations The largest anti-war protest in US history took place in Washington on 15th November 1969 – 500,000 people Sometimes the protests ended in violence, when police and the students clashed
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7. The Kent State Shootings

1	What happened at Kent State?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Students at Kent State University arranged a protest for 4th May 1970 after the US invasion of Cambodia Around 3000 people gathered at the university (1500 demonstrators and 1500 bystanders) The Demonstration turned violent – rocks thrown by students and tear gas fired by the National Guard The National Guard opened fire on the crowd – 4 students killed and 9 more injured
2	What was the impact of the shootings?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> News of the shootings shocked the nation Across the USA, colleges and universities closed as 2 million students refused to attend classes A similar incident happened on 15th May at Jackson State College, killing 2 students and injuring 12.

Key word	Definition
Draft	A system of recruiting soldiers for the army involuntarily
Draft Dodging	When men would refuse to report for duty after being drafted

8. Impact of the Media

1	How did new technology impact how the war was reported?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> By 1961, 93% of American homes had a TV and it became the main way people were getting their news New technology such as lightweight video cameras and voice recorders made news reporting easier The full-colour horror of war could be seen on American TV
2	How did the government try to control the media?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At first media coverage was positive, focusing on the brave US troops Independent reporters were flown into the war zone b helicopter and could report what they wanted Every day, the US army met with the journalists to update them on the progress of war As the war progressed, journalists joked that the army officials were covering up details. They started to call the briefings 5 O'clock follies
3	Impact of the media following the Tet Offensive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This shocked Americans who didn't realise how brutal the fighting was The trusted newsreader Walter Cronkite said that the only way out of the war was to negotiate peace
4	How did the media influence people's opinions?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage of events like the My Lai massacre showed the poor behaviour of the troops The New York Times published leaked secret reports about the war in June 1971 <i>Life</i> magazine published the names and faces of 242 US troops killed in one week in June 1969
5	What was the Watergate scandal?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> President Nixon was linked to a US government burglary at the Democrat offices When his role was discovered he was forced to resign It let many to question the government further

9. The Paris Peace Agreement

1	When did peace talks begin?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> January 1969 – as soon as Nixon became president By December 1969 public peace talks broke down over disagreements In February 1970 secret peace talks resumed
2	Who was involved in the talks?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nixon's key advisor Henry Kissinger North Vietnam negotiator Le Duc Tho
3	When was it signed?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27th January 1973
4	What was agreed?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate ceasefire All captured prisoners would be released within 60 days All US troops withdrawn within 60 days Free elections would be held in South Vietnam

11. Impact of War for the US

1	How much did the war cost?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The US government reported they spent \$170 billion on the war There was an added cost of benefits and pensions paid to veterans and the widows of soldiers Johnson had to divert money away from his Great Society Project, which hindered their effectiveness
2	How many US deaths?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Around 58,000 US soldiers were killed in the war 300,000 soldiers were wounded
3	What happened to soldiers returning home?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Many soldiers faced negative reactions from anti-war public and those Americans who saw them as having lost Many soldiers were affected psychologically by the horrors they'd seen Around 30% of soldiers used heroine in the war and many returned with drug addictions
4	How did it affect the USA's reputation?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At home, the war caused a split in US society with many Americans forming a deep suspicion and distrust of the government The US reputation as a superpower was damaged The US reputation as a leader of freedom and peace was damaged The war proved that the US could not contain communism – it failed to stop Vietnam. Laos and Cambodia also had communist takeovers Domino Theory proved wrong when Thailand didn't become communist

10. The Fall of Saigon

1	What happened after peace was signed?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nixon promised to support South Vietnam with money and weapons after the troops left The US government refused to support Nixon's plans
2	How did the ARVN cope without the US funding?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Communist forces from North Vietnam attacked in December 1974 A wave of South Vietnamese refugees called the Convoy of Tears travelled to Saigon By April 1975, Saigon had fallen to the Communists It was renamed Ho Chi Minh City and Vietnam was unified country under communist control
3	What was the impact of the Fall of Saigon?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The fall of Saigon signaled the end of the US involvement in Vietnam - remaining officials fled in helicopters It was a dramatic and embarrassing way for the Vietnam War to end

12. Impact of War for Vietnam

1	How many Vietnamese deaths and casualties were there?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is hard to give accurate figures because neither government kept good records It is estimated around 1 million Vietnamese soldiers (North and South) were killed and 2 million wounded Estimated 2 million Vietnamese civilians killed and 5 million injured
2	What were the social effects of the war?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> About 11 million people became refugees after their homes were destroyed Refugees set up camp near US bases but poverty, drug abuse and prostitution were common here Around 100,000 children are believed to have been born from relationships between Vietnamese women and US soldiers In 1975, around 3000 of these infants adopted around the world The remaining children faced difficult lives and some were sold as cheap labour Over a million Vietnamese civilians moved away from the country in 1975 to escape communist rule
3	What was the environmental cost of the war?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 1969 alone, Agent Orange was used to kill over 1 million hectares of forest Between 1962 and 1969 300,000 hectares of farmland was sprayed with Agent Blue, leaving it useless A large number of soldiers developed cancer and other conditions from being in contact with the chemical weapons. There are still children in Vietnam growing up with diseases and disabilities caused by the chemicals in the soil Between 1964 and 1973m over 7 million tonnes of bombs were dropped – this destroyed roads, bridges and irrigation systems that watered farms There are a large number of unexploded bombs that still cause injuries today
4	How did it affect Vietnam politically?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vietnam continued to face hostility from the USA President Ford (after Nixon) opposed Vietnam joining the UN, isolating them from the world community Although Vietnam was unified, many who lived in the south resented the communist rule that was imposed on them