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Vietnam War Notes (1)
Mrs. Lee/HA 2/Week 3, Assignment 1

FQ: Was containment the best policy to use in Southeast Asia? Why or why not?	
Vietnam as a Colony.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the 19th century, France annexed Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia). • During World War II, France lost this area to Japan. • Many Vietnamese did not like the French or the Japanese, so they formed their own independence movement called the Viet-Minh. • The Viet-Minh was controlled by Communists and led by Moscow trained Ho Chi Minh.
Communists Seek Control (1946 – 1954)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France regained control of Vietnam in 1945 and the Viet-Minh did not want to surrender their independence to France. • The Viet-Minh promised to drive out the French completely and distribute land to the peasants. • Ho Chi Minh initially kept quiet about his Communist intentions and so countries such as the US were quite sympathetic to him. • In 1949 that changed because the Communist gained control of China and began to give help to Ho Chi Minh. • The US and other countries feared a Communist plan to dominate all of South-East Asia so we gave financial support to the French.
Geneva Conference: Truce for Indochina (1954)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All major powers came together to sign a peace agreement after the French loss at Dien Bien Phu. • The US and South Vietnam did not sign the final treaty. • The treaty recognized Laos and Cambodia as independent countries. • Vietnam was divided at the 17th parallel. • Northern Vietnam became a communist state with Hanoi as its capitol, and Southern Vietnam became anti-Communist with Saigon as its capitol. • The people would vote on reunification in mid-1956.
Using pages 299-305 in <i>Modern World History</i> first edition, consider why Buddhist monks would protest in such a violent manner.	

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Vietnam War Notes (2)

<p>American Involvement in Vietnam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • America prevented the elections from taking place because they feared the Communists would win. • Ho Chi Minh established his Communist government, strengthened the army, and received considerable aid from China and the Soviet Union. • The Saigon government believed that truly free elections could not take place in the North. • Communist soldiers crossed the border and waged a guerrilla war against South Vietnamese citizens. • The soldiers terrorized villagers and killed government supporters. • The soldiers also established Vietcong control over large rural areas. (The Vietcong were South Vietnamese supports of Ho Chi Minh). • America sent the Saigon government aid to help stop this problem and to prevent other neighboring countries from falling to Communism as well. • However, the South Vietnamese government was corrupt, and many Vietnamese peasants hated it. • Large landowners ruled and did not practice Buddhism, the peasant religion. • American expanded the war when American naval units patrolled the international water of the Gulf of Tonkin and were fired upon by North Vietnamese torpedo boats. • President Johnson ordered an air strike against North Vietnam's naval bases. • The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution allowed President Johnson to send military troops to Vietnam.
<p>Debate over American Involvement in Vietnam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "hawks" argued for increased military action to halt aggression and contain Communist expansion in Asia. • The "doves" urged the US to seek peace by reducing its military activities. They argued that America had no vital interest in Vietnam and the Saigon government commanded not loyalty among its people.
<p>Using pages 299-305 in <i>Modern World History</i> first edition, consider what evidence was presented to suggest that Americans were worried about getting involved in the Vietnam War.</p>	
<p>Peace Talks (1965 – 1968)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Johnson's efforts to arrange peace talks were all unsuccessful until 1968. • The Hanoi government agreed to negotiations, however, the peace talks remained deadlocked. • In the meantime, the Vietcong attacked several key cities in South Vietnam. • General William Westmoreland moved his troops from northern South Vietnam and rural areas to protect these cities. • The Vietcong troops quickly infiltrated the now unprotected countryside.

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Vietnam War Notes (3)

Nixon and Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nixon spurred Vietnamization which shifted the burden of fighting the war to South Vietnamese forces. • By 1972, Nixon had withdrawn 500,000 personnel from Vietnam, leaving about 27,000 American troops. • Nixon also expanded the war into Laos and Cambodia to fight communist and Vietcong troops there. • Nixon began secret peace talks in 1969 which eventually led to the Paris Peace Agreement for Vietnam (1973).
Peace Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military – immediate cease fire; US withdrawal from South Vietnam; POWs returned to America and an accounting of all MIAs, withdrawal of all foreign troops from Laos and Cambodia, nor more troops and military supplies sent to South Vietnam. • Reunification-the reunification of Vietnam shall be achieved only by peaceful means. • Political Arrangements-South Vietnam would retain all lands under its control at the time of the cease fire as would the Vietcong, the south Vietnamese people would determine their own political future through free elections. • Observations-the agreement was a compromise. The US did not get the withdrawal of Vietcong from South Vietnam and North Vietnam did not secure the establishment of a Communist-dominated government in the South). • Losses-Over an 11-year period, America spent over \$140 billion in Vietnam with almost 300,000 wounded and 46,000 killed.
Why America Lost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American had a hard time fighting a guerilla war. The aim of guerrilla warfare is to wear down your enemy. • The Vietcong usually did one of the following: retreated when outnumbered; raided enemy camps; attacked when the enemy was tired; and pursued when the enemy retreated. • Many of the peasants around the country side also supported the Vietcong so it was hard to distinguish who was the enemy. • The morale of the troops was hard to maintain because of ineffective methods America had to employ to fight a guerilla war. • Intensive bombing campaigns were incredibly expensive and sometime ineffective. • Vietcong military and economy received aid from China and the Soviet Union. • New American recruits were not as committed as Vietcong soldiers.
Using pages 299-305 in <i>Modern World History</i> first edition, consider why the Mai Lai Massacre was so shocking to the American public.	

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Vietnam War Notes (4)

My Lai Massacre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American troops would often go on search and destroy missions in order to flush out Vietcong guerrillas. This would identify the subversives and destroy them and their base areas which usually meant the village from they operated. (Kill enough Vietcong and we could win the war). My Lai was a village attacked by American soldiers. Over 300 to 400 civilians (mostly ole men, women, and children) were murdered and only a few guns were recovered. Commanding officers lied on the report suggesting that only 20 civilians were killed. It eventually came to light through the letter of an American soldier who had known several men involved in this massacre. A full investigation resulted in several indictments for murder.
How did the Vietnam War affect the policy of containment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It failed military and showed that not even the American military could stem the tide of Communist aggression. It failed politically by speeding up the domino theory. Heavy bombing in Laos and Cambodia helped communist forces in these countries win support. It was a propaganda disaster because America also cloaked her involvement as a moral crusade. However, America's policies and strategies were very immoral and flawed. American walked away from Vietnam trying to improve relationships with communist countries like China.
What three things did you learn about the Vietnam War from watching the Crash Course Video: Vietnam?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Choose any of the pictures in the Prezi presentation. Describe the photo, explain your selection, and point out its significance to the story of the Vietnam War.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

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Vietnam War Notes (5)

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