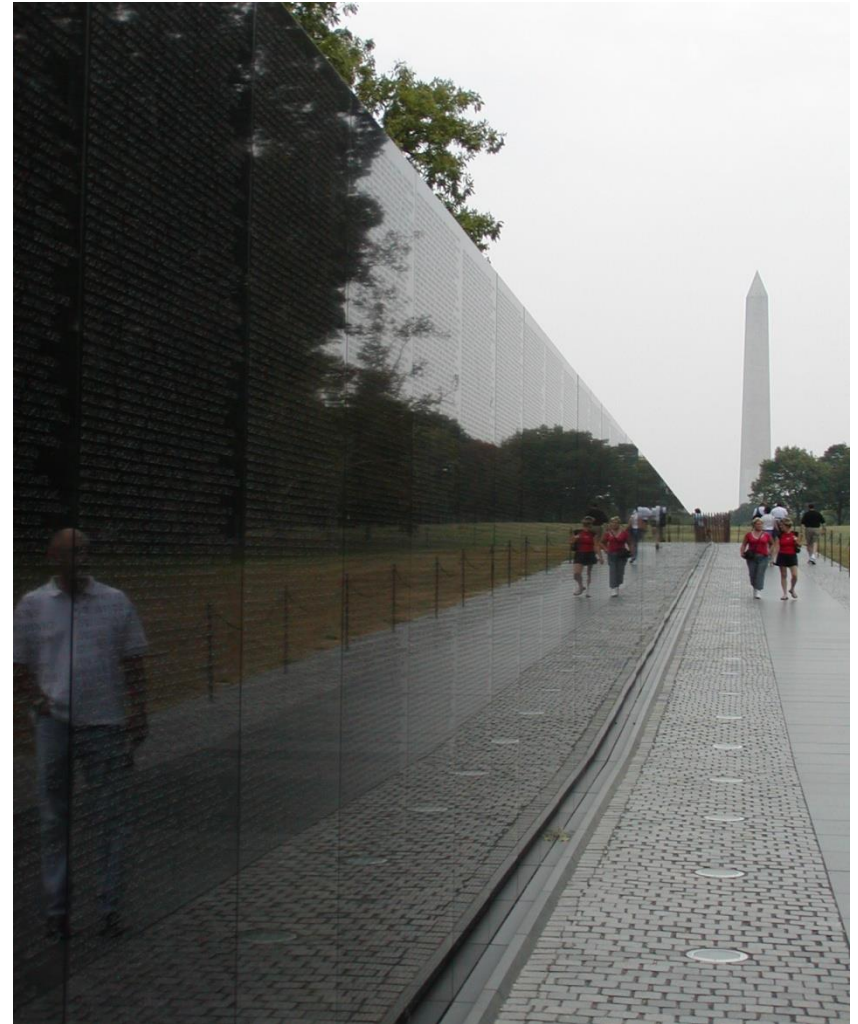


# Vietnam War (1954-1975)



# Southeast Asia





# Origins of Conflict



## 1954 – Geneva Accords

- Vietnam gains independence from France, divided at 17<sup>th</sup> Parallel. (communist North, non-communist south)
- Elections to be held to unite country in 1956.

# Origins Continued

1956 –

- South Vietnam, with U.S. backing, blocks elections
- **Viet Cong (S.V. communists)**, with North Vietnamese support seeks to overthrow South Vietnamese Gov't
- U.S. sends “advisors” to support repressive South Vietnamese “President”  
Ngô Đình Diệm



# U.S. Involvement

2000 advisors (Eisenhower)

1960

1963

16000 advisors (Kennedy)

# What sort of Government was the U.S. supporting?

President Ngo Dinh Diem – Anti-Communist, limits on free speech, cracked down on buddhists



What kind of war was it by 1960?

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Civil War?

---

War of Aggression?

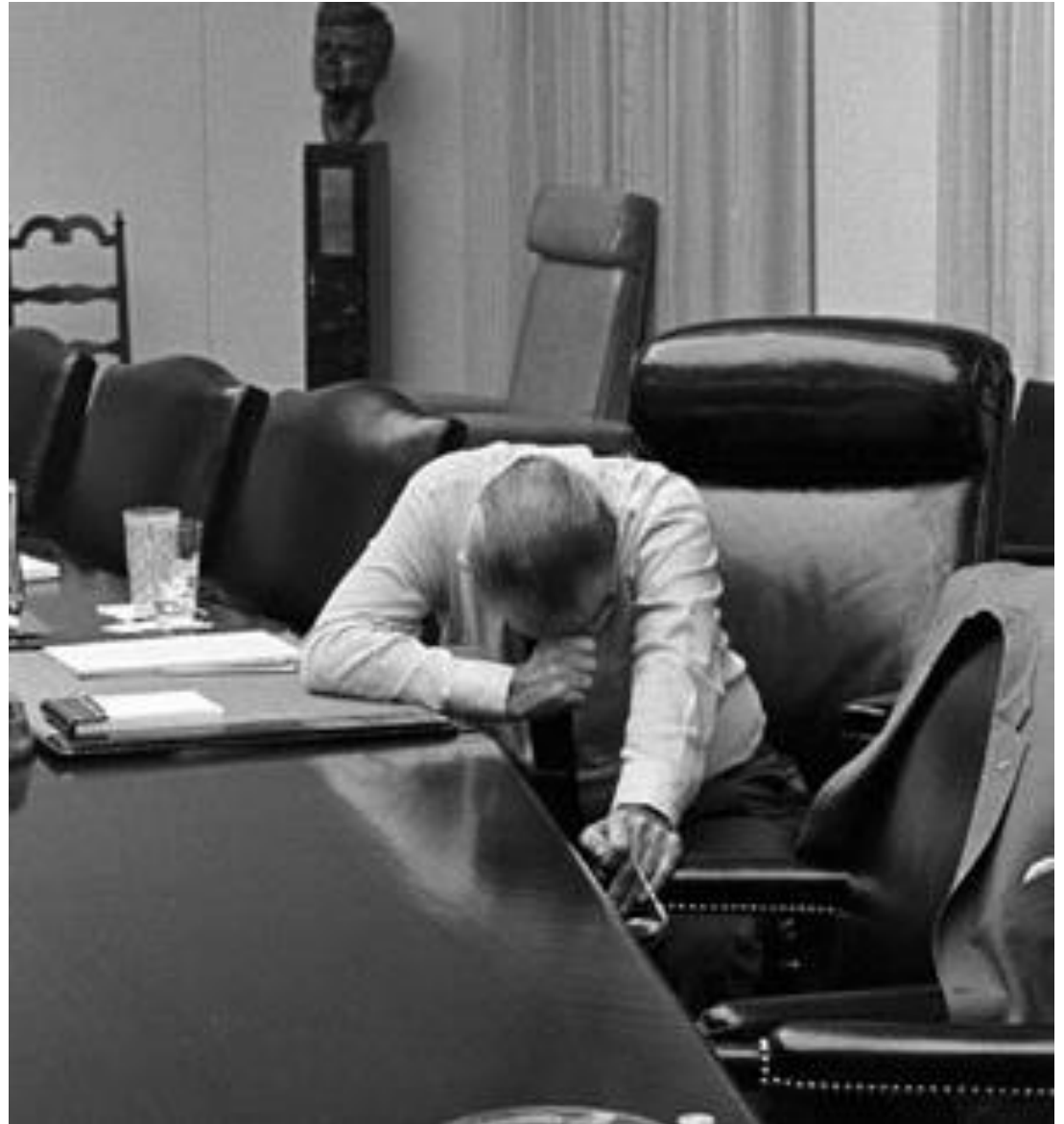


# Gulf of Tonkin Incident



## President Johnson escalates U.S. Involvement

- Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. - gave President a “blank check” to increase number of U.S. troops in Vietnam
- Why?



# Reasons for U.S. Escalation?



Malaysia

Cambodia

Laos

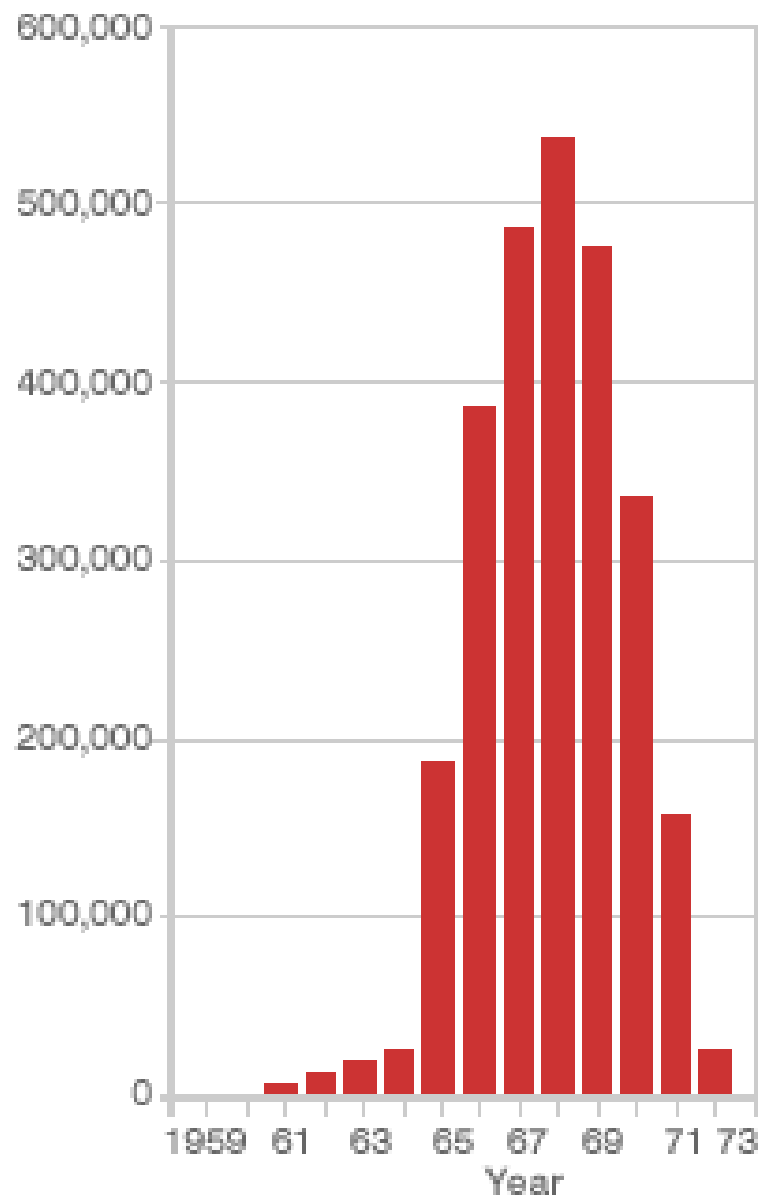
Vietnam

# Reasons for U.S. Involvement

- Domino Theory – fall of one country to communism will cause others to fall



## US TROOPS IN VIETNAM



Figures as of 31 Dec of year concerned

SOURCE: U.S. Army War College

# Changing Public Opinion

# World War II Coverage

- [YouTube - MacArthur Closes In On Manila  
1945 Newreel](#)

- [YouTube - Tet Offensive 1968, US Embassy & Saigon fighting](#)



# My Lai Massacre



# Tet Offensive (Feb. 1968)



# Changing Public Opinion

- **TET Offensive** -1968, Vietcong launched surprise attacks on the major cities -Guerillas Stormed the American Embassy in Saigon (Capital of S. Vietnam)
- Vietcong – Poor farmers (guerillas) - wanted Communism
- **My Lai Massacre** -1968, Violence against civilians during the Vietnam War. American soldiers brutally killed the majority of the population in My Lai. 200-500 unarmed civilian

Indicator	Pre-TET	Post-TET	Change
Approves Johnson's handling of job as president	48%	36%	-12
Approves Johnson's handling of Vietnam	39%	26%	-13
Regards war in Vietnam as a mistake	45%	49%	+4
Proportion classifying themselves as "hawks"	60%	41%	-19

# Growing Opposition to the War

- **Media coverage**
- **The draft** – requirement to serve in the army
- **Belief war was inconsistent with American values**
- **Anti-war Movement** -

# Anti-War Music

- Credence Clearwater Revival – Fortunate Son

# **26th Amendment (1971)**

**Right to vote – 18 years old (21)**

- P.F. Sloan – Eve Of Destruction (1965)
- Al Cleveland - What's going on



**List the issues/conflicts from the 1960s that each song comments on.**

- Al Cleveland – What’s Going On” (1971)
- P.F. Sloan – “Eve Of Destruction” (1965)

# Election of 1968

- LBJ decided not to seek re-election because of divisions within party over Vietnam
- Republican Richard Nixon won general election over Hubert H. Humphrey

# Fall of Saigon

**1973** -U.S. withdraws from Vietnam

**1974** – North Vietnam Invades South Vietnam

**April 1975** – Saigon Falls, Vietnam united under communist government



- Creedence Clearwater Revival - Fortunate Son - YouTube

# U.S. Leaves Vietnam

- 1973 – Paris Peace Accords











# Gulf of Tonkin

- [YouTube - What Really Happened at Tonkin Gulf? 60 Minutes opening](#)

# Was the Vietnam War a Civil War or War of Aggression?

- [YouTube - Robert McNamara admits Vietnam War a mistake.](#)
- [Fog of War - Vietnam - YouTube works](#)