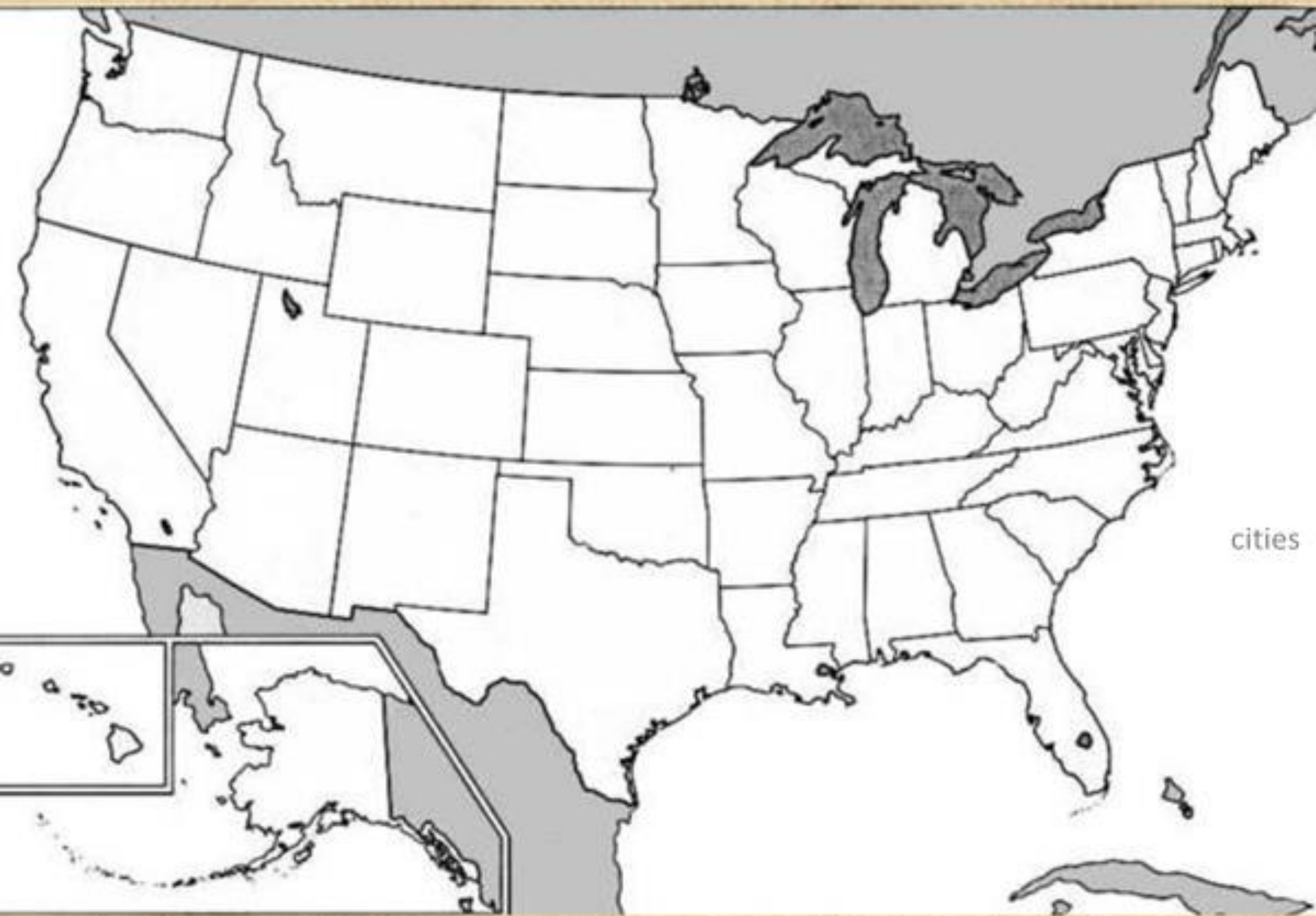


# Vietnam

1954-1975

Chapter 30





*Major Allison Thomas*



On July 16, 1945, as World War II continued to rage in the Pacific, a small military force that included Major Allison Thomas parachuted into a jungle clearing of Vietnam. Their mission was to gather information on the Japanese, who had controlled Vietnam since 1941.

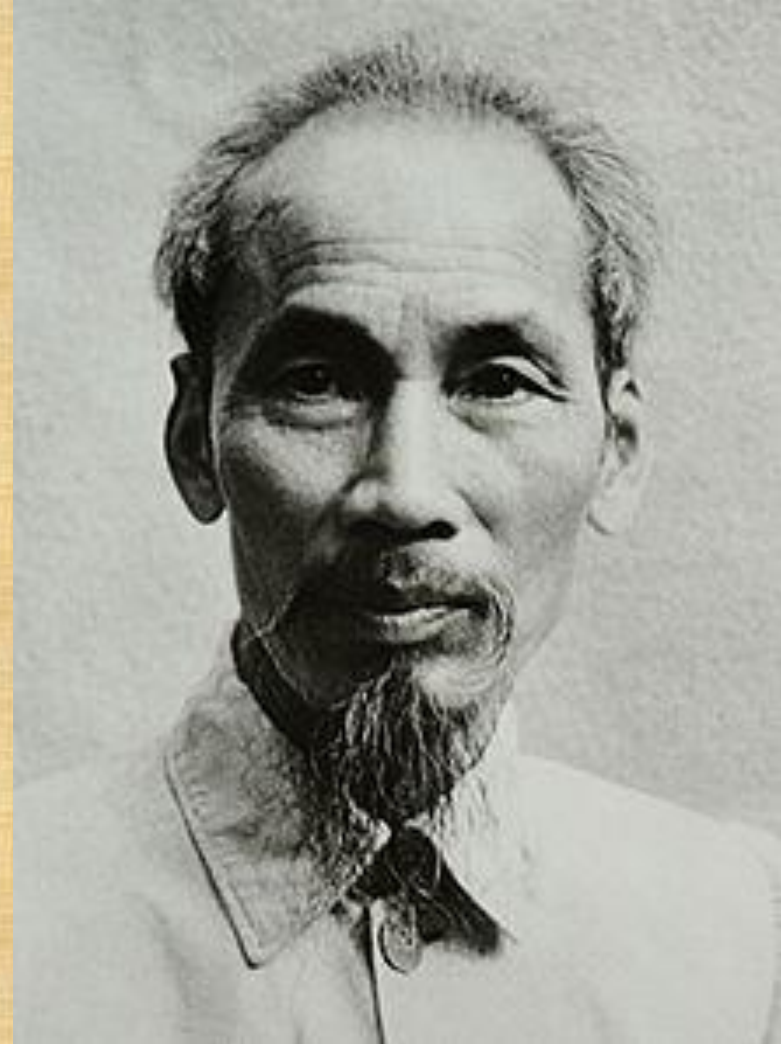
Shortly after landing, Thomas's team encountered a group of Vietnamese independence fighters. Led by Ho Chi Minh, they were fighting to free Vietnam from Japanese rule. The guerrillas quickly escorted the team to their encampment, where the team learned that Ho Chi Minh had fallen ill. The team's medic, Paul Hoagland, treated Ho for dysentery and malaria and most likely saved his life. Thomas later recalled his first night at Ho's camp.

“They [Ho Chi Minh's forces] had built for us a special bamboo shelter, consisting of a bamboo floor a few feet off the ground and a roof of palm leaves. We then had supper consisting of beer, rice, bamboo sprouts and barbecued steaks. They freshly slaughtered a cow in our honor.”

—quoted in *The Perfect War*

# French Indo-China

- Growth of Vietnamese Nationalism during World War II
  - Ho Chi Minh vs. Japanese
  - Ho Chi Minh asked for US Help...no from US
  - Ho Chi Minh vs. French
- Dien Bien Phu
  - Vietminh Victory, French loss/withdrawal
- Geneva Accords
  - Temporary split
    - North, communist under Ho Chi Minh
    - South, democracy under Ngo Dinh Diem
  - Elections promised but cancelled
    - b/c Ho would win and Diem would lose





- Geneva Accords splits Vietnam

# US involvement in Vietnam

- Vietnamese Civil War
  - Ho Chi Minh's communists (Vietcong)
  - Diem's Catholic ruling party discriminates against Buddhists
    - Buddhists protest with suicides
  - Americans take notice and call for action
    - Protect democracy in South
  - Fear of Domino Theory
    - One country falls to communism, all will fall to communism
  - Eisenhower/Kennedy send military advisors
    - Strategic Hamlets
    - Approved assassination/overthrow of Diem, 1963
    - Kennedy needed to be tough on communism

*You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. Asia, after all, has already lost 439 million of its peoples to the Communist dictatorship, and we simply can't afford greater losses.*

1. What is the quote describing?



# Review: Beginning of Vietnam

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ fought each other in Vietnam in the late 1940s and early 1950s.
2. The Geneva Accords split North and South Vietnam along the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was the leader of the Veitnimh.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was the thought that if Vietnam fell to communism, all southeast Asia would fall to communism.
5. South Vietnamese communist fighters were called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ lead protests across South Vietnam in 1963 resulting in a religious crisis.
7. The battle at \_\_\_\_\_ leads to the French evacuation of Indochina.

Marlene Kramel joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1965 when she was 21, and she went to Vietnam the following year. She was working in a makeshift hospital on what was a particularly quiet night. Most of the patients who filled the beds that evening were suffering from malaria.

Suddenly, a row of helicopters roared in from over the horizon, carrying wounded from a nearby battle. As the casualties came in on stretchers, the hospital turned chaotic. Doctors ran about the facility screaming orders and frantically trying to treat patients.

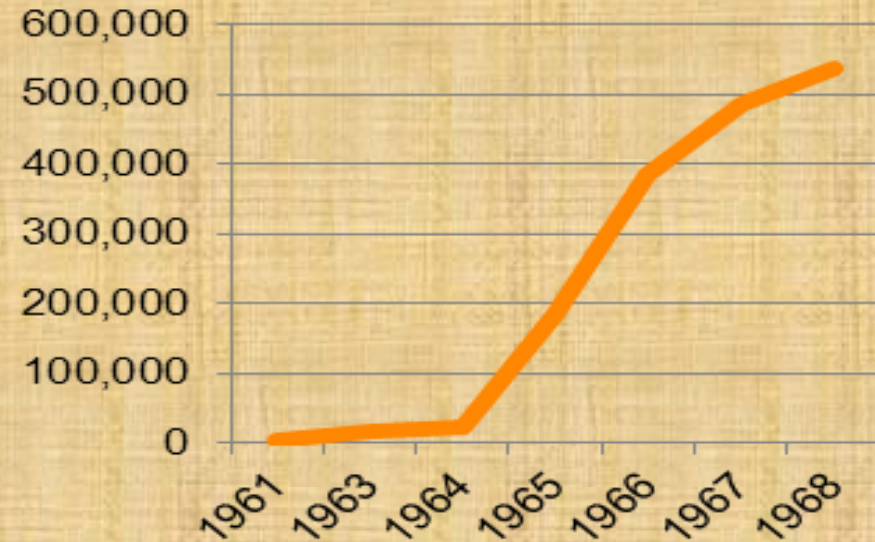
The only nurse on duty at the time, Kramel felt overwhelmed by the confusion. "Every one of the doctors is yelling for me," she recalled. "I didn't know what to do next. 'Start this. Do that.' Everybody's yelling at me. I couldn't do enough." Things happened so quickly that night, she insisted, that she could not remember most of it. "I can't remember blood, even. I can only remember, 'What am I going to do?' And the doctors moving at tremendous speed. And I'm there. And I'm not able to move fast enough. . . . That's all I remember."



# Johnson's Escalation in Vietnam

- Gulf of Tonkin
  - Resolution... "All Necessary Measures"
- Operation Rolling Thunder
  - Air campaign of bombing the North
- Vietcong and Ho Chi Minh Trail
  - Guerilla warfare...sneak attacks
  - Napalm...gasoline fire bombs
  - Agent Orange...defoliant
- Television War
  - Westmoreland
    - *enemy on brink of defeat...end of the war is in sight...enemy is nearly bankrupt...*
    - but war continues
- Johnson limits the war
  - Chinese involvement like during Korea
  - Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos/Cambodia

## US Troops in Vietnam



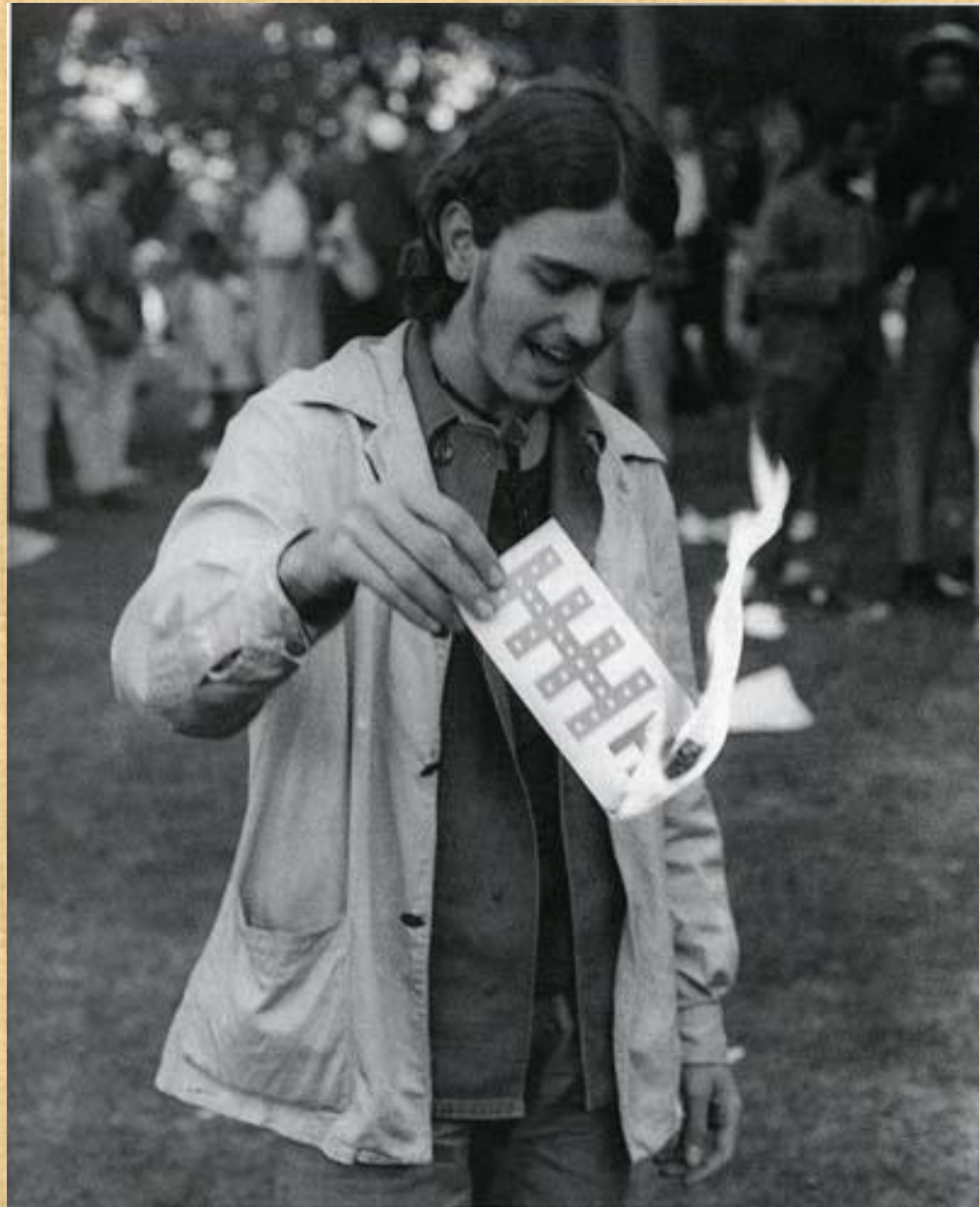
Martin Jezer, a 27-year-old copywriter living in New York City, had never considered himself a radical. "I campaigned for Lyndon Johnson in 1964," he recalled. As his opposition to the war in Vietnam grew, however, Jezer decided to stage a public protest.

On April 15, 1967, he and dozens of other young men gathered with their military draft cards in New York's Central Park. Before an audience of reporters, photographers, FBI officials, and citizens, the men pulled out matches and lighters and burned the cards.

“We began singing freedom songs and chanting, ‘Resist! Resist!’ and ‘Burn Draft Cards, Not People’ . . . People in the audience were applauding us, shouting encouragement. Then some guys began to come out of the audience with draft cards in hand. They burned them. Alone, in pairs, by threes they came. Each flaming draft card brought renewed cheering and more people out of the crowd. . . . Some of the draft card burners were girls, wives, or girlfriends of male card burners. . . . It lasted this way for about half an hour.”

# Anti-war protests

- Teach-ins
- Draft
  - Burning draft cards
  - Unfair (too many exemptions)
  - Protests at Pentagon and Lincoln Memorial
  - SDS...old enough to fight but not old enough to vote?
- Hawks vs. Doves



How many roads must a man walk down  
Before you call him a man?

How many seas must a white dove sail  
Before she sleeps in the sand?

Yes, how many times must the cannonballs fly  
Before they're forever banned?

***The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind***

***The answer is blowin' in the wind.***

Yes, how many years can a mountain exist  
Before it's washed to the sea?

Yes, how many years can some people exist  
Before they're allowed to be free?

Yes, how many times can a man turn his head  
Pretending he just doesn't see?

***The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind***

***The answer is blowin' in the wind***

***---Bob Dylan***

1. Why is the answers to Dylan's questions just ***Blowin' in the wind?***

2. ***Draw a political sketch illustrating your answer***

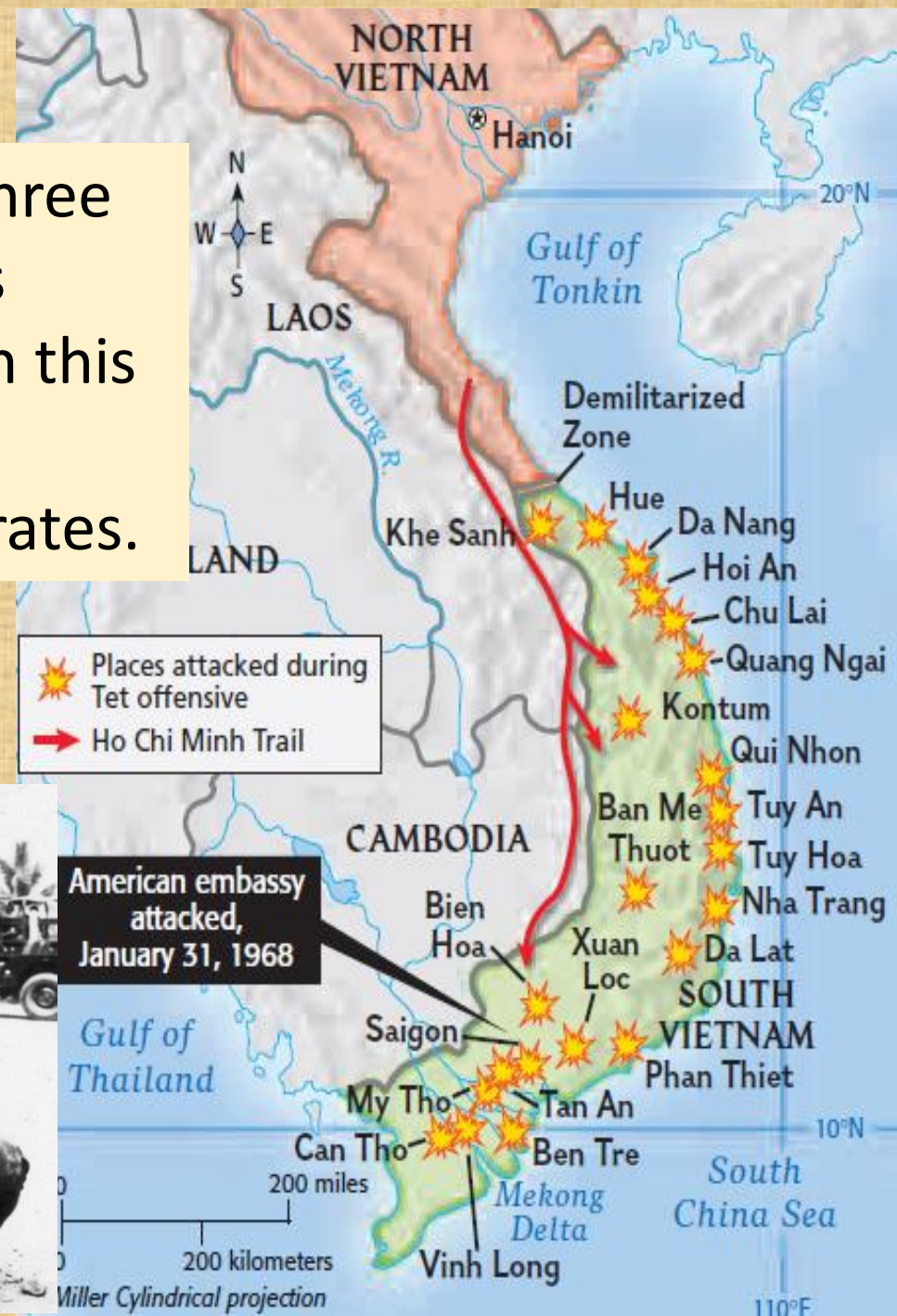
# Review: Escalation in Vietnam

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ incident led Congress to grant the president “all necessary powers” in Southeast Asia.
2. The Vietcong were supplied by the North Vietnamese along the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ said that “The end is in sight” for American military forces in South Vietnam...but he was wrong.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was the heavy bombing campaign by the US military on North Vietnam.
5. The Ho Chi Minh Trail passed through \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ before entering South Vietnam.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an American citizen who supported Johnson’s war plan.
7. There were many US protests against the \_\_\_\_\_ because of the need for soldiers to be sent to Vietnam.

# Tet, January 1968

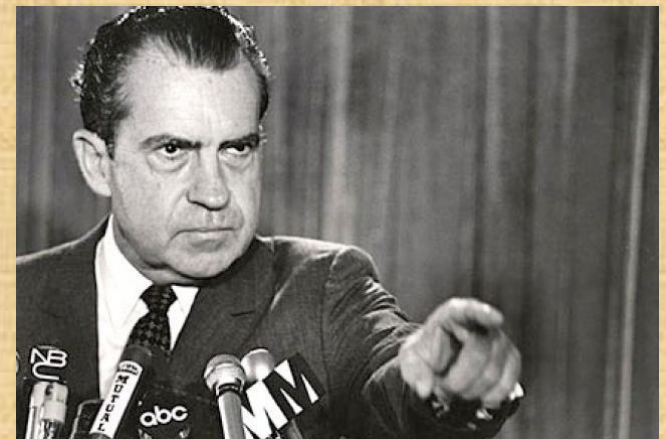
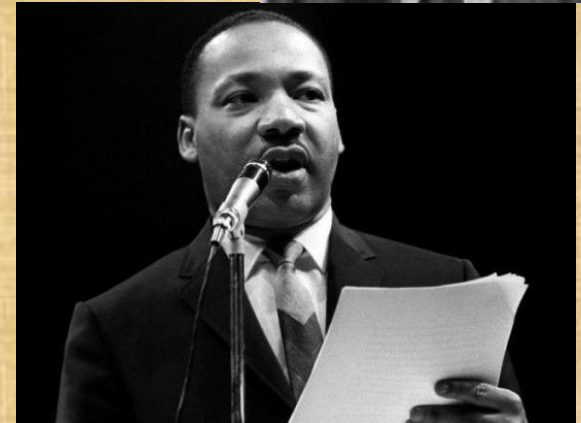
- Vietcong attack all across the country
  - Vietcong Tactical defeat
  - Vietcong Strategic political victory b/c of US reaction
  - US tactically defeats Vietcong for good...Rest of war fought by NVA
  - US Public shocked
- Robert Kennedy for president
- Wallace for president
- Johnson announces he will not run again as president, suggests Humphries (his VP)
- Media criticizes the war

List three items which this map illustrates.



# 1968, Turning point in History

- Tet in Jan.
- Johnson does not run
  - Anti-war Violence at Chicago Democratic Convention
  - King is killed
  - Robert Kennedy is killed
  - Wallace (segregationist)
  - Nixon runs for president
    - Will bring us together
    - Vietnamization of the war



# Ending Vietnam

- My Lai Massacre, 1969
  - Anti-war protests
- Protests Nixon's Vietmanization
  - US pull out, let Vietnamese fight their own war
  - Kissinger...national security advisor
- US Airstrikes in North Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos
  - Anti-war protests
  - Kent State Massacre (1970)
- Pentagon Papers
  - Daniel Ellsberg
  - US involvement even when government said it was not involved
  - Credibility gap!
  - Anti-war protest





On the evening of April 29, 1975, Frank Snepp, a young CIA officer, scrambled up to the American embassy rooftop to catch one of the last helicopters out of Saigon. Throughout that day, Snepp had witnessed the desperation of the South Vietnamese people as they besieged the embassy grounds in an effort to escape the approaching Communist army. Now he was leaving. Later, he recalled the scene:

“The roof of the Embassy was a vision out of a nightmare. In the center of the dimly lit helo-pad a CH-47 was already waiting for us, its engines setting up a roar like a primeval scream. The crew and controllers all wore what looked like oversized football helmets, and in the blinking under-light of the landing signals they reminded me of grotesque insects rearing on their hindquarters. Out beyond the edge of the building a Phantom jet streaked across the horizon as tracers darted up here and there into the night sky.”

- North and South reach agreement only after Christmas Bombing
  - US pulls out in 1973
  - 1975, North invades again...South asks for US help...US refuses
  - South falls to communism
  - Siagon renamed Ho Chi Minh City
- MIAs and POWs
- War Powers Act
  - limits president's powers to fight war without Congress
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
  - Black Wall
  - no celebrations only disgrace, hide the war.



# Review: Ending Vietnam

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is now seen as the major turning point in the Vietnam War.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ were completely defeated militarily by US forces in 1968.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ chooses not to run for president in 1968 due to issues relating to the Vietnam conflict.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ wins the presidency in 1968 to a large degree because of his \_\_\_\_\_ program to turn the fighting over to the Vietnamese.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was a horrific massacre of Vietnamese civilians by US troops in 1969.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ were top secret documents that outlined the course of the Vietnamese War.
7. The Vietnamese War memorial, also known as the \_\_\_\_\_ was very controversial when first opened because its design nearly made people think the US wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the war.