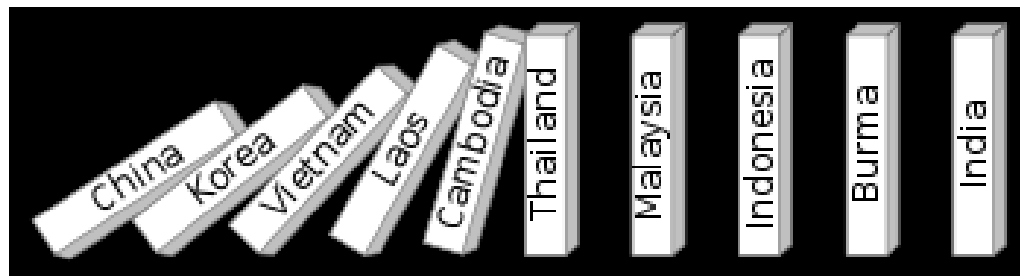


# THE VIETNAM WAR

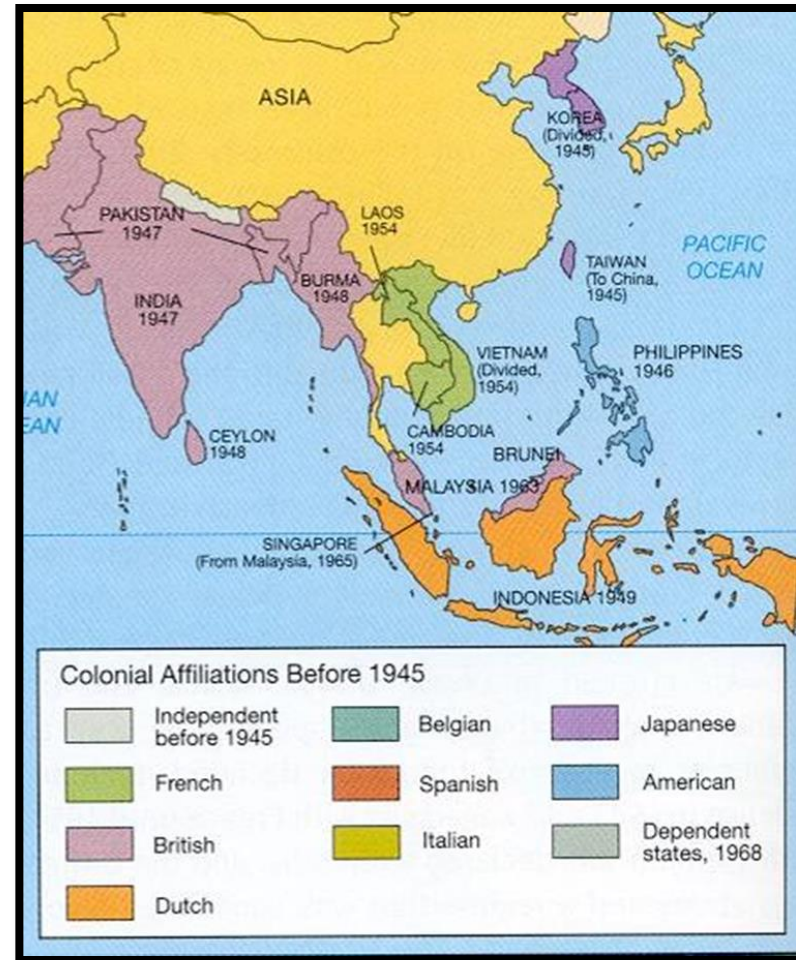
# COLD WAR REVIEW

- Containment was successful through the 1950s
  - Truman Doctrine
  - Marshall Plan
  - Korean War
- BUT...in 1945, US gov't became concerned with threat of Communism in Asia



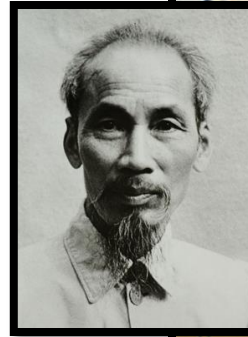
# VIETNAM

- Controlled by France since 1887
- 1945: Ho Chi Minh leads war for independence
  - USA concerned revolution would result in Communist government
- Truman and Eisenhower sent aid to France



# VIETNAM

- 1954: France withdrew troops
- Vietnam divided at 17<sup>th</sup> parallel
- Ho Chi Minh took over the North
- Ngo Dinh Diem became Democratic leader of the South



# VIETNAM

- Eisenhower & Kennedy supported Diem in South Vietnam
- Sent military advisors to put down Communist supporters in S. Vietnam
- Nov. 1963: Diem assassinated
  - Led to chaos in S. Vietnam
- LBJ inherited Vietnam "problem"



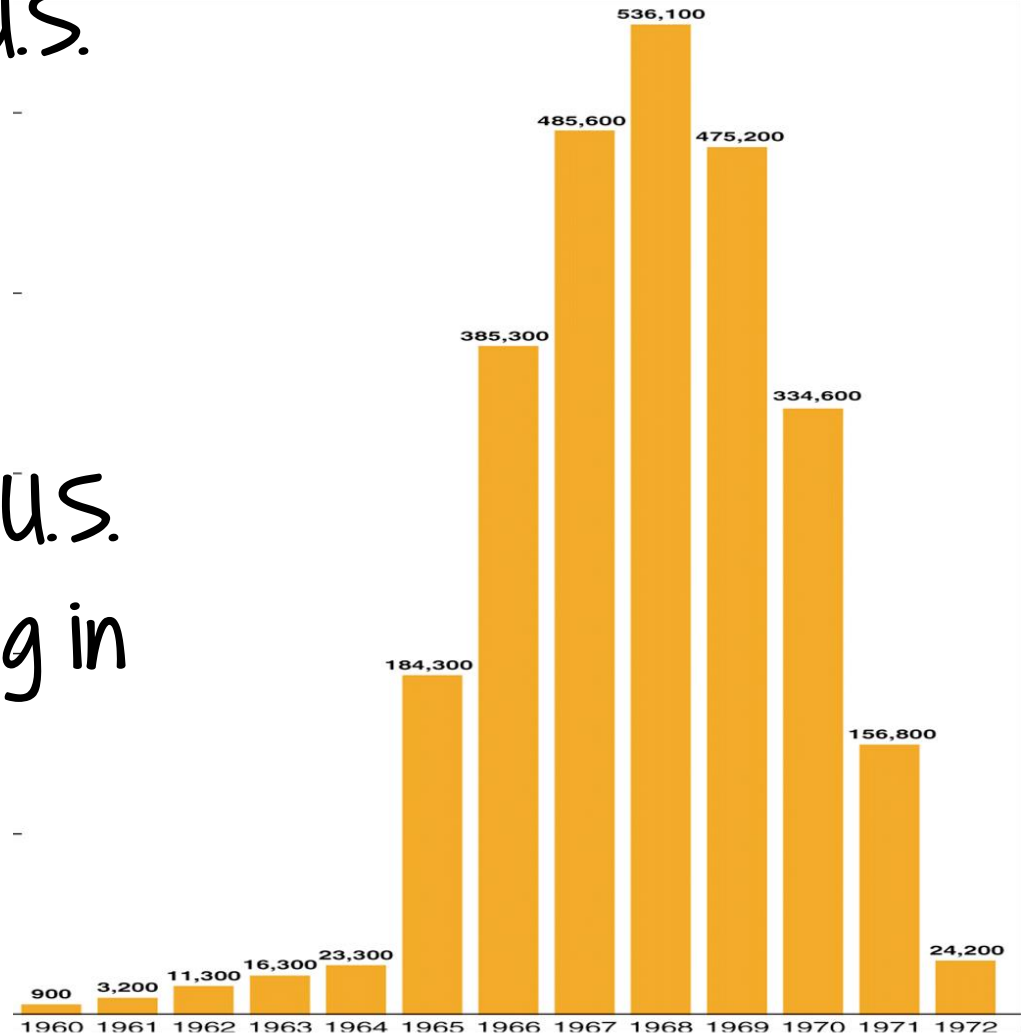
# GULF OF TONKIN

- 1964: USS Maddox attacked by North Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin
- Congress issued the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which gave LBJ broad powers to "defend Vietnam at any cost"
- Led to escalation of US involvement in Vietnam



# ESCALATION

- LBJ began sending U.S. troops in 1965
  - Goal: **CONTAIN COMMUNISM**
- By 1968, over 500,000 U.S. soldiers were fighting in Vietnam



# FIGHTING IN VIETNAM

- US troops were battling the Vietcong
  - Vietcong: supporters of Communism in South Vietnam
- Problem:
  - difficult to tell who the enemy was
  - Vietcong used **guerilla tactics** to combat U.S. military superiority
  - Jungle made fighting difficult

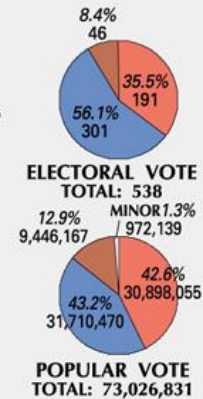
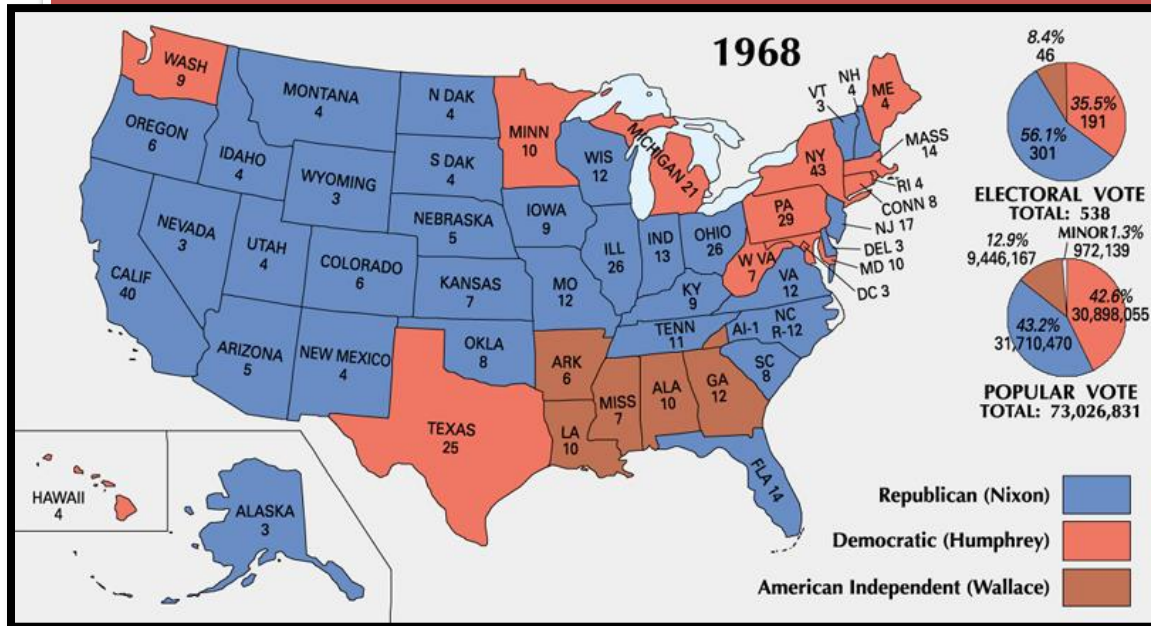


# THE TET OFFENSIVE

- 1968: the Vietcong launched the Tet Offensive against U.S. forces in South Vietnam
- American anti-war movement grew
  - LBJ announced he would not run for re-election
- = a turning point, as the US began to withdraw from Vietnam



# ELECTION OF 1968



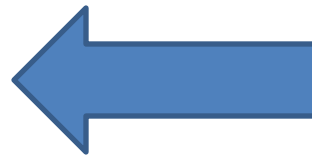
- Chaos of 1968 led Americans to demand peace and stability
- Republican Richard Nixon won election

# NIXON AND VIETNAM

- "Peace with Honor"
- Vietnamization:  
gradually withdraw U.S.  
troops & replace them with  
South Vietnamese soldiers
- secretly sent U.S. troops  
Cambodia & ordered  
bombings of Laos



Led to biggest  
protests in US  
History



# ENDING THE WAR

- 1973, the U.S. & North Vietnam agreed to a cease fire
  - the U.S. withdrew troops from Vietnam
- 1975, North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam
  - unified the nation under a communist government



# IMPACT OF VIETNAM

- Vietnam was the longest & most divisive war in U.S. history
- Of the 3.3 million U.S. soldiers who served:
  - 58,000 were killed
  - 303,000 were wounded
  - 15% were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after the war
  - Many vets faced hostility from other U.S. citizens when they returned home

# IMPACT OF VIETNAM

## **The war changed foreign policy**

- Containment ended as Americans became cautious of the U.S. role in the world
- Congress limited a president's ability to send troops without a declaration of war by passing the War Powers Act in 1973

# IMPACT OF VIETNAM

## **The war changed America at home**

- People began to lose faith in the honesty of gov't leaders during the Johnson & Nixon years
- The \$176 billion cost of the war led to high inflation in the 1970 & weakened LBJ's Great Society
- The 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18 years old