

Vietnam War Background

1. French Indochina War
 - a. Post WWII France wants to re-establish control in Vietnam.
 - b. Ho Chi Minh -> leading communist movement in the North.
 - i. Viet Minh (his followers) start fighting the French in 1946.
 - c. Dien Bien Phu Valley
 - i. France takes control in November of 1953.
 1. Why- set up base and fight Viet Minh
 - ii. Create strongholds with 40 mile perimeter.
 - iii. North shells French Army for months
 1. April 1954 -> Viet Minh have 90% of Valley
 - iv. France is forced to surrender on May 7th, 1954.
2. Start of Vietnam
 - a. Vietnam is split into North and South
 - i. North Ho Chi Minh -> supported by USSR and China
 - ii. South Ngo Dinh Diem -> supported by United States
 - b. President Eisenhower pledges support
 - c. In 1957 Viet Cong (Vietnamese Communist in South Vietnam) start fighting back.
 - d. The NLF (group of communist and anti-communist in the south) forms.
 - i. U.S. govt. thinks it is controlled by Ho Chi Minh in north
 - e. 1961 President Kennedy sends more troops because of domino theory.
 - f. President Ngo Dinh Diem is assassinated 3 weeks before Kennedy.

Add to Class Timeline:

-Vietnam War: 1954-1975

Add to Class Dictionary:

2. Domino Theory: theory that if one country became communist the surrounding countries would "fall" (like dominos) to communism.