

RENMUN VIII

The Restoration of Serenity



March 4th & 5th 2023

Chair Report - IDIC

Chair Introduction

Hey delegates! We're Shriya Srinivasan and Aidan Lai from Renaissance College and we'll be your chairs for RENMUN this year! To start off, we'd like to thank you for choosing IDIC as your conference of choice.

IDIC, the International Diplomacy and Intelligence Committee is our unique, experimental, extra-spicy version of what you probably know as Joint-Crisis mixed with Historical Security. The structure may be unfamiliar to most of you, but we find that there is more freedom and flexibility with the flow of this committee. For RENMUN, you will be placed in two cabinets according to your side of the Vietnam War. Aidan will be chairing the US-South Vietnam coalition and Shriya will be chairing the National Liberation Front-Soviet coalition. Fortunately, now that we are in-person, these cabinets will turn into cabinet rooms and being covert will require more than muting yourself and turning your video off.

As corny as it sounds, how a conference goes is always up to the delegates. From what we can already tell, your choice to choose this brand-new committee you've probably never heard of demonstrates your willingness to try something new. That's wonderful. Take advantage of the fact that you actually get to meet your peers, no matter how small our group is.

This is both our first times chairing IDIC but we hope it only means that we are easier to approach if you have any issues or questions or a cool idea you want us to incorporate! From personal MUN experiences the best way to make new unforgettable experiences and meet new people is to do just that: Be open-minded. Take the initiative, be confident in your opinions and most importantly, have fun.

Cheers,
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Aidan Lai (laik13@rchk.edu.hk)

The Vietnam War

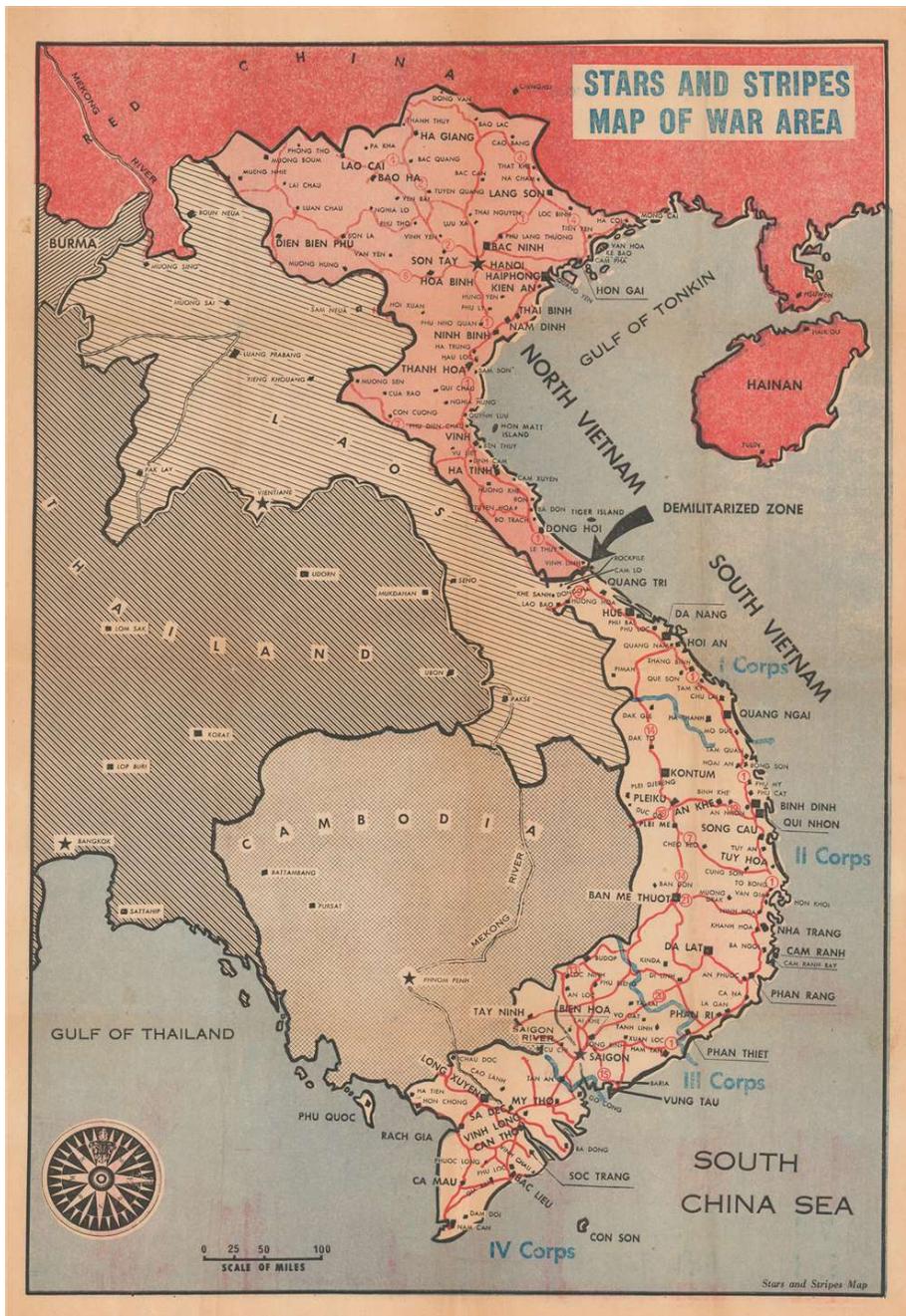
2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the most controversial, bloody and doomed military interventions that the United States of America took upon themselves. While the general background on the Vietnam War is easily found (which you will need to do), we will boil it down to the important pressures on both coalitions, key contextual facts, and the pivot points that will lead to the alternate reality you will be battling in.

This means you have to consider key questions that were being raised at the time, questions that dug at the basic cold-war orthodoxy that was engrained in the American and Soviet governments of the time. Questions that dug at the influence and ethicality of proxy warfare itself - and whether or not Vietnam could free itself from the squabbles of the western superpowers.

Vietnam was a country that had been split based on political ideologies and strongholds leftover from its deeply violent history. It is pertinent that you understand the background of this North vs South divide from the days of the *Indochine*, as it directly lead to the formation of these 'modern-day' governments during the war. There is a reason that outside the US, this war is known as the Second Indochina war. Several related stakeholders, like the Vietcong, China, Laos and Kampuchea are not included in these cabinets but it would be wise that you understand their influence and your relationship with them, as your actions will still have consequences on their states.

Lastly, it is important that you understand the unique role that your players had as architects of this conflict. Each one of your roles are distinctly influential in the fate of this war, but many of the players within the same cabinet had different interests at heart. Although we won't be at this point of history yet, we have the privilege of being able to reflect on the actions of these men. Lê Đức Thọ originally fought to bring the war to a peaceful end. McNamara, who worked with Westmoreland and who were arguably the men with the most blood on their hands; regretted their actions decades later.

All we are trying to say through all this elucidation is that we have picked this specific point in the timeline to give you the most power to change history. There is no need for me to state that the Vietnam War was a war of ideologies, of communism vs capitalism, neocolonialism vs liberation. But understand the tone of the time, the needs of the country and most of all: don't be afraid to take risks. You don't need to find a superbly realistic conclusion to one of the most grievous conflicts in modern warfare, because as you'll find soon, many would argue that it was doomed from the beginning.



Historical map showing major military areas and DMZ line splitting North and South Vietnam

Useful Acronyms and Major Players

NLF/Vietcong	National Liberation Front
PAVN	People's Army of Vietnam (North Vietnam)
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam)
USSR/Soviet Union	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
CCP	Chinese Communist Party

Background Information

History: Colonisation and Geopolitics

Establishment: Creation of modern day borders and national identity:

The country and region we now know as Vietnam has been inhabited for millennia, but it was not until the 19th century that it became a major focus for colonization, exploration and eventual exploitation by foreign powers.



The story begins with French Emperor Napoleon III, who made the decision to invade Vietnam in July of 1857. This invasion was motivated by two reasons: a decades- long campaign by missionaries that painted a barbaric picture of non-Christians, and by French desire to expand their overseas territories in Asia. The Vietnamese, putting up a fierce resistance, prevented the technologically superior French forces from advancing beyond Saigon. After regrouping and refreshing their troops, French forces then moved on to capture three surrounding regions. The Vietnamese- now unable to put up an effective resistance, signed a peace treaty that ceded all captured territories to the French. The French would later establish a western style colonial government within these territories, naming the entire colony **Cochinchina**.

The effects of French colonial rule were terrible for the average citizen. Whatever economic progress the country made benefited only the French and a small class of wealthy Vietnamese, enriched through collaboration with the colonial administration. During the early 19th century with the establishment of stable trade routes most Vietnamese began to substitute their large rice-based diets with a variety of other foods, freeing up much agricultural land. These lands were not distributed amongst the landless but were sold to the highest bidder or given to Vietnamese collaborators. This policy resulted in the creation of Vietnamese landlords and landless tenants, who worked in fields with taxes up to 60% of their crop yield. This crop would then be sold at the Saigon export market with the most favourable rates granted based on social status.

Apologists of the colonial regime claim that French rule led to significant improvements in healthcare; education; transportation and infrastructure. While this may be true in some aspects (Such as the French establishment of a foreign export market) The French's own numbers threw doubt on their claims, showing that only the wealthiest and most well connected Vietnamese would have access to these supposed benefits. In a census conducted during 1939, it was found that there were only 2 physicians per 100,000 Vietnamese- as opposed with 76 per 100,000 in Japan and 25 per 100,000 in the Philippines.

The situation in Vietnam would remain the same until the establishment of the modern nationalist movement in the early 20th century. Figures such as Phan Boi Chau were prominent spokesmen for the movement, giving way to the modern nationalist leadership that rejected French rule & colonialism but not western ideas, science and technology. The most notable event of this movement would be the establishment of the communist ideology & party; led by Nguyen Ai Quoc, more commonly known by his pseudonym Ho Chi Minh.

War and Discord: WW2

For five years during World War two, France was invaded, then controlled by the Axis powers; who set up an allied puppet government. As a French colonial possession belonging to the new Vichy government, control over Indochina was handed over to the Japanese. For their operations in South-east Asia, Vietnam was a vital staging ground useful for its agricultural and manufacturing capabilities, and it's well developed seaports & airports. Now finding himself in a country yet again occupied by a hostile foreign power, Ho Chi Minh would move to form a broad national alliance with similar groups under his leadership. Calling itself the League for the Independence of Vietnam, this alliance would later come to be known as the

Viet-minh. Throughout the war, Minh and his allies would aid allied forces where possible, passing over vital intel on troop movements and enemy capabilities.

When the Japanese surrendered in August of 1945, Minh's communist forces ordered a general uprising, successfully seizing control of the country while facing no organised opposition.

War and Discord 2: French edition

Now an independent power once more, France was determined to restore her colonial presence in Indochina. Initially cooperative with the new communist leadership, the French agreed to classify Vietnam as a semi-autonomous region, agreeing to slowly withdraw troops over a five year period. Despite this initial cooperation, the ruling policies between the both sides were incompatible: The French wished to retain their colonial government, while Minh's government demanded full independence. Further negotiations did not resolve their differences and the situation quickly deteriorated into open conflict. (Later known as the first Indochina war)

After a long and protracted campaign of guerilla warfare, the French would suffer a critical defeat at Dien Bien Phu. Shaken by the fall of their garrison, the French agreed to negotiate an end to the war at an international conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Geneva Conference

The Geneva conference was a series of meetings held in Geneva, Switzerland in 1954. Delegates from the United States; Soviet Union; France; China and Great Britain came together to try to resolve multiple problems related to Asia- most notably the War between French colonial forces and Vietnamese nationalists over control of Indochina.



Discussions on the Vietnam issue began just as France suffered its worst military defeat of the war. After a four month siege, Vietnamese forces captured the French base at Dien Bien Phu- a critical asset that held both military and symbolic value to the French. Convinced of the futility of supporting what they increasingly saw as a lost cause, Great Britain, the United states and other members of Nato refused to send additional aid or intervene further to prevent a French defeat.

Eventually, however, an agreement for peace was reached. As part of the now signed Geneva accords France and her allies would withdraw their troops from Northern Vietnam. Vietnam would be divided between two states: North Vietnam, controlled by the communist-led Viet-minh and South Vietnam, controlled by the French-backed puppet government.

The legacy of the Geneva accords is that of a compromise that temporarily ended the fighting in Vietnam, but did not facilitate a lasting peace. The US would later support the South Vietnamese government, marking the beginning of American involvement in the region.

Operation Rolling Thunder

Operation Rolling Thunder was a bombing campaign conducted by the United States Air Force (USAF) and Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) that lasted from 2 March 1965 until 2 November 1968. The main goal of this operation was to break the will of the North Vietnamese and its continuous support of the communist insurgency in South Vietnam. Though initially designed to be a gradual escalation of bombing, it eventually became a sustained bombing campaign that saw over 6.2 million tons of bombs dropped on North Vietnamese targets.



Pictured: Unmarked American planes on a bombing run during Operation Rolling Thunder

This campaign soon became the most intense air/ground battle waged during the cold war period and the most difficult for the United States since the aerial bombardments of Germany during world war two. Supported by both China and the Soviet Union, North Vietnamese forces were able to deploy sophisticated fighter jets and air-to-air weapons that created one of the most successful air defenses ever faced by American aviators.

The operation faced additional problems when heavy criticism was levied against it by domestic anti-war opposition and members of the military, which accused the sustained bombing campaign of causing significant civilian casualties, and damaging humanitarian infrastructure in North Vietnam. Furthermore, it had also not achieved its intended goal of breaking the will of the North Vietnamese government. This operation was eventually halted in 1968 as part of peace talks.

The Tet Offensive: January 30, 1968

The Tet offensive was a large-scale military offensive by PAVN and Viet Cong forces that began on January 30th, 1968. It took place on the Vietnamese Lunar holiday Tết Nguyên Đán. Its targets included military and symbolic objectives and represented one of the most significant escalations of the Vietnam war.



Pictured: South Vietnamese military captain executes unnamed communist fighter during the Tet offensive

Though Northern Vietnamese forces suffered a decisive military defeat, this offensive had far reaching consequences on American perception of the war effort. Due to a prior public relations campaign by General Westmoreland and Secretary of state Dean Rusk the American public were led to believe that the North Vietnamese were being defeated and were incapable of launching any large scale military offensives. As the images and news of this event flooded American newspapers any such illusion was quickly shattered.

Our Timeline

Because this is not an ad-hoc committee, you will be expected to play your roles based on the context given above. However, the most interesting part of this narrative will be the changes that your chairs(us) will make to the original timeline of events. We find this necessary not only to facilitate a meaningful set of debates and directives, but to facilitate some fun in the process. You will not find the details below in any research, but assume that if it hasn't been mentioned; all remains the same. Please don't try to steer the crisis back into what actually happened, and suspend your disbelief as you work with this alternate timeline.

Our crisis begins on January 1st, 1973. In 27 days the [Paris Peace Accords](#) are to be signed, which will officially pull the USA out of the Vietnam War and signify an impending North Vietnamese victory. However, what happens in the next 27 days will change the war as you know it.

January 10th, 1973: A Gruesome Act of Terrorism

In the final throes of the [Hearts and Minds Campaign](#), a group of school teachers(many voluntary American nationals) were teaching students in a rural South Vietnamese village near Đà Lạt. Viet Cong(National Liberation Front) soldiers ransacked the area, took the students and rounded up the teachers in the school principal's hut. The teachers

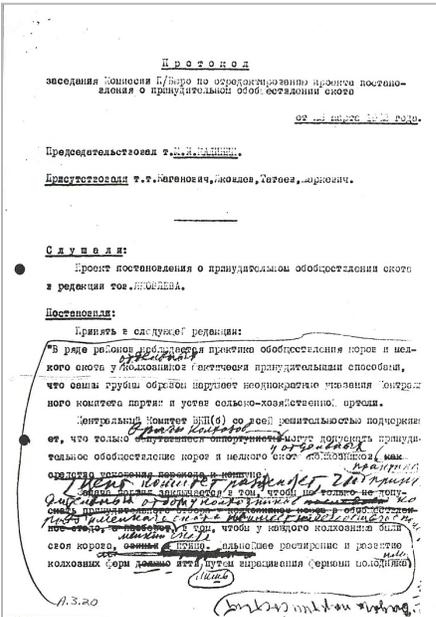
were kept there for four days and three nights as all their teaching material was brought out and burned. Eventually, after much interrogation the soldiers were unconvinced that the teachers were not associated with the American military. All 200 students and teachers were burned alive inside the primary school building. American soldiers who



arrived later at the scene documented the still-burning huts, and the few bodies that were recovered from them. The incident was publicised internationally.

January 14th, 1973: A Change of Heart

As the supposed armistice grew closer, the U.S.S.R grew increasingly disillusioned with their stake in the war. They had invested huge amounts of weaponry and intelligence in North Vietnam, competing with China for this communist stronghold - however, wanting a peaceful conclusion rather than a violent takeover.



But in the years approaching this timeline, the Soviets began to suspect that when it came down to it, even with a hefty anti-Chinese faction, North Vietnam would align itself with Chinese interests. Soviets were already trying to wean North Vietnam off of this heavy military support, but the relationship between governments was increasingly belligerent. This mutual tension gave Trường Chinh's Chinese, guerrilla-warfare faction more weightage within the North Vietnamese Politburo.

On January 14th, the American government received word that diplomats and officers from Moscow had been sent to Vietnam to discuss an extraction plan. Not only for their few soldiers, but to decommission and ship back most of their heavy weaponry. The anti-imperialist propoganda that the USSR had been peddling had backfired on them while China's scope for influence grew stronger than ever.

January 25th, 1973: Battle of Cửa Việt ex. The Easter Offensive

During the [Easter Offensive](#) which had just bloodily ended a few months prior, the South Vietnamese military had managed to capture several PAVN high command officers and entire divisions of the PAVN(People's Army of Vietnam) had become prisoners of war before they managed to reach the III Corps.

Renewed by this, the ARVN, South Vietnam's military, planned to launch the Cua Viet offensive. In a desperate bid to preserve South Vietnam having started months earlier, in the early hours of January 26th, a massive land and air incursion into the [Cua Viet military base](#)(originally American and then taken over by the North during the Easter offensive) began.

The offense was a massive success for the South. Enlisting 100% of the few remaining military forces that they held, South Vietnam managed to recapture the military

base, detain everyone within it and incur massive losses on PAVN forces. With the help of the American military aviation units, they disturbed the strong defeatism that ARVN had received from the South Vietnamese people. In the midst of a corrupt government, they had managed to fight off the blitz North Vietnam had assaulted them with during the Easter Offensive, and claimed a decisive victory that pushed back the Northern Zones.



In the hours leading up to the scheduled signing of the treaty, it was communicated that along with thousands of soldiers, the leaders of the Vietcong, including Lê Trọng Tấn and Cao Van Khanh had been captured. It was proposed that they reveal the hidden location of hundreds of high-ranking missing American soldiers, kept separate from the rest with some intelligence indicating that they were actually POWs.

This success came as a huge surprise to the Americans, who had believed in the incompetence and ineffectiveness of the ARVN. Responding with congratulations the Americans refreshed negotiations on support towards the South and on obtaining additional information about those missing POWs.

Due to Vietnamization, the vast majority of American troops had already been withdrawn from the region, and were unlikely to return anytime soon. However, if this surprising streak of successes continued, it may become politically viable to transfer additional equipment, munitions and funds to help support the South. Furthermore, the American public believed that the successes of the ARVN can be credited to American training and support. Should they continue to succeed militarily, it would reflect well upon the reigning administration and military leadership. What will the Americans decide?

Thus, the Paris Peace Accords are not signed. The war is not over. What will you do now?

Key Issues

“Make Love not War”: Increasing Internal Anti-War Sentiments

1960's America was a time of civil revolution, political upheaval and grandstanding. When the American military fully entered the conflict in 1965, the anti-war movement took off. Conscription was the main motivator for the anti-war movement as it tore many families apart, many adolescents from their parents, from parents who were too old to serve in the Vietnam War but old enough to remember the brutality of WW2.

Conscription fundamentally changed American society in the midst of so much reform. Many volunteered to serve in the war but 2.5 million men were conscripted out of 25 million eligible men. You can imagine the sense of vulnerability and anxiousness that would have been ubiquitous in the younger generation of the time. Out of the 2.5 million conscripted men, 80% were working-class teenagers, and around 80% only had a basic high-school education. An overwhelming amount of them would die.

Most of the Americans who fought in Vietnam were powerless, working-class teenagers sent to fight an undeclared war by presidents for whom they were not even eligible to vote. - Christian Appy in Working-Class War

1965 marked this pivotal year where much of the American population were no longer comfortable with the 'nobility' of the war and were traumatised by the



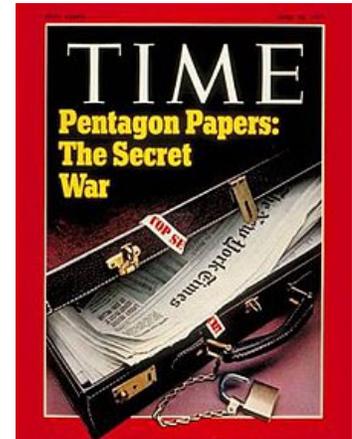
mass-violence like the [My Lai massacre](#) that for the first time, was being televised to the entire nation. University of Michigan professors organized the first Vietnam teach-in and Students for a Democratic Society launched the campus antiwar movement. In 1967, mass protests and draft turn-ins began to proliferate. Many were arrested and it was clear that by 1969, most Americans were against the war. In

1969, a single Moratorium To End The War In Vietnam attracted nearly 15 million protestors, but the government's actions only worsened.

The presidential election in 1968 is when the governmental tide began to turn. Mass protests were organised at the Democratic National Convention, chanting the famous slogan, "The whole world is watching!". Johnson threw in the towel, and Nixon arguably won on his promise to end the war. By the '70's, the '[Vietnam Syndrome](#)' had materialised. Continuing the war would be more difficult than ever.

Watergate & the Pentagon Papers: The Nixon Cabinet begins to collapse

Beginning in 1971 with the publishing of the [Pentagon Papers](#), the Nixon administration began to receive the heaviest scrutiny for the Vietnam War that the American government had ever received. Colliding with the Watergate scandal in 1972, the country was agitated, and the state was the most vulnerable to its mistakes that it had ever been. The impending collapse of the Nixon cabinet will strain the decisions and urgency of the decisions made and the resources invested in continuing a war effort.



The Pentagon Papers were top-secret, incriminating pieces of military analysis taken from the Defense report commissioned by McNamara, the primary architect of the Vietnam war. The report covered United States-Vietnam Relations from 1945 - 1967. Portions of the paper were published in mainstream news revealing the full extent of American involvement in Vietnam. Not only in the Vietnam War(Second Indochina war), but in supporting France during the first one. It further revealed breaches of conduct and massive military failures in Vietnam till the Nixon presidency, to the extent that the analyst writing it became convinced the war was unwinnable; hence leaking it.

The Pentagon Papers not only agitated public antagonism of the war, but swayed opinions within Congress as well. The particular revelations of American terrorism, interference and involvement in Laos and Cambodia were completely unknown to the public earlier. All of the military actions outside 'standard warfare' were now in the public eye, and under public scrutiny; especially since the Pentagon Papers won its own Supreme Court case allowing journalists to reveal such government misconduct and secrets with the protection of the first amendment right to free press.

In response to the Pentagon disaster, the Nixon cabinet attempted many suspicious efforts at thwarting more media confrontation. It went to the extent of burglarizing and wiretapping. This practice also ultimately led to the [Watergate scandal](#), which broke the news in 1972 and ultimately revealed corrupt and illicit practices within the cabinet, *"including bugging the offices of political opponents and people of whom Nixon or his officials were suspicious; ordering investigations of activist groups and political figures; and using the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Internal Revenue Service as political weapons."*

Note that the next two guiding issues are based on the falsified timeline and thus not entirely true to real life events. Nonetheless, we strongly encourage you to do some research into them as there are still very useful, large bits of evidence that can contextualise and support.

Communism begins to turn: Eastern vs Western Liberation

Since the beginning of the integration of French-resistant and communist forces into the Democratic Republic of Vietnam(North Vietnam), a close relationship between China, USSR and North Vietnam thrived. However, it was a competitive



relationship with differing interests. Initially and even within our timeline, the Soviets were more focused on gaining western acceptance and proliferating their influence in the European sphere. China, being the direct neighbour of Vietnam, was the Indochinese communist power. Eventually, it came to a point where Soviet and Chinese aid, support and resources were only increasing because of the mutual competition for the

communist influence. However, China consistently sent in more investment and direct help to North Vietnam, establishing its sovereignty as a powerful communist nation of the East that had split its Soviet ties.

This is strongly reflected in the governance and military strategy of the time. As revealed in the Pentagon Papers, after a certain decade in the war, America shifted its motivation in continuing the war effort. It had become less about the proxy Cold war tensions with the Soviets(who were still keen on ending the war as soon as possible), and more to do with the recognition of China's growing hegemony in the East. It was more than a fear of North Vietnam spreading communism to the rest of Indochina and more about the surmounting influence that China had, and was willing to wield in its own territory.

China—like Germany in 1917, like Germany in the West and Japan in the East in the late 30s, and like the USSR in 1947—looms as a major power threatening to undercut our importance and effectiveness in the world and, more remotely but more menacingly, to organize all of Asia against us. - Robert McNamara in an 1965 memorandum

The way this played out in North Vietnam's government, or rather, Politburo, will also be extremely important. Within the politburo there are two clear factions, pro-China and anti-China. It stems from a fundamental divide in the ideologies of North Vietnam, a fusion between its anti-colonialist, imperialist and oppressive overlords with the hefty dose of communist and autocratic ideology. Many within the government saw this alignment with China as a blind, theory-based approach. On the other hand, there was a growing sentiment against the Soviets. China, on the other hand, became less occupied with America after 1968 when Sino-Vietnamese relations tensed; and became more concerned with Soviet supremacy.



'Opposition to the US invasion of North Vietnam!', a Chinese poster reads

North Vietnam grew out of the liberation movement, against the French, against colonialism and against the 'western imperialism' that the Soviets also peddled. The Soviets, with their growingly sparse but heavy, bulky military strategies were unknowingly competing with China's idea of making it the '[People's War](#)'. This led to a split in government, where the Soviet military grip, reliant on its continuous supply of heavy artillery and machinery(similar to the American 'brute-force and sheer-scale' strategy) was giving way to China's ideological grip, which had managed to integrate its ideology and military strategy into something that was adept for the Vietnamese context.

It is often said that the entire problem with the American approach was that they never understood who they were fighting. At this stage in the conflict, North Vietnam had found a military strategy that worked for them, under the framework of liberty and independence that they had fought to achieve - but at the cost of losing the strength of one of their biggest allies.

Vietnamization: South Vietnam, a Puppet State

In 1968, the Tet offensive had just demonstrated that America was not winning, not even close. Not only was the communist regime in the north as strong as ever, but the insurgency continued as a looming threat over the south, taking with it tens of thousands of American lives. Meanwhile, growing anti-war sentiment amongst American citizens, politicians and even members of Nixon's own cabinet began to take a heavy toll on the reigning administration. Nixon, under overwhelming pressure, instituted a program of troop withdrawals dubbed "Vietnamization". Coined and pioneered by anti-war secretary of state Melvin Laird, Vietnamization aimed to gradually replace American troops with ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) soldiers and greatly expand South Vietnamese military capabilities.

"Peace with honour" was the prevailing term amongst senior military leadership and Nixon's administration. They believed that a full on defeat with nothing to show for it would cripple the Nato alliance's confidence in America and undermine their position in the cold war. Therefore, while it was no longer viable to win or continue the fight, "Honour" in defeat was important. At a series of press conferences in 1969, spokespeople for the military claimed to the American people that ARVN military capabilities had been steadily improving to the point that the war could be "de-americanized" or Vietnamized. Therefore, America's involvement was no longer required, and they would be withdrawing their support.

This policy rapidly boosted the Nixon administration's popularity. In the first wave of withdrawals, Nixon announced 25,000 troops would be returning home. Seeing the enormous political potential in what the public saw as

"Finally sending their sons home", troop withdrawals soon became an indispensable tool for the administration. In the subsequent year, another 150,000 troops would be withdrawn, with the pace only increasing by the day. Even though they were promised additional equipment and support through the transition, the reality of the situation was not lost on the Vietnamese. "The Americans were abandoning their country, believing it a lost cause unworthy of their support." was the overwhelming sentiment amongst South Vietnamese forces, crushing what morale remained. By 1970, serious problems in the military were everywhere. Problems such as drug abuse; corruption; desertion and even murder, common before the war, was everywhere by this point and threw serious doubt on the combat capabilities of remaining ARVN forces. However, a visionary general, *Pham Huu Liem*, had risen through the ranks and managed to assemble a super-unit of soldiers that seemed to be responsible for the *Cửa Việt* victory.



'If this boy of yours is real, how come we gotta wind him up all the time?'

Delegations and Players

This chart describes all the players, roles and coalitions within this council.

Note that the USA-South Vietnam Coalition only has one South Vietnamese representative.

Role	Coalition	
	North Vietnam	United States
Executive	Lê Duẩn	Richard Nixon
General	Võ Nguyên Giáp	Melvin Laird
Intelligence	Trần Quốc Hoàn	William Egan Colby
Ambassador	Lê Đức Thọ	Henry Kissinger
Treasury	Phạm Văn Đồng	Dean Rusk
	Allied USSR and China	Allied South Vietnam
General	Alexei Kosygin	×
Treasury	Zhou Enlai	×
Intelligence	×	Nguyễn Văn Thiệu
General	×	William Westmoreland(USA)

North Vietnam-Soviet Cabinet:

Lê Duẩn, Executive

Le Duan served as the leader of the Vietnamese Communist party after the death of Ho Chi Minh in 1969. As a founding father for the Indochina communist party (Later known as the Viet-Minh) Le held a variety of high ranking positions throughout the establishment of modern Vietnam. After the reorganisation of the VCP in 1976, Le assumed the title of secretary-general and was responsible for leading the nation through a difficult reunification period between the North and South.

Võ Nguyên Giáp, General

Vo Nguyen Giap served as Commander-in-Chief of the Vietnam People's Army from March 2, 1946 to April 30, 1975. Originally a history teacher, Vo is today remembered as one of the most decorated generals in Vietnamese history. His most

notable achievements include a myriad of Vietnamese victories against the French in the first Indochina war, most significant of which being the capture of the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu. Later on, Vo held a critical role in developing unconventional warfare tactics against a technologically superior American foe.

Trần Quốc Hoàn, Intelligence

Nguyen Trong Canh, or more commonly known by his pseudonym Tran Quoc Hoan, served in a variety of positions in the communist Viet-Minh government. This includes: Minister of interior of Vietnam; Minister of Public Security of Vietnam; Deputy minister of Public Security, and more. While taking on a variety of responsibilities, Tran was best known for his talents in combatting American espionage. In documents after the war, it was found that almost all “long-term” spies placed in the communist government were either captured, killed, or turned into double agents.

Lê Đức Thọ, Ambassador

Le Duc Tho served as Head of the Central Organization Department, in charge of communist party personnel and diplomatic operations from 1956 to 1982. Of all attempts at peace between the Americans and Vietnamese, none were so successful as the talks between Le and Henry Kissinger. An avid poet and patriotic statesman, Le held a unique worldview on America, understanding that the leadership could not allow the nation to be embarrassed, humiliated or directly defeated- eventually overseeing the signing of the Paris accords, marking an end to the war and the decades long American intervention.

Phạm Văn Đồng, Treasury

Pham Van Dong served as the Prime Minister of Vietnam from 1955 to 1976. Joining the Vietnamese community party from a young age, Pham would eventually catch the eye of party leader Ho Chi Minh, who would task Pham with preparations for their takeover of the country after the Japanese surrender. He would eventually rise up to the position of Prime minister, where he would maintain close ties with the Chinese government, maintaining close ties and negotiating various forms of aid and funding.

Alexei Kosygin, Treasury

Refer to playercard

Zhou Enlai, General

Refer to playercard

South Vietnamese US Cabinet:

Richard Nixon, Executive

Richard Nixon served as the president of the United States from January 20, 1969, to August 9, 1974. As an avid anti-communist, Nixon was a major proponent of the “Domino Theory”, a geopolitical theory claiming the rising influence of communism in one region would lead to its inevitable spread to neighbouring countries. Under this premise, Nixon justified continued military action in Indochina and South America by portraying it as an ideological struggle against communism.

In his early political career, Nixon served as a representative of California first as a congressman, then as a senator. He would then rise to nationwide prominence serving as vice president for Dwight D Eisenhower for two consecutive terms.

Melvin Laird, General

Melvin Laird served as the Secretary of Defence for Richard Nixon’s presidential cabinet from January 22, 1969 – January 29, 1973. As a former republican congressman, Laird stood in firm opposition towards costly actions in the Vietnam war. Throughout his tenure as secretary of defence, he would frequently oppose further military action in Vietnam and support additional troop withdrawals that replaced American boots with the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Forces.

In his early political career, Laird first served on the Wisconsin state senate but quickly moved on to become a state representative in congress, succeeding his father. Famous for his work on domestic and defence issues, he left congress in 1969 to become secretary of defence for Richard Nixon

William Egan Colby, Intelligence

Refer to playercard

Henry Kissinger, Ambassador

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Dean Rusk, Treasury

Dean Rusk served as US secretary of state from 1961 to 1969.

During his tenure, Rusk was most famous for his unwavering support for the Vietnam War. He believed it represented an essential test of the United State’s determination to contain communism and that it needed to maintain its

commitment to democracy. Failure to defend South Vietnam, an allied democratic nation, he argued, was paramount to displaying American weakness worldwide.

This belief led Rusk to pursue a path of gradual escalation in Vietnam, supporting aggressive military strategies. This came to a head in the mid-1960s when South Vietnam came at risk of falling to communist forces. Rusk abandoned his opposition towards involving US troops in the conflict and partnered with McNamara to commit many American forces to the cause.

William Westmoreland, General

William Westmoreland served as the commander of all US forces in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968.

In 1964 the war in Vietnam greatly escalated. Troops on the ground were faced with a drastic increase in guerilla warfare, ambush tactics and various other unconventional strategies from the National Liberation Front (NLF). This new method of combat shocked the US army, who were used to fighting a clear enemy, rather than the decentralised oftentimes plainclothed Viet Cong force. Faced with these challenges the now-promoted Westmoreland made major changes to US combat doctrine, marking a new era of the Vietnam war.

Nguyễn Văn Thiệu, Intelligence

Nguyen Van Thieu served as the president of an independent South Vietnam from 1967 to 1975. His resignation is considered the beginning of the collapse of South Vietnam, as during this time the capital, Saigon, had just been surrounded by communist forces.

In his earlier military career, Thieu was responsible for the rescue of president Ngo Dinh Diem from an earlier coup in 1960. Impressed with his loyalty, Diem gave command of a significant portion of the armed forces to Thieu, which turned out to be a major mistake.

In 1963 Thieu turned on Diem, leading a successful coup which saw Diem's deposition and eventual assassination.

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