



How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

Name: _____ Form: _____

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

Events in Korea 1950-53

5

Background

5.1

Japanese ruled Korea from 1910 - 1945.

After WWII Japan had lost and left Korea, with the Russian army in the North and USA army in the South.

Country divided along 38th parallel.

In the North - communists ruled with **Kim Il Sung** as leader.

In the South - elections were held & anti-communist **Syngman Rhee** was leader.



Both sides claimed to be the rulers of all Korea.

Sometimes there was fighting (clashes) on the border between North & South.

5.2



Why was the USA involved?

Before 1950 USA was not very interested in Korea.

BUT in 1950:
USA policy of **Containment**: stop communism



USA ideas in **NSC 68** which said USA needed more arms & it should 'roll back' communism.

USA believed in **Domino Theory**. If South Korea were to become communist it would spread to other countries for example Japan.

5.3



Why was the USSR involved?

Before 1950 USSR was not very interested in Korea.

BUT in 1949:
NATO was formed and Stalin was worried, plus USA was helping Japan.
Stalin thought USA was being 'aggressive'



When Kim Il Sung leader of North Korea told Stalin he wanted to invade the South, Stalin thought it a good idea as it would cause the USA problems

USSR gave North Korea weapons and advice, but never sent Russian soldiers

5.4

Impact of the Korean War

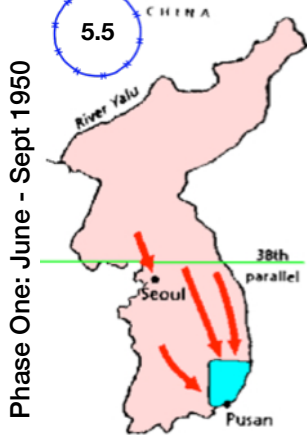
- . made the Cold War worse
- . spread the Cold War from Europe to Asia
- . SEATO - South Asian Treaty Organization formed (similar to NATO)
- . USSR set up the Warsaw Pact
- . Korea was ruined by the war, one in ten Koreans died
- . USA thought the war was a success because South Korea did not become communist (Truman Doctrine)
- . United Nations showed it could be strong

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Events in Korea 1950-53

5 Korean War: events

Phase One: June - Sept 1950

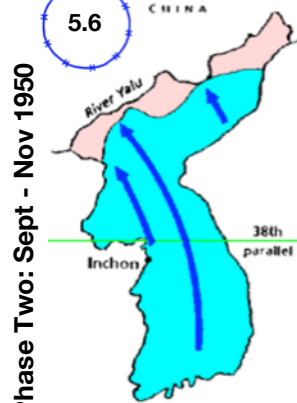


On 25 June 1950, the North Koreans attacked. They were very successful. The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) easily defeated the Republic of Korea's army (the ROKs). They captured most of South Korea.

The USA was shocked and alarmed. On 27 June they persuaded the United Nations to pass a resolution supporting South Korea.

The USA sent troops to Korea as part of the UN force to help the South Korean Army at Pusan.

Phase Two: Sept - Nov 1950

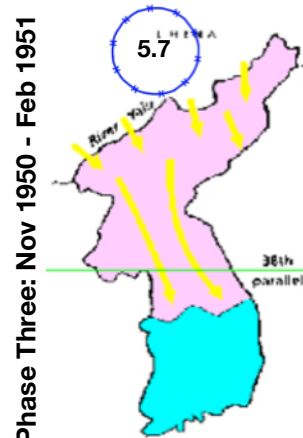


On 15 September, the US General MacArthur led a UN amphibious landing at Inchon (near Seoul) behind the NKPA. Out of the 300,000 UN troops, 260,000 were Americans.

In danger of being cut off, the NKPA had to retreat. The Americans drove them back and recaptured South Korea. 125,000 NKPA prisoners were taken.

On 7 October 1950 MacArthur invaded North Korea. He advanced as far as the Chinese border. He boasted that the Americans would be 'home by Christmas'.

Phase Three: Nov 1950 - Feb 1951



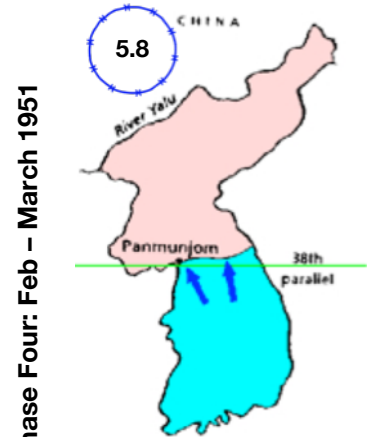
The Americans landed more troops. They used bombers.

The Chinese admitted to losing 390,000 men dead - UN sources put the figure at up to a million Chinese and half a million North Koreans dead. The US drove the Chinese back, but 54,000 American soldiers died doing so.

MacArthur reached the 38th parallel in March 1951.

He threatened to invade China.

Phase Four: Feb - March 1951



Now the Chinese were alarmed.

On 25 November, 200,000 Chinese troops ('People's Volunteers') attacked MacArthur. They had modern weapons supplied by Russia, and a fanatical hatred of the Americans.

Then, on 31 December, half a million more Chinese troops entered the war and attacked the Americans. They drove the Americans back (using 'human wave tactics'). They recaptured North Korea, and advanced into South Korea.



5.9

Phase Five: March 1951 – 1953

Truman told MacArthur to stop. MacArthur was sacked when he publicly criticised Truman's order.

In 1953, Eisenhower became American president. The Americans threatened to use the atomic bomb if China did not stop fighting.

The Chinese & Koreans agreed to a truce, which was signed on 27 July 1953.

It is estimated that 10 million people died in the war - as many as died in the First World War.

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Events in Korea 1950-53

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Match-up: Match the phase with the statement

Phase: 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5	Statement
	On 25 June 1950, the North Koreans attacked.
	MacArthur reached the 38 th parallel in March 1951.
	General MacArthur led a UN amphibious landing at Inchon (near Seoul)
	The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) easily defeated the Republic of Korea's army (the ROKs). They captured most of South Korea.
	500,000 more Chinese troops entered the war and attacked the Americans. They drove the Americans back (using 'human wave tactics'). They recaptured North Korea, and advanced into South Korea.
	Truman told MacArthur to stop. MacArthur was sacked when he publicly criticised Truman's order.
	The Americans sent troops to Korea as part of the UN force to reinforce the South Korean Army at Pusan.
	In 1953, Eisenhower became American president. The Americans threatened to use the atomic bomb if China did not stop fighting.
	The Americans drove the North Koreans back and recaptured South Korea.
	200,000 Chinese troops ('People's Volunteers') attacked MacArthur's army. They had modern weapons supplied by Russia, and a fanatical hatred of the Americans.
	The Chinese & Koreans agreed to a truce, which was signed on 27 July 1953.
	MacArthur invaded North Korea. He advanced as far as the Chinese border. He boasted that the Americans would be 'home by Christmas'.

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Consequence: Rank the consequences and explain their importance

Rank	Consequence & explanation for ranking
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

Events in Cuba 1959-62

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5.10

Background

Before 1959

Dictator Batista was the ruler but was unpopular with many Cubans. Many USA businesses benefitted under Batista including sugar plantations & casinos. Cuba leased Guantanamo Bay to the USA.

Fidel Castro wanted to improve the lives of the peasants & end corruption.

USA was opposed to Castro. He was friends with communists & was a threat to US business interests.

Cuban Revolution 1959

Castro seized power & appointed communists to his government.

Castro turns to the USSR after USA opposed his rule. Many Cubans fled to the USA.

Nationalisation: Castro seized much of the land & many companies

USA response:

- . refused to buy Cuban sugar
- . end all trade with Cuba
- . refused to supply arms
- . ended diplomatic relations
- . supported Cuban exiles in overthrowing Castro

USSR response: (after 1961)

- . bought Cuban sugar
- . supplied Cuba with arms
- . offered support to Cuba

USA response: (to USSR)

- . feared USSR supported the country on the USA's doorstep
- . USA warns USSR not to put nuclear missiles on Cuba

5.11

Cuban Missile Crisis



Plan

- . President Eisenhower supported Cuban exiles in overthrowing Castro

- . JFK continued with the plan, with the exiles invading Cuba with the

Bay of Pigs Operation 1961

Invasion

- . CIA trained 1,400 exiles
- . invaded with support of bombers flown by Cubans
- . invasion easily stopped & 1,200 exiles were captured by Castro's forces

Consequences

- . USA: JFK hugely embarrassed - seen as a bully
- . Cuba: moved Castro closer to the USSR
- . USSR: supports Cuba, gains an ally (friend) in Central America



5.12

Soviet Missiles in Cuba



Central America

- . Supporting Cuba was seen as important in establishing an ally (friend) in Central America & try to limit or stop US influence

Why did Khrushchev put missiles in Cuba?

Kennedy weak

- Some saw Kennedy as a young inexperienced President who could be pushed around
- . He was seen as being weak after the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs operation

Missiles in Turkey

- . US missiles in Turkey gave the US a strategic military advantage
- . Khrushchev hoped that his missiles in Cuba could be used to negotiate the removal of the Turkish missiles plus US position in Berlin

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

Events in Cuba 1959-62

5c

True or False

Read each statement and decide if it is **TRUE** or **FALSE**

	Statement	T	F
1	Batista was a Cuban leader		
2	Cuba leased Guantanamo Bay to the USA.		
3	USA supported Castro to take over in Cuba		
4	Castro had friends who were communists		
5	Everyone in Cuba was happy when Castro took over as leader		
6	Castro introduced nationalisation		
7	The USA remained trading partners with Cuba		
8	The USA supported Cubans exiles in overthrowing Castro		
9	The CIA trained 10,400 exiles to invade Cuba - Bay of Pigs		
10	The exiles invasion was a disaster & JFK was embarrassed as a result		
11	Cuba became friendlier with the USSR after the attempted exile invasion		
12	Khrushchev wanted a friendly country in central America		
13	Khrushchev thought JFK was weak & could be pushed around		
14	USSR hoped to get the US missiles in Greece removed		
15	The USA warned the USSR not to place missiles on Cuba		

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

Events in Cuba 1959-62

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5.13

Events 1962

August: USA spy planes observe Soviet personnel & weapons in Cuba.

September:

JFK warned the USSR that he would prevent them from putting missiles on Cuba 'by whatever means necessary'.

14 October: USA U2 spy plane takes photographs of the construction of nuclear missile launch site in Cuba.

USSR ships seen in the Atlantic Ocean heading to Cuba, with what looked like missiles on board.

16 October: was opposed to Castro. He was friends with communists & was a threat to US business interests.

By 16 October it had become clear that the Cubans were allowing the USSR to assemble missile sites.

JFK was advised that the missiles could be ready to be fired before the end of October.

JFK had announced he would not allow the Soviets to place missiles on Cuba, but how could he get Khrushchev to remove them without risking a nuclear war?

5.14

Attack the missile sites by air to destroy the missile launch sites

But no guarantee that all the sites would be hit & risk the Soviets striking back.

Invasion of Cuba

Destroy the missile sites & remove Castro

But invasion lead to killing Soviet personnel & likely result in war against USSR.

Kennedy's Choices

Blockade of Cuba
naval blockade of Cuba to stop missiles arriving & give JFK time to negotiate
But no guarantee that the Soviet ships would stop & not necessarily get missiles removed from Cuba.

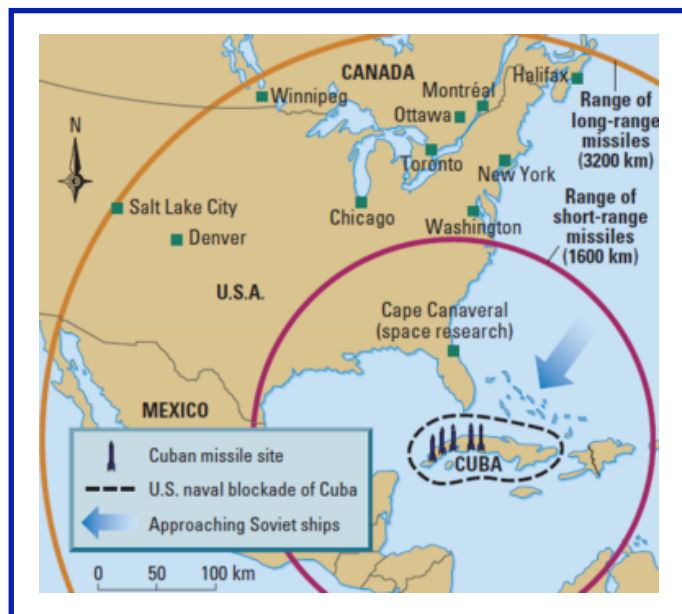
5.15

Choice: naval blockade

JFK announced all Soviet ships would be searched & those carrying missiles turned back. At the same time US armed forces were put on red alert & the USSR warned any missile launch would be met with full retaliation.

5.16

Situation: missiles close to the USA



Nuclear deterrence was based on **MAD: Mutually Assured Destruction.**

Neither superpower would attack the other as retaliation from the other would mean both countries would be destroyed - potentially many times over.

However, missiles based in Cuba, could in theory mean the USSR could attack and destroy nuclear bases in the USA before they could retaliate.

Thus the USSR could win a nuclear war.

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

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Cuban Missile Crisis - Kennedy's Choices

Explain the advantages & disadvantages for each of the choices that Kennedy faced

Kennedy's Choice	Advantages	Disadvantages
Diplomacy		
Blockade of Cuba		
Attack missile sites from the air		
Invasion of Cuba		

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

Events in Cuba 1959-62

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Cuban Missile Crisis: events & consequences

5.17

Timeline of events

1962

- 23 October **Khrushchev's response** was to ignore the blockade & did not admit to having missiles on Cuba. It said it was merely helping Cuba defend itself & the USA was taking the world to war.
- 24 October **Soviet ships stop** and turn around at the blockade line, except one carrying oil
- 25 October **Missile sites** construction continued in Cuba
- 26 October **Khrushchev sent a letter** saying that the USSR would remove the missiles if: USA stopped the blockade & USA promise not to invade Cuba in the future
- 27 October **Khrushchev second letter** adds a demand that US missiles should be removed from Turkey. A U2 spy plane is shot down & JFK is pushed to retaliate. USA agree to first letter demands then JFK sends a secret message to Khrushchev agreeing to remove Turkey missiles.
- 28 October **Removal of missiles** from Cuba agreed by Khrushchev

5.18



USA



- . Cuban Missile Crisis showed the need to look at all options and not always use the military one
- . Kennedy looked strong in the USA, making Khrushchev back down
- . Kennedy was respected around the world for avoiding war
- . A communist Cuba was still embarrassing
- . US missiles removed from Turkey



Superpower Relations

- . Cold War thaw after CMC, as both leaders realised there was nearly a war
- . 'Hot line' established so leaders could talk directly to each other to avoid misunderstandings
- . Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963 helped improve relations



Cuba

- . Missiles removed
- . Stayed Communist
- . Kept Soviet support
- . Acted as a centre for communism in central America



USSR

- . Stopped US invasion of Cuba
- . China criticised Soviets for backing down to USA
- . Khrushchev seen as backing down to Kennedy
- . Khrushchev removed from power two years later - partly due to CMC

Consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis



How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

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Answers & Questions: You have the answer, but what is the question?

Answer:

Cuban Revolution

Question:

Answer:

Blockade of Cuba

Question:

Answer:

Batista

Question:

Answer:

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

Question:

Answer:

Cuban missile sites

Question:

Answer:

'Hot line'

Question:

Answer:

Agreed by Khrushchev

Question:

Answer:

US spy planes

Question:

Answer:

Fidel Castro

Question:

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

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Events & consequences

Decide for each statement if it is a:

- reason for **Khrushchev** to put missiles in Cuba
- a choice for **Kennedy** to make
- an **event** of the Cuban Missile Crisis
- a **consequence** of the Cuban Missile Crisis

Circle the correct answer



. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Do nothing and avoid a possible nuclear war with the USSR. But make JFK look weak & risk Soviet action elsewhere e.g. Berlin.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Cuba stayed Communist
and continued to receive Soviet support.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Some saw Kennedy as a young inexperienced President who could be pushed around. He was seen as being weak after the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs operation.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Destroy the missile sites & remove Castro, but an invasion lead to killing Soviet personnel & likely result in war against USSR.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

'Hot line' established so leaders could talk directly to each other to avoid misunderstandings.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Naval blockade of Cuba to stop missiles arriving & give JFK time to negotiate, but no guarantee that the Soviet ships would stop & not necessarily get missiles removed from Cuba

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

US missiles in Turkey gave the US a strategic military advantage. Khrushchev hoped that his missiles in Cuba could be used to negotiate the removal of the Turkish missiles.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Khrushchev seen as backing down to Kennedy. Khrushchev removed from power two years later - partly due to CMC.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Khrushchev's response was to ignore the blockade & did not admit to having missiles on Cuba. It said it was merely helping Cuba defend itself & the USA was taking the world to war.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Cuban Missile Crisis showed the need to explore the all options and not always go the direct military one.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Khrushchev sent a letter outlining that the USSR would remove the missiles if: USA stopped the blockade & USA promise not to invade Cuba in the future.

. Kennedy . Khrushchev . Event . Consequence .

Kennedy looked strong in the USA, making Khrushchev back down and was respected around the world for avoiding war.

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

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Consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis

Place each consequence as a short, medium or long term consequence

Then rank each consequence according to its importance by highlighting each consequence:

most important = RED

important = BLUE

least important = GREEN

Short Term (immediate)	Medium Term (soon after the event)	Long Term (over the next year or more)

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

5

5.19

Background

- . French colony since C19th called Indochina.
- . Rebellion in 1930s crushed by the French army.
- . WWII, 1940 French surrender to Germans.
- . Japan (Germany's allies) take over Vietnam from French.
- . WWII, anti-Japan resistance movement (Viet Minh) led by Ho Chi Minh, who wanted an end to colonial rule.
- . WWII, 1945 Allies victory meant France wanted Vietnam back, even though Ho Chi Minh had declared an independent Vietnam.
- . 1946 war broke out between Viet Minh & the French. Ho Chi Minh was a communist but kept quiet so not to upset USA.
- The USA was against colonialism.
- . 1949, Mao's communist takeover in China meant support for the Viet Minh
- . 1950 USA now saw Ho Chi Minh as a communist enemy & friends with China. They gave \$500 million pa to the French as part of their policy of containment.
- . French controlled the cities & the Viet Minh the countryside.
- . Viet Minh guerrilla tactics meant the French pulled out after defeat at Dien Bien Phu.
- . 1954 Peace Conference, Geneva Settlement saw Vietnam divided into North & South (along 17th parallel) until elections were held which the USA did not want as they feared a communist victory.

5.20



Vietnam War



Already involved

USA had supported France since the end WWII.

Given \$500 million per year to help France inc. equipment

After 1954, helped South Vietnam with money, equipment & military advisors.

USA counter the support that North Vietnam was getting from USSR & China.

Committed to supporting the South Vietnam government at Geneva Settlement. Backed unpopular leader Ngo Diem with \$1.6 billion in 1950s.

Reasons why the USA became involved in Vietnam

Truman Doctrine

Policy of containment said USA to support anti-communists.

Presidents Eisenhower in the 1950s and Kennedy after 1960 believed in the Domino Theory. If Vietnam became communist then other countries would follow: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Burma, India etc



5.21

Steps to War for the USA

1. 1960 - 1963: Kennedy increased military advisors from 900 to 11,000

. **1963: Vietcong take over 40% of S.Vietnamese countryside**

. **1963: President Johnson sends more help to stop Vietcong**
Johnson not a 'war monger' but not want to be seen as soft on communism
Defence Sec. McNamara believed war was winnable

2. Aug. 1964: Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

(still debate about circumstances of incident)

US ships attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats
Johnson attacked North Vietnamese naval bases

3. March 1965: US Marines arrive

No longer called advisors but troops
US bombers start bombing North Vietnam called 'Rolling Thunder'

4. After 1966: Total war

Over 500,000 US soldiers in Vietnam on 12 month tours
Draft of young men in the US army

5. 1968: Nixon elected President - withdraw from Vietnam

Peace with honour - took 4 years

Vietcong = South Vietnamese communists + North Vietnamese

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

Events in Cuba 1959-62

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Vietnam War

Rank	Reasons why USA became involved in the Vietnam & explanation of ranking
1	
2	
3	
4	

Mark /10	Steps to war: how far did each 'step' take USA closer to war (mark out of 10) Explain how it took the USA closer to war in Vietnam
	1960 -63: Kennedy increased military advisors
	1963: Johnson sent more help to South Vietnam & McNamara believed war was winnable
	1964: Gulf of Tonkin resolution
	1965: US marines arrive in South Vietnam & Rolling Thunder begins

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

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Events

5.22

Trail through Laos & Cambodia kept Vietcong supplied. Bombing of trail was very controversial as countries not involved in the war. Bombing did little to disrupt supply lines as 35,000 + Vietnamese kept it open.

Turning points:

My Lai Massacre 1968 - 1969

Charlie Company on search & destroy mission killed 300 - 400 villagers, mainly women, children & old men. No Vietcong were found. It was considered a success. One year later a letter was sent to politicians & Life magazine printed photos. An investigation ended in mass murder charges for Lt. Calley & others. Calley was blamed & got 20 years 'hard labour'. USA people were shocked & protests increased.

Tet Offensive 1968

On Tet religious holiday, Vietcong launched over 100 attacks across South Vietnam. Scale of offensive shocked USA. Vietcong suffered huge casualties, but USA morale badly affected. Americans thought the war was unwinnable.

5.23

Bombing

Operation Rolling Thunder

(Feb. 1965 - 1972)

- . Targets:
 - . industrial & military targets initially approved by President
 - . then town & cities
 - . then in Laos & Cambodia
- . Ho Chi Minh Trail
- Result:**
 - . reduced number of soldiers needed
 - . dropped more bombs than on Germany & Japan in WWII
 - . damaged NV ability to fight the war
 - . attacked Vietcong targets in South
 - . 14,000 US bombers shot down
 - . failed to stop the communists

- . Killing civilians (women & children) turned many in USA against the war

Vietnam War



Chemical Weapons

Agent Orange & Napalm

- . It was a sort of 'weedkiller'
- . Used to destroy the jungles, so the Vietcong had no hiding place
- Result:**
 - . Destroyed thousands of sq km of jungle
 - . Burned & killed thousands of guerrilla fighters & civilians

- . Shocking pictures of women & children burned by chemical weapons turned many people in the USA against the war

Search & destroy

- . Bombing was not winning the war
- . USA built strong bases in the south & launched attacks via helicopters
- Result:**
 - . Some successes against Vietcong
 - . Pointless attacks based on poor information
 - . Vietcong often 'vanished' before attacks
 - . Many civilians killed during attacks
- . Turned many peasants against the USA/South Vietnamese
- . My Lai Massacre turned US public opinion against the war

5.24

Guerilla tactics

- . Less soldiers & outgunned by US & South Viet forces
- . Ho Chi Minh used guerilla tactics like Mao in China
- . Attack & disappear into jungle
- . Retreat if outnumbered
- . Not always wear uniforms
- . Got peasant support - sometimes through terror

Result:

- . Very motivated fighters
- . Lower morale of US soldiers
- . Had peasant support
- . Network of informants
- . Over 1 million died



Supply lines & tunnels

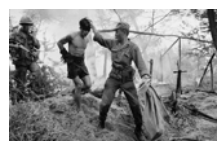
- . The Vietcong in the South were supplied via trails in Laos & Cambodia
- . USA failed to stop the flow of supplies, often carried on bicycles, despite heavy bombing
- . Underground bases & tunnels kept Vietcong safe from bombing
- Result:**
 - . Vietcong constantly supplied
 - . Tunnel network destroyed
 - . US morale



General Giap (AP photo)



After a napalm attack



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Events in Cuba 1959-62

5i Vietnam War test your knowledge

Vietcong	Success /10	Explanation
Guerilla Tactics		
Supply Lines		
USA	Success /10	Explanation
Bombing		
Chemical weapons		
Search & Destroy		

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

5

Why was the USA unable to win the Vietnam War?



Communists

Harsh lifestyle

Vietcong use to hard peasant lifestyle
At home in jungle environment & communal living

Win the hearts & minds

Communists worked hard to win over the peasants
BUT treated peasants harshly if they did not support them

Serve their country

Patriotic soldiers fighting for their homeland
Against colonial rule - French then USA

Unity

Soldiers & Vietnamese people very motivated to defeat the 'colonial invading' army & worked together
Communists controlled & motivated in a variety of ways
People made huge personal sacrifices inc. women & children to help the soldiers:
'Shock brigades' repaired bomb damage after air raids

Information

Communists had informants in South Vietnam - in all areas inc. army, US Army and CIA
They often knew of planned attacks in advance

Guerilla warfare

Guerilla warfare was central to VC tactics though Tet offensive showed it was capable of traditional warfare which shocked US generals and US public alike
US troops always scared of VC ambushes

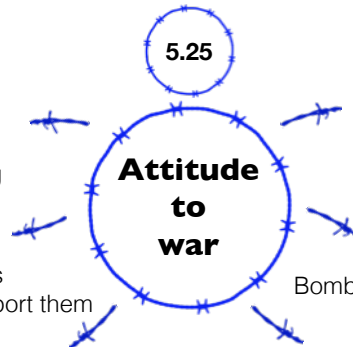
Supplies

VC supplied through network of tunnels + Ho Chi Minh trails in Laos & Cambodia
People repaired trails after US bombing

Support in Vietnam + China & Russia

Full support of Vietnamese people - working together
USSR & China supplied military hardware + advice

Military situation



U.S.A.



US soldiers used to a comfortable life

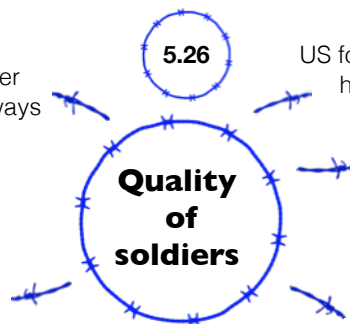
Join up for different reasons: hero; patriotism; learn to fly etc
Life in Vietnam was harsh & uncomfortable
Many conscripts did not want to be there

Killing civilians

Bombing & chemical weapons killed civilians & turned Vietnamese against the USA

Tour of duty

Soldiers were in Vietnam for 365 days
The priority was to survive & go home, rather than win the war



Disunity in the Army

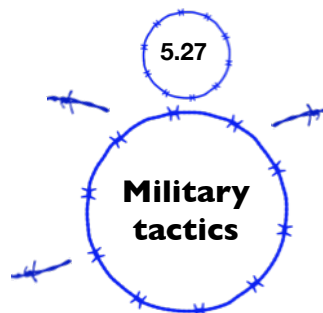
US forces distrust South Vietnamese, as communists had infiltrated the South Viet. army & government

Drugs & R & R

Soldiers were in Vietnam for 365 days
Priority was to survive & go home, rather than win the war
Many resorted to drugs to overcome the shock of war

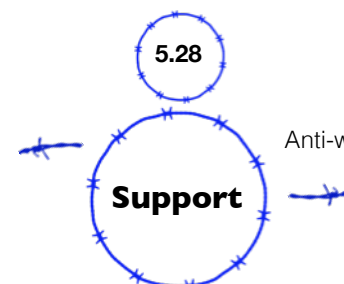
Conflicts within the US army

Officers often lacked experience & authority - soldiers mutinied
Over 100 officers were killed by their own men
'Grunts' (infantrymen) were on average 19 years old, had low morale & going on patrols was very unpopular with booby traps and ambushes common
Many army units experienced racial problems



High tech weapons

Up to 1964 US military advisors had good relationship with Vietnamese
After 1965 US Marines very aggressive & came to hate Vietnamese
After 1965 US relied on bombing inc. chemical weapons which killed civilians
US forces could not tell friend or enemy apart because of Vietcong tactics



Reaction in USA

Anti-war movement showed soldiers to be baby killers
Many soldiers were anti-war before they even went to Vietnam
Upon returning home not treated as heroes
In fact soldiers became anti-war protesters!

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

5j

Why was the USA unable to win the Vietnam War?

Write in whether the statement applies to either the USA or communists

USA or Communists	Statement
	At home in the jungle environment & with communal living
	Priority was to survive & go home
	Supported & supplied by the USSR & China
	Motivated to defeat the 'invading colonial armies'
	'Grunts' were on average 19 years old
	After 1965 they relied on bombing & the use of chemical weapons
	Had informants in the South Vietnamese govt., US army & CIA
	"Shock brigades" repaired bomb damage after air raids
	Soldiers were in Vietnam for 365 day tour of duty
	Supplied through a network of tunnels & trails through Laos & Cambodia
	Patriotic soldiers fighting for their homeland
	Worked hard to win the 'hearts & minds' of the peasants
	Often knew, in advance, of planned attacks
	Found life in Vietnam harsh & uncomfortable
	Many soldiers took drugs to overcome the shock & horror of war
	At home soldiers were often known as 'child killers'
	Officers often lacked authority & there were mutinies

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

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Why was the USA unable to win a military victory in Vietnam?

Rank with an explanation the military strengths of the North Vietnamese communists and the military weaknesses of the USA



Communists strengths



USA weaknesses

Rank	Strengths	Explanation	Rank	Weakness	Explanation
1			1		
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		
5			5		

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

5

Why was the USA unable to win the Vietnam War?



Situation in the USA

President Johnson's aims

Public aim: defeat communism (containment)
support democracy (S.Vietnam)

Private aims: save face for USA
not be first President to lose a war

BUT: many in US not care about democracy in Vietnam
US supporting a corrupt S. Vietnam government



5.29

1965

President Johnson's methods

Political: Support democracy but alien to Vietnamese
Support educational, medical & social programmes

Military: Use bombing to win the war
Destroy VC supply routes

BUT: bombing made Vietnamese more determined
Chemical attacks turned US people against the war

Public opinion

Students protests e.g. teach-ins - against conscription
Anti-war debates & demonstrations



5.30

1966
1967

Public opinion

Members of Congress start criticising Johnson's policies
Buddhist nun sets herself on fire in protest in Vietnam
Martin Luther King & other church leaders join
anti-war protests
Tax increases to pay for war, leads to more demonstrations
Media turn against the war

Loss of McNamara 1967

McNamara (Defence Sec.) with JFK then Johnson
McNamara responsible for military policy & tactics
McNamara changed from saying easily winnable,
to the war being unwinnable
Replaced by Clark (advisor & friend of Johnson)

Problems in South Vietnam 1966 - 67

Government was corrupt & unpopular
Many South Vietnamese supported Ho Chi Minh

Tet Offensive

North Vietnamese VC attacked multiple targets in the South
Attacked during Tet holiday surprising everyone
Attacks were unsuccessful & the VC lost 60,000 soldiers

BUT: US shocked by size of attack, confidence shaken
US intelligence failed & 10,000 US/South troops killed
People in USA shocked by what they saw
US media showed it as a failure for the USA

Financial costs

Great Society spending cut as military spending increased
Deficit: from \$1.6 billion (1963) to \$25.3 billion (1968)
Inflation increased + people not want to pay increase in
tax to pay for war

Public opinion

TV coverage: bombing & chemical attacks turned
people against war
Mai Lai incident shocked people around the world
Opinion: win the war or get out

Defence Secretary Clark

Realised USA did not have a plan to win in Vietnam
(policy of not losing to save face)
By March 1968 Clark was telling President Johnson the
war was unwinnable

President Johnson

Johnson's health suffered
Advisors started looking at peace options
Bombing stopped whilst peace talks held

5.31

1968

BUT: Peace difficult as North Vietnamese not want
to compromise
Johnson in a weak negotiating position

Divided US society

USA torn apart by the war - totally divided
Civil unrest - some feared civil war

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

5

The end of war in Vietnam

The My Lai Massacre 1968 - 1970

Event: Unit of soldiers (Charlie Company) on a 'search & destroy mission'. Attacked what they thought was a Vietcong stronghold. After 3 / 4 hours 300-400 civilians were dead inc. women & children. There were no Vietcong & only 3 weapons found.
Official report: only 20 civilians killed, the rest were Vietcong. The soldiers were praised for their actions.

The letter: Soldier Ridenhour who knew many soldiers at My Lai wrote a letter to politicians & officials in Washington saying what really happened there.

Life Magazine: published photos of the massacre.

Investigation: Lieutenant Calley was charged with murder and others were also charged, but the army made Calley solely responsible & said he was not acting on orders. Calley was sentenced to 20 years hard labour. (He was released after 3 years).
The events of My Lai shocked the US people.

5.32

Peace movement: no longer hippies & students but ordinary middle class people who wanted an end to the 'pointless' war.

The Peace Movement

My Lai Massacre: after the incident came to light over 500,000 people protested against the war in Washington DC. The largest protest ever in the USA.

Politics: to be pro-war was political suicide for most politicians. Nixon was very anti-communist but had to be against the war or at least pro peace to get elected in 1968

Loss of faith in the military leadership

Realisation that the USA could not win a military victory after the Tet Offensive
People lost faith in the US army

1969



Bombing

Nixon ordered bombing to be increased.
He hoped this would put pressure on the communists as peace negotiations continued.
When talks broke down in Dec 1972, Nixon ordered a massive bombing campaign.
In 11 days more bombs were dropped than in the previous 2 years.

US invasion of Cambodia

The US was unable to cut off the supply lines as the communists used trails & bases in Laos & Cambodia.
Nixon ordered the invasion of Viet Cong bases in Cambodia

Negotiations: 'Peace with Honour'

May 1968: USA wanted a South Vietnam, the communists wanted a united Vietnam.
USA wanted free elections in the south but North Vietnam did not trust the elections would be fair.
Kissinger (USA) & Le Duc Tho (North Vietnam) agreed:
. US troops withdraw after ceasefire
. Prisoners of war released
. Elections in the south
Paris Peace Agreement - 27 January 1972

5.33

Nixon's strategy

Vietnamization

Nixon started replacing US soldiers with Vietnamese soldiers AVRN.
Between 1969 - 71 400,000 troops were withdrawn from Vietnam.
AVRN were no match for communist fighters.

USSR & China relations

USSR & China relations in 1969 were so bad some feared there would be a war between the two.

As a result both countries tried to improve their relations with the USA.

1970: Nixon & USSR began talks about limiting nuclear arms (SALT) & asked USSR to pressure North Vietnam to end the war.

1972: Nixon was invited to visit China & he asked China to pressure North Vietnam to end the war.

The end

Fighting restarted in 1973, AVRN held for a while but low morale & poor leadership meant that by
April 1975, communist forces entered Saigon - hundreds of thousands of S. Vietnamese were executed.
People watched on TV as 6000 Americans fled, helicopters lifting people off the Embassy roof.

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

51

The Vietnam War

Match the event to the correct year

test your knowledge

McNamara changed from saying easily winnable,
to the war being unwinnable

Members of Congress start criticising Johnson's policies

Peace movement: no longer hippies & students but ordinary
middle class people who wanted an end to the 'pointless' war.

North Vietnamese VC attacked multiple targets in South Vietnam

Over 500,000 people protested against the war in
Washington DC. The largest peace protest ever in the USA.

The invasion of Viet Cong bases in Cambodia

Both the USSR & China tried to improve
their relations with the USA.

Nixon was very anti-communist, but had to be against the
war or at least pro peace to get elected

1965

1966 1967

1968

1969

Nixon's
strategy

Johnson's aims: defeat communism (containment)
& support democracy (S.Vietnam)

When talks broke down ordered a
massive bombing campaign.

Military spending increased to \$25.3 billion

Realisation that the USA could not win a military victory
after the Tet Offensive and people lost faith in the US arm

North Vietnamese VC attacked multiple targets in the South
Attacked during Tet holiday surprising everyone

In 11 days more bombs were dropped than in the previous 2 years

Students start protests e.g. teach-ins - against conscription

Nixon started replacing US soldiers
with Vietnamese soldiers AVRN.

400,000 US troops were withdrawn from Vietnam

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

5m

What were the turning points that contributed to the situation in the USA becoming increasingly anti-war?

Score each event out of 10, in terms of it being a turning point that influenced the American public into becoming more anti-war - explain your score.

Event	Score out of /10	Explanantion
Johnson's aims		
Johnson's methods: bombing & chemical weapons		
McNamara resigns: war unwinnable		
Tet Offensive		
Clark: there is no plan to win the war		
My Lai massacre		
Invasion of Cambodia & Laos		
Nixon's increase in bombing		

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

5

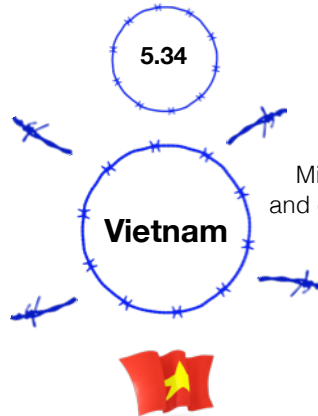
Consequences of the Vietnam War

Society

Many peasants left the countryside & lived in shanty towns: poverty, prostitution & drugs
Refugees = 5 million
Corruption in the South was rife
Black market in US goods

Economic

USA banned trade with Vietnam
Food shortages were common
'Boat people': 1970s saw 1 million Vietnamese try to leave the country
Took 20 years to recover to pre-war levels

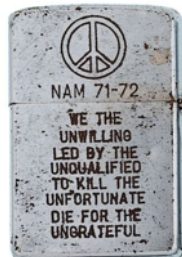


Environment

Chemical warfare:
Huge areas of forest & agricultural land destroyed
Food shortages as a result
Water supply poisoned
Mines & unexploded bombs were everywhere and continued to kill people years after the war

Political

Vietnam unified under communism
Communism spread to Cambodia & Laos
South Vietnamese victimised after the war, thousands executed & 're-educated'

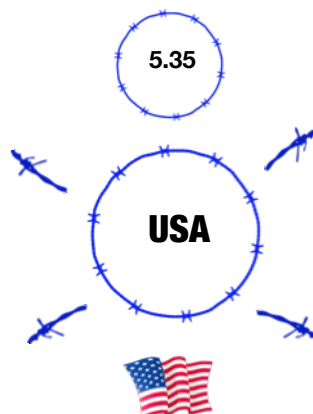


US foreign policy: end of containment

Propaganda disaster for the USA
Use of bombing, chemical warfare lost US support
Nixon ended the 'Truman Doctrine'
US abandoned policy of containment
Military intervention less likely after Vietnam
Looked to talk with USSR & China: Detente

Economic

Military industrial production increased, consumer goods decreased
USA had budget deficits which caused inflation
Interest rates rose
Value of the dollar fell
Govt. spending was reduced on social programmes in Johnson's 'Great Society'



Political

President Johnson destroyed by the war - even though vast majority supported the war at the start
Pro-war became political liability
Nixon anti-communist but had to pursue peace
Politicians more isolationist

Society

58,000 died in the war
Divided the nation:
Student demonstrations
Draft dodgers
Many veterans became anti-war protestors
drug addicts & suffered post traumatic stress (est. at 800,000)
Others who handled Agent Orange suffered cancer
TV war: pictures of the horrors of war on the news every evening
USA lost confidence in their country

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

5n Consequences of the Vietnam War

List the consequences for both sides as positive & negative on a scale of 1 - 5.
5 = very positive/negative



positive



5

4

3

2

1

2

3

4

5

negative

Many peasants left the countryside & lived in shanty towns: poverty, prostitution & drugs

US abandoned policy of containment

South Vietnamese victimised after the war, thousands executed & 're-educated'

Took 20 years to recover to pre-war levels

USA banned trade with Vietnam

Food shortages were common

'Boat people': 1970s saw 1 million people try to leave the country

Communism spread to Cambodia & Laos

Looked to talk with USSR & China: Detente

Govt. spending was reduced on social programmes in Johnson's 'Great Society'

Interest rates rose and the value of the dollar fell

Nixon ended the 'Truman Doctrine'

Vietnam unified under communism

Food shortages were common

Many veterans became anti-war protestors drug addicts & suffered post traumatic stress

How effectively did the USA stop the spread of communism?

US involvement in Vietnam

exam style questions

a

4 marks:

one mark for each point + mark for detail

1. Describe how the USA became involved in Korea.
2. Describe the choices available to John F. Kennedy in Cuba
3. Describe the consequences of the Cuban Missile Crisis
4. What was the 'domino effect' in relation to Vietnam?
5. Describe the USA's military tactics in Vietnam
6. What were the consequences of the Vietnam war for the USA?

b

6 marks:

Level 2: description (2-3) Level 3: explains one reason (4-5) Level 4: explains two reasons (6)

1. Why was the USA involved in Korea?
2. Why did the USSR place missiles on Cuba?
3. Why did the USA become involved in Vietnam?
4. Why was the USA unsuccessful in Vietnam?
5. Why did Nixon find it so difficult to remove the USA from Vietnam?

c

10 marks:

Level 2: gives reasons (2-3) Level 3: explains one side or one explanation of both sides (4-6)
Level 4: explains both sides (7-9) Level 5: explanation of both sides + 'how far' (10)

1. 'The Korean War was successful for the USA's policy of containment'. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
2. 'The Cuban Missile Crisis was successful for the US policy of containment'. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
3. 'The war in Vietnam was unwinnable for the USA'. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
4. 'Nixon achieved peace with honour in Vietnam'. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

