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| **What will we be learning?**The Vietnam War: 1954 - 1975 | **Why this? Why now?**This Unit will examine the Causes, Events and Consequences of the Vietnam War. In this depth study you will see the inter-relationship of political, economic and military factors in shaping the conflict between the USA and North/South Vietnam**Previous Learning –** 20th Century Conflict KS3 Unit**Future Learning –** A Level History Coursework Unit/ Civil Rights Unit | **Key Words:**See Glossary**Key People:**Ho Chi MinhNgo Dinh Diem Harry TrumanDwight. EisenhowerJohn. F. Kennedy Lyndon. B JohnsonRichard Nixon |
| **What will we learn?**1 Reasons for US involvement in the conflict in Vietnam, 1954–63● The battle of Dien Bien Phu and the end of French rule in Vietnam.● Reasons for greater US involvement under Eisenhower, including the domino theory and weaknesses of the Diem government.● Greater involvement under Kennedy, including the overthrow of Diem and the Strategic Hamlet Program.2 Escalation of the conflict under Johnson● The increasing threat of the Vietcong.● The Gulf of Tonkin incident (1964), and increased US involvement in Vietnam.3 The nature of the conflict in Vietnam, 1964–68● The guerrilla tactics used by the Vietcong.● The methods used by the USA, including Search and Destroy, Operation Rolling Thunder and chemical weapons.● The key features and significance of the Tet Offensive, 1968.4 Changes under Nixon, 1969–73● The key features of Vietnamisation. Reasons for its failure.● The Nixon Doctrine and the withdrawal of US troops.● Attacks on Cambodia (1970) and Laos (1971), and the bombing of North Vietnam (1972).Key topic 4: Reactions to, and the end of, US involvement in Vietnam, 1964–751 Opposition to the war● Reasons for the growth of opposition, including the student movement, TV and media coverage of the war and the draft system.● Public reaction to the My Lai Massacre (1968). The trial of Lt. Calley.● The Kent State University shootings (1970).2 Support for the war● Reasons for support for the war, including the fear of communism.● The ‘hard hats’ and the ‘silent majority’.3 The peace process and end of the war● Reasons for, and features of, the peace negotiations (1972–73).● The significance of the Paris Peace Agreement (1973).● The economic and human costs of the war for the USA.4 Reasons for the failure of the USA in Vietnam● The strengths of North Vietnam, including the significance of Russian and Chinese support, Vietcong tactics and the Ho Chi Minh Trail.● The weaknesses of the US armed forces. The failure of US tactics.● The impact of opposition to the war in the USA. |
| **What opportunities are there for wider study?**Careers: * Working for a campaign group, thinktank or lobbying firm
* Law
* Journalism

Further Reading  * Vietnam: An Epic Tragedy, 1945-1975 – Max Hastings
* The Vietnam War: An Intimate History – Ken Burns
* Vietnam, Korea and US Foreign Policy 1945-1975 – Christine Bragg
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| **How will I be assessed?****Y11 Mock Exam** 1. Give two things you can infer from Source A about…
2. Explain why…
3. How useful are Sources B and C for an enquiry into…
4. Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about…What is the main difference between these views?
5. Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about…
6. How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about…
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