

## “Good-bye My Sweetheart, Hello Vietnam” -- The Vietnam War

### Questions:

1. What led to the Vietnam War?
2. What long-term impact did the Vietnam War have?

### Outline:

#### I. Ho Chi Minh

#### II. The Cold War continues

1. Review: Korea, Containment, and Domino Theory
2. 1954: France leaves Vietnam and the country is partitioned
3. Ho much more popular than Bao Dai (Southern leader)
4. It looks Ho could easily take over. Instead, U.S. installs Ngo Dinh Diem.
5. U.S. also sends military advisors, who help prep SVA for war, but also fan flames through terrorist attacks
6. USSR begins to support NVA
7. Kennedy is assassinated, LBJ takes over
8. 1964: **Gulf of Tonkin incident**, major escalation

#### III. The Antiwar Movement

1. Starts in 1964, heats up in 1966
2. Tactics (influence of the Civil Rights movement)
  - A. Refusing to be drafted, burning draft cards
  - B. Massive Anti-War Rallies
  - C. Nationally coordinated sit-ins
  - D. Skillful use of publicity
3. Culture
  - A. Clothes
  - B. Philosophy
  - C. Music
    1. Folk Rock
    2. **Psychedelic Rock**
    3. In general, music becomes vastly more political

#### III. The Tide Turns

1. January 30, 1968: **Tet Offensive**, no military objectives achieved, but major blow to morale
2. February 27, 1968: Walter Cronkite says the war is unwinnable
3. March 16, 1968: My Lai massacre. 350 people, mostly women and children, are killed
4. 1968: Nixon (a Republican) runs on an antiwar platform
  - A. For the first few years, actually escalates the war, including illegal bombing of Cambodia
  - B. But eventually, **Vietnamization**
5. January 27, 1973: Paris Accords end the Vietnam War
6. July 2, 1976: South Vietnam conquered by Ho Chi Minh

#### IV. Long-Term Impact

1. Cultural: **Full Metal Jacket**
2. Political: Cold War evolves

### Songs

1. “A Day in the Life,” The Beatles
2. “Unknown Soldier,” The Doors
3. “Fortunate Son,” Creedence Clearwater Revival
4. “For What It’s Worth,” Buffalo Springfield

