

The Vietnam War

French Indochina

- **Post WWII- France struggled to keep empire**
- **Indochina - includes Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam**
- **Vietnamese- 2000 year history of resisting foreign invaders**



- **1941- Vietnamese Independence League or Viet Minh established**
- **Leader- Ho Chi Minh**
- **waged war against French since the 1930's**



The Satellite Theory

- **Ho tried unsuccessfully to keep North Vietnam neutral in Cold War**
- **Can't reconcile with France so he gets recognized by China and Soviet Union**
- **US supports French**
- **Dien Bien Phu**





US Policy

- **Support Ngo Dinh Diem**
 - **dictatorial**
 - **disregarded Geneva Agreement**
- **Kennedy- echoed Ike's Domino Theory**
 - **16,000 military advisors sent**
 - **guerrilla war escalates**



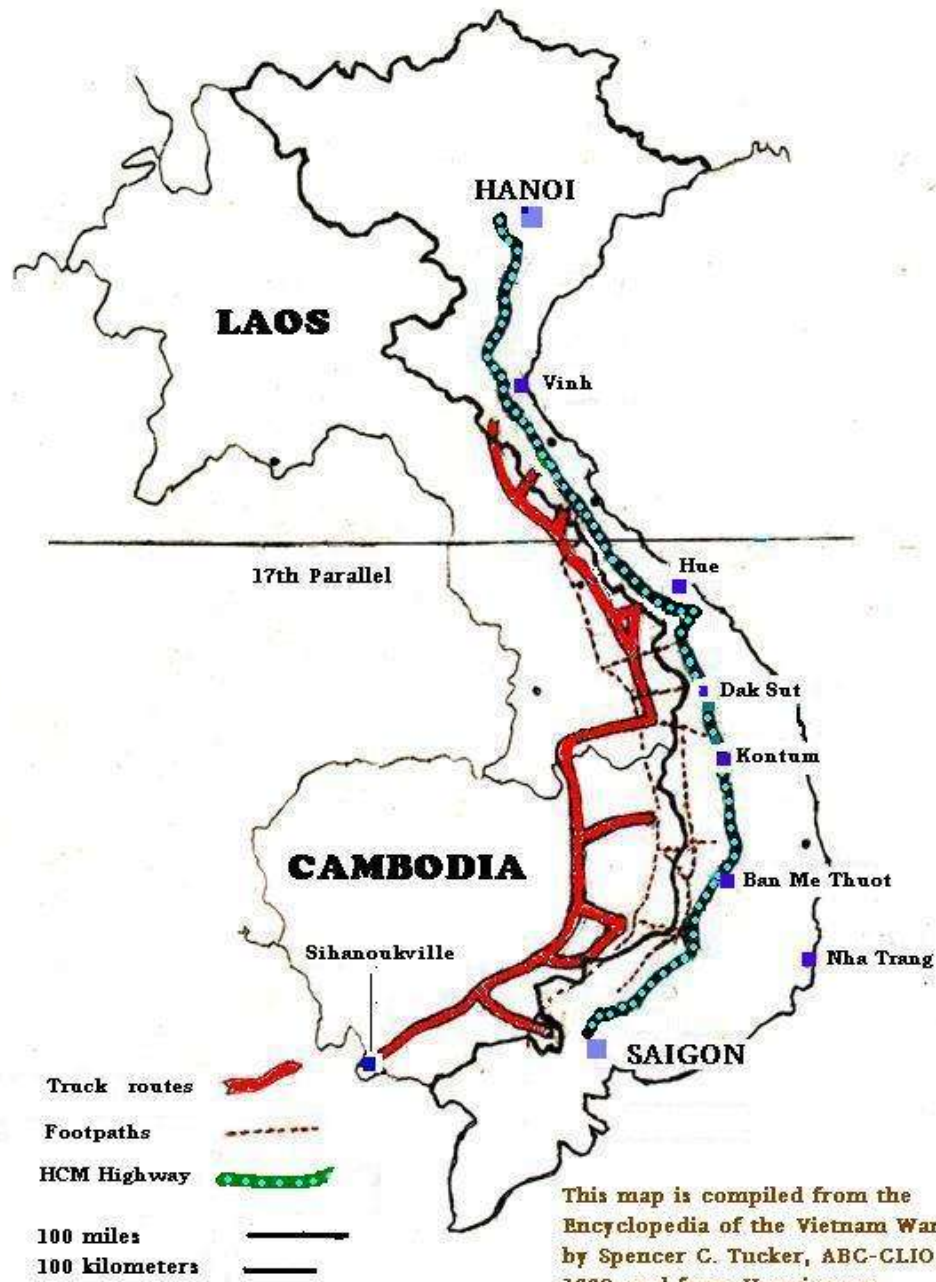
Gulf Of Tonkin

- **USS Maddox- in an “unprovoked “ attack**
- **North Vietnam claims to only have been chasing an attacker from territorial waters (9 mi.)**
- **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution**



US Troops

- **Problems**
 - **Fighting Viet Cong and Viet Minh**
 - **Guerrilla warfare**
 - **Jungle**
- **Support**
 - **'65 first combat troops sent**
 - **Great Society (Guns vs Butter)**



This map is compiled from the Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War by Spencer C. Tucker, ABC-CLIO, 1998, and from Hanoi press agencies.

Communist Plan

- **Fight/retreat**
- **Ho Chi Minh Trail**
- **tunnels- ability to disappear**
- **booby traps- use all that you have**
- **never surrender- outlast the opposition**



American plan

- **Search and destroy missions**
- **Bomb - more than all bombs dropped in Europe and Asia in WWII**



Tet Offensive

- **US growing tired of war**
- **told they were winning (just need 500,000 more troops!)**
- **Tet showed we weren't in control**
- **Walter Cronkite**
- **LBJ approval drops to 36%**



Vietnamese

- **Southern govts. Never have support of people**
- **Who were we fighting?**
- **Did they want us there?**
- **Did the people in the US want us there?**



Anti-War

- **Cost**
 - **taxes**
 - **lives**
 - **morality**
- **Democratic Convention '68**
- **Political support lost**
- **Nixon's "plan"**