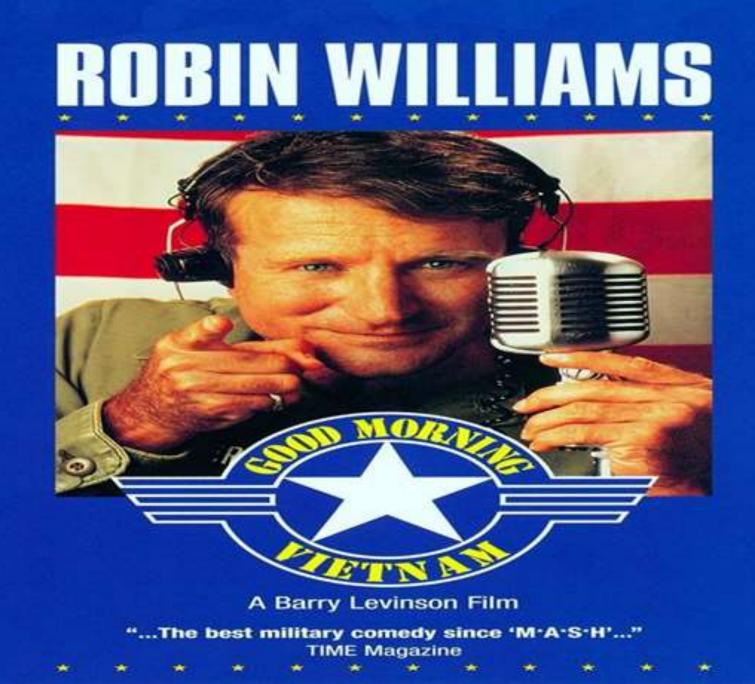
# The Road to Vietnam

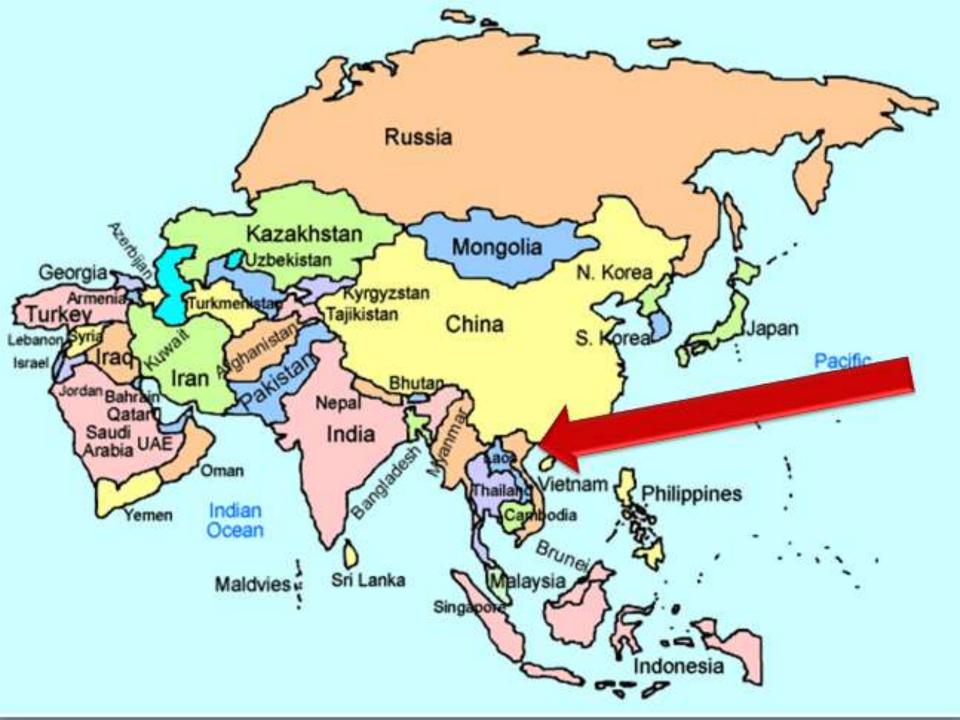






#### The Main Idea

The United States
became involved in
Vietnam to limit the
spread of communism.

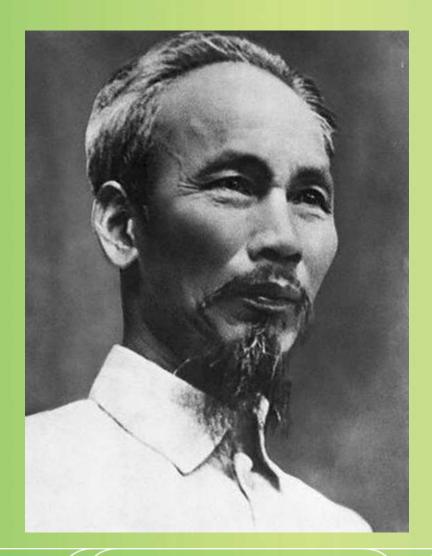




### Vietnam's History

- Vietnam was an imperialist colony of France until Japan seized control in World War II.
- Ho Chi Minh led a nationalist movement and Vietnam gained their independence in 1945.
- France tried to gain control back of Vietnam and conflict followed.

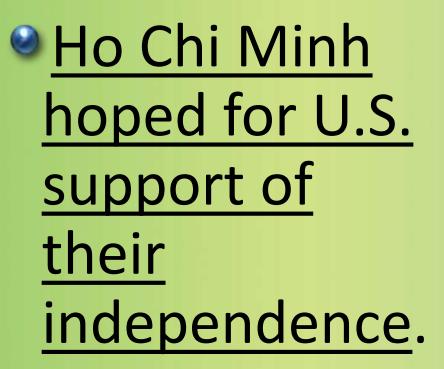
# Ho Chi Minh

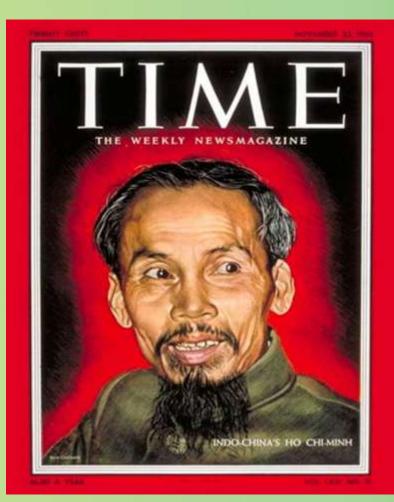


Name means " He Who Enlightens"

- Joined the Communist Party.
- Believed that a Communist revolution was a way Vietnam could be free of foreign rulers.

#### Minh & The U.S.





### **The Domino Theory**

- Communists seized China in 1949.
- Communist North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950.
- Communist-led revolts in Indonesia, Malaya, and the Philippines.

### The US Response

- The United States was fearful of the Domino Theory.
- From the Truman administration through the Kennedy administration, the U.S. slowly escalated their involvement in Vietnam.

#### The Geneva Conference

- The goal of the Geneva Conference was to work out a peace agreement.
- Vietnam was temporarily divided at the 17th parallel.
- General elections were to be held in July 1956 and would reunify the country under one government.
- The United States never fully supported the peace agreements fearing that Ho Chi Minh and the Communists would win.

### Late 50's Early 60's Vietnam

- By the late 1950s a civil war broke out in South Vietnam.
- By 1960, Ho Chi Minh expanded the effort to unify North and South Vietnam under a Communist government.
- The Vietnamese people wanted the foreign influence out of their country.

#### Leaders

- Ngo Dinh Diem became the president of South Vietnam in 1954.
  - Diem's government was corrupt, brutal, and unpopular from the start.
- Ho Chi Minh's leadership in North Vietnam gained the support of the poor workers.

## Buddhism

Buddhist monk Quang Duc publicly burns himself to death in a plea for President Ngo **Dinh Diem to show "charity and compassion" to** all religions. Diem, a Catholic who had been oppressing the Buddhist majority, remained stubborn despite continued Buddhist protests and repeated U.S. requests to liberalize his government's policies.





### **Diem's Overthrow**

- Diem's government continued to grow more and more unpopular.
- He arrested and killed Buddhist protesters.
- Diem refused to change his stand against
  Buddhists.
- In November 1963 the South Vietnamese plotters murdered Diem.



## **Tonkin Gulf Resolution**

- President Johnson wanted to deploy US military forces to Vietnam but needed the approval of Congress.
- Johnson went to Congress about a US military ship that had been attacked by the North Vietnamese.
  - In reality, the ship was on a spying mission and fired first.

#### **Causes of Vietnam War**

- 1. Vietnam's Desire for Freedom
- 2. US fear of Domino Theory
- 3. <u>South Vietnam non-compliance with</u> <u>Geneva Accords</u>
- 4. North Vietnam's attempt to unify the country
- 5. US support of Anti-Communist gov't

#### **Order of Operations**

Vietnam Intro Assignment