

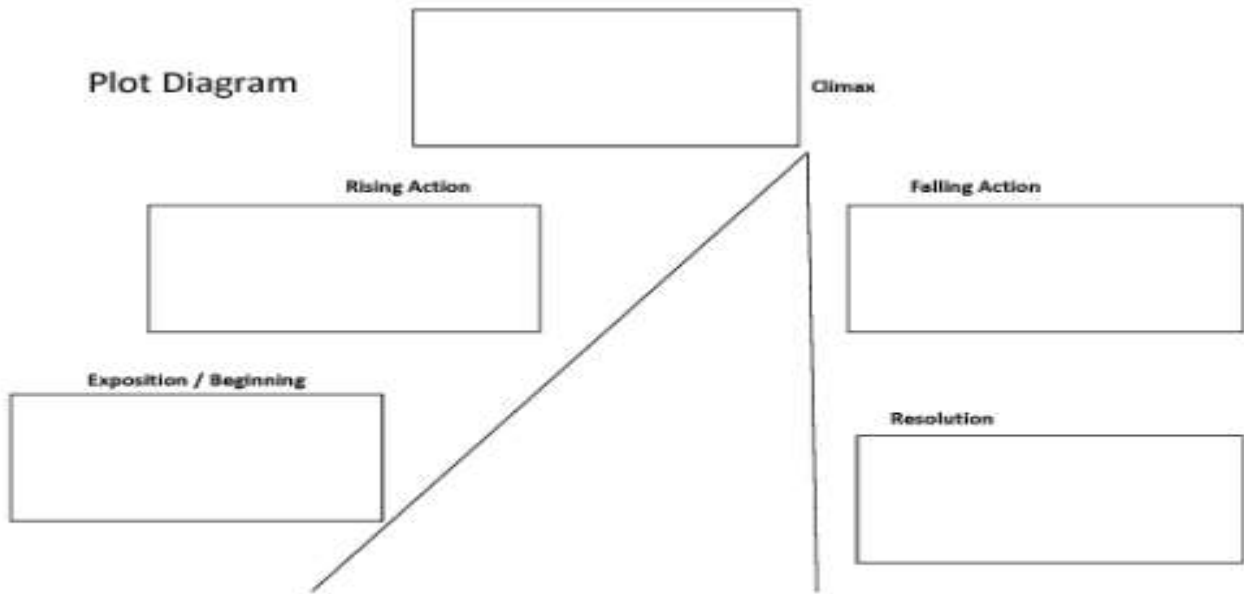
## Vietnam War Assignment

Directions: Review the timeline below and then complete the answers related to the assignment.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Significance</b>
Democratic Republic of Vietnam established	1945	Vietnam	With defeat and withdrawal of Japanese, Ho Chi Minh leads new state with 15,000 French soldiers present
French suffer huge defeat as 12,000 troops surrender and withdraw from Indochina	May 7, 1954	Dienbienphu	Although U.S. paid 80% of French costs, Eisenhower refused to send troops to Vietnam
Geneva Accords establish temporary division of Vietnam at 17th parallel	July 1954	Geneva, Switzerland	Vietnam is divided into two nations with Ho leading the north and Ngo Dinh Diem leading the "free" South. Promise of free elections in 1956
Diem opponents form National Liberation Front (NLF)	1960	South Vietnam	Communists and others attempt to overthrow Diem and unify Vietnam
Diem overthrown and assassinated	November 2, 1963	Saigon	With U.S. approval and support, Diem is replaced with military junta. 16,000 American military advisors in Vietnam
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution	August 5, 1964	Washington, D.C.	Following conflict between U.S. destroyers and North Vietnamese gunboats, Pres. Johnson is given authority to "prevent further aggression."
Johnson orders bombing of North Vietnam	February 1965	Vietnam	In retaliation for Communist attack on U.S. unit, LBJ authorizes attack, but stops short of all-out bombing
20,000 U.S. troops sent to support South Vietnam	April 1, 1965	US → Vietnam	Violating his promises, LBJ raises U.S. troop level to 100,000 to fight Viet Cong
Tet Offensive Begins	January 31, 1968	Vietnam	Viet Cong forces launch massive attack on American positions throughout Vietnam. LBJ's popularity ratings drop to 35%
Paris Peace talks begin	May 1968	Paris	Longest war in U.S. history begins winding down
Nixon elected President	Nov. 1968	United States	Replaces Lyndon B. Johnson as President
U.S. begins secret bombing of North Vietnam and Cambodia	March 1969		Nixon avoids antiwar protests by not telling Congress or people about bombings
Nixon announces withdrawal of 60,000 U.S. ground troops	September 1969		First reduction of U.S. troops since start of war
U.S. troops enter Cambodia	April 1970	Cambodia	Despite Nixon pledges that U.S. troops were withdrawing from Vietnam, Cambodia invasion and bombing bring huge domestic opposition
Kent State Massacre	May 4,	Ohio, United	National Guard forces kill four students

	1970	States	protesting Vietnam
Laos Invaded	February 1971	Laos	U.S. and South Vietnamese forces make incursion to "protect withdrawal of U.S. forces"
Pentagon Papers released	June 1971	New York, US	New York Times begins publication of secret war study
North Vietnamese troops invade South	March 1972	Vietnam	U.S. responds by widespread bombing of North, including bombing of Hanoi and mining of Haiphong Harbor
Largest bombing of North Vietnam	December 17, 1972	North Vietnam	American B-52s begin largest bombing of war, losing 15 B-52s
Cease-fire accord achieved	January 27, 1973	Paris	All fighting to stop and American prisoners of war to be released by North Vietnam
North Vietnamese forces take Saigon	April 30, 1975	Saigon, South Vietnam	Communist forces occupy South, renaming Saigon Ho Chi Minh City. U.S. troops evacuate American embassy as South Vietnamese flee

1. Fill out the Plot Diagram for the Vietnam War using the diagram below



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2. List the three most important events in the Vietnam War and explain why they were the most important.

## Vietnam War Timeline

- September 2, 1945 - Ho Chi Minh declares an independent Vietnam called the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.
- July 1950 - The United States pledges \$15 million worth of military aid to France to help them fight in Vietnam.
- May 7, 1954 - The French are defeated at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu.
- July 21, 1954 - The Geneva Accords declares a cease-fire for the withdrawal of the French from Vietnam and creates a temporary boundary between North and South Vietnam at the 17th parallel.
- October 26, 1955 - South Vietnam declares itself the Republic of Vietnam (GVN).
- December 20, 1960 - The National Liberation Front (NLF), a.k.a. the Viet Cong, is established in South Vietnam.
- November 2, 1963 – During a coup, South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem is executed.
- August 2 and 4, 1964 - North Vietnamese attack two U.S. destroyers in international waters, which becomes known as the Gulf of Tonkin Incident.
- August 7, 1964 - The U.S. Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.
- March 2, 1965 – The U.S. begins bombing campaign of North Vietnam - Operation Rolling Thunder.
- March 8, 1965 - The first U.S. combat troops arrive in Vietnam.

Short Answer (5-7 Sentences):

1. Explain the turmoil (chaos) in Vietnam during the 20 year period from 1945-65.

Document A (Modified): Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, Congressional Joint Resolution, August 7, 1964

The North Vietnamese Navy, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, have deliberately and repeatedly attacked United States naval vessels lawfully present in international waters, and have thereby created a serious threat to international peace; and

These attacks are part of a deliberate and systematic campaign of aggression that the Communist regime in North Vietnam has been waging against its neighbors and other free nations; and

The United States is assisting the peoples of Southeast Asia to protect their freedom and has no territorial, military or political ambitions in that area, but desires only that these peoples should be left in peace to work out their own destinies in their own way:

Therefore the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America have decided that we approve and support the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary military actions to combat Communist forces and to prevent further aggression.

The United States is prepared, as the President determines, to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, to assist any member of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty requesting assistance in defense of its freedom.

1. According to this document, what did the North Vietnamese do?
2. Why did the United States feel compelled to respond at this point?
3. According to this document, was the U.S. planning to go to war in Vietnam before August 1964? Explain your answer.

Document B (Modified): Memorandum from Foreign Affairs Advisor (Bundy) to the President, Washington, May 25, 1964.

It is recommended that you make a Presidential decision that the U.S. will use selected and carefully graduated military force against North Vietnam. . .

This basic Presidential decision is recommended on these premises:

- (1) that the U.S. cannot tolerate the loss of Southeast Asia to Communism;
- (2) that without a decision to resort to military action if necessary the present prospect is not hopeful, in South Vietnam or in Laos;
- (3) that a decision to use force if necessary, backed by resolute and extensive deployment, and conveyed by every possible means to our adversaries (enemies), gives the best present chance of avoiding the actual use of such force.

It is further recommended that our clear purpose in this decision should be to use all our influence to bring about a major reduction or elimination of North Vietnamese interference in Laos and in South Vietnam, and not to unroll a scenario aimed at the use of force as an end in itself.

1. When was this document written? Who wrote it?
2. What did Bundy suggest to the President?
3. What are three reasons why Bundy made this recommendation?
4. According to this document, was the U.S. planning to go to war in Vietnam before August 1964? Explain your answer.

Document C (Modified) Telegram From the Department of State (Rusk) to the Embassy in Vietnam (Lodge) Washington, May 22, 1964—7:40 p.m.

On the other question, whether initial substantial attacks – [against North Vietnam] could proceed without notice, it is our present view here that this would simply not be possible. Even if Hanoi (North Vietnam) itself did not publicize them, there are enough observers in North Vietnam who might pick them up and there is also the major possibility of leakage at the South Vietnam end. Thus, publicity seems almost inevitable to us here for any attack that did significant damage. Once such publicity occurred, I think you can see that the finger would point straight at us and that the President would then be put in perhaps a far more difficult position toward the American public and the Congress.

Thus, we are using a GVN-or-U.S.-acknowledged plan at the present time, although we do recognize that something a little stronger than the present OPLAN 34-A\* might be carried out on the basis you propose.

\*OPLAN 34-A was implemented in 1961. It was a covert or secret operation to collect information about North Vietnam.

1. When was this document written? Who wrote it?
2. How did Rusk feel about the South Vietnamese government's ability to fight the Communists? Support your answer with evidence.
3. Why did Rusk think attacking the North Vietnamese is not a smart idea?
4. According to this document, was the U.S. planning to go to war in Vietnam before August 1964? Explain your answer.

Document D (Modified) Telephone Conversation Between President Johnson and the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs (Bundy) Washington, May 27, 1964, 11:24 a.m.

Johnson: I will tell you the more, I just stayed awake last night thinking of this thing, and the more that I think of it I don't know what in the hell, it looks like to me that we're getting into another Korea. It just worries the hell out of me. I don't see what we can ever hope to get out of there with once we're committed. . . . I don't think it's worth fighting for and I don't think we can get out. And it's just the biggest damn mess that I ever saw.

Bundy: It is an awful mess.

Johnson: And we just got to think about it. . . I just thought about ordering all those kids in there. And what in the hell am I ordering them out there for? What in the hell is Vietnam worth to me? . . .

Bundy: Yeah, yeah.

Johnson: Of course, if you start running from the Communists, they may just chase you right into your own kitchen.

Bundy: Yeah, that's the trouble. And that is what the rest of that half of the world is going to think if this thing comes apart on us. That's the dilemma, that's exactly the dilemma. . . .

Johnson: But this is a terrible thing that we're getting ready to do.

Bundy: . . . I think, also, Mr. President, you can do, what I think Kennedy did at least once which is to make the threat without having made your own internal decision that you would actually carry it through.

1. What type of document is this? How trustworthy do you think this type of document is?
2. What is the dilemma facing President Johnson?
3. According to this document, was the U.S. planning to go to war in Vietnam before August 1964? Explain your answer.

#### Gulf of Tonkin Resolution Guiding Questions

Most history books say that the United States war in Vietnam began in 1964, after Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. However, it's no secret that the United States had been very involved in the region for at least a decade before. By the time JFK was assassinated in 1963, the United States had 16,000 military troops in Vietnam. Answer the following questions:

1. Was the U.S. planning to go to war in Vietnam before August 1964?
2. Why do you believe this?
  - a. Use evidence from the text to support your position. \*6-8 Sentences\*