

WHO? WHAT? WHY?



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The background of the entire image is a stylized American flag with a distressed, weathered texture. The top-left corner features a blue canton with white stars, while the rest of the image is filled with horizontal stripes of red and white. The text is overlaid on this background.

UNITED STATES

HISTORY

with Mr. Willis

UNIT 8 - DAY 7



The
VIETNAM **WAR**
BEGINS

**SINCE THE 1800s, FRANCE HAD
CONTROLLED VIETNAM (FRENCH INDOCHINA)**

Japan controlled Vietnam in WWII



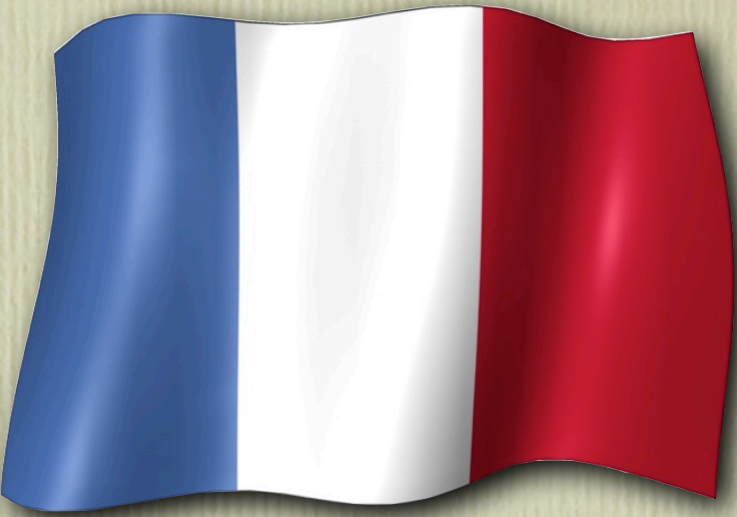
**after Japan's surrender, the
French regained control**



**The Vietnamese had no intention of
being subjugated anymore**

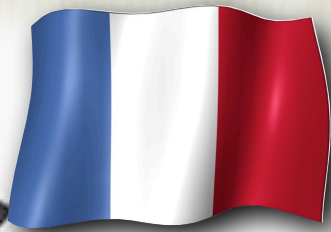


AND THAT LEADS TO...



INSTABILITY IN

VIETNAM



THE VIETMINH UPRISING

In 1945, the French faced **Vietnamese resistance** to their **authority**

THE FRENCH

WISHED TO RE-SEIZE CONTROL OVER ITS LONG-TIME COLONIAL POSSESSION IN SE ASIA

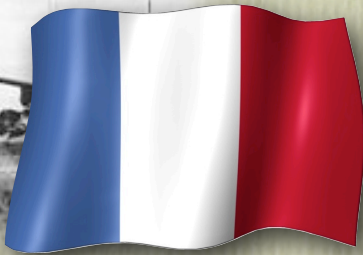
THE VIETMINH

A GROUP OF **VIETNAMESE FREEDOM FIGHTERS** WHOSE GOAL WAS AN **INDEPENDENT VIETNAM**

Ho Chi Minh, a **PRO-COMMUNIST** who was exiled to **China & USSR** during WWII, led the Vietminh



THE FRENCH



THE VIETMINH

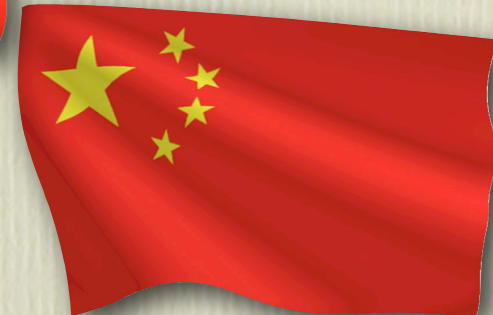
HO CHI
MINH



BACKED BY



BACKED BY





THE

DOMINO THEORY

By 1950, the US was **aiding** the French w/ **money & supplies** to fight the VietMINH
AVOIDING SENDING US TROOPS, AMERICA RELIED ON FRANCE TO CONTAIN COMMUNISM IN VIETNAM

1954 - President Eisenhower introduces the **Domino Theory** to justify **US aid**

IKE EXPLAINS THAT COUNTRIES ON THE BRINK OF COMMUNISM WILL ALL EVENTUALLY FALL IF THE US FAILS TO CONTAIN IT FROM THE START

1954 - US aid fails & the French **surrender Vietnam at Dien Bien Phu**
HO CHI MINH'S COMMUNISTS CONTROL THE ENTIRE NORTHERN REGION OF VIETNAM



**WITH FRANCE DRIVEN OUT OF VIETNAM, THE
US NEEDED TO STEP UP INVOLVEMENT**

**THE US TURNS TO THE ANTI-COMMUNIST
NATIONALISTS OF SOUTH VIETNAM**



**US ECONOMIC & MILITARY AID WOULD
FLOW TO THE SOUTHERN REGIME**



**W/ INCREASED US AID, VIETNAM
PLUNGED INTO A BLOODY CIVIL WAR**



SO LET'S LOOK AT...



CIVIL WAR IN

VIETNAM

VIETNAM DIVIDED

1954 - World powers convene to discuss Vietnam at the Geneva Accords

DIVIDED ALONG THE 17TH PARALLEL

TWO SEPARATE COUNTRIES DEVELOPED

SOUTH VIETNAM

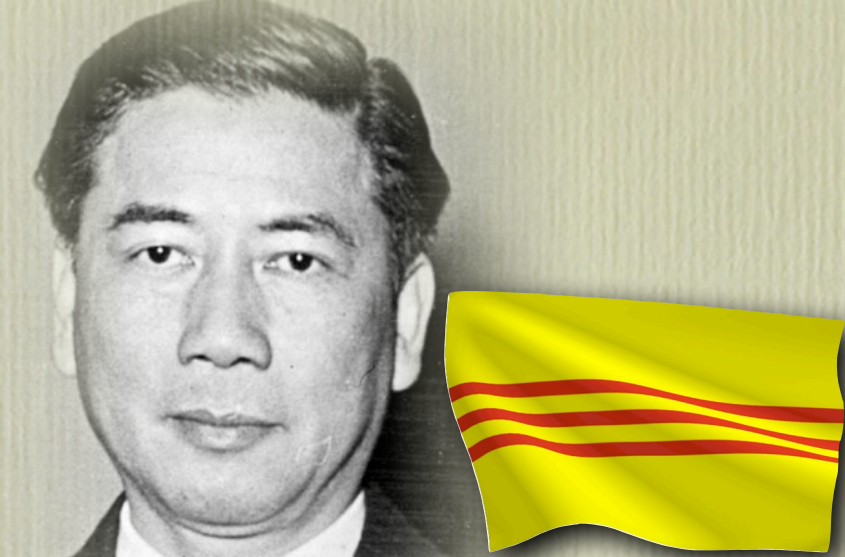
Democratic republic, capital is Saigon, led by Ngo Dinh Diem, backed by the US

NORTH VIETNAM

Communist state, capital is Hanoi, led by Ho Chi Minh, backed by the USSR & China

At Geneva, all sides agreed that free elections would be held to unify Vietnam

HOWEVER, SENSING THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD WIN, DIEM CANCELS ELECTIONS IN 1956





• Haiphong

17th Parallel

Vietnam

• Saigon



DIEM'S CORRUPTION

Diem's regime in democratic South Vietnam would serve to contain Minh
THE US WOULD SEND MONEY, SUPPLIES, AND MILITARY ADVISORS TO THE SOUTH IN SUPPORT

However, Diem seemed more interested in following his own political agenda

DIEM'S GOVERNMENT WAS CORRUPT, POCKETING FUNDS AND SUPPRESSING OPPOSITION
HE PERSECUTED & KILLED BUDDHISTS, CAUSING MONKS TO BURN THEMSELVES IN PROTEST

Nov. 1963 - Aware that Diem was too corrupt to contain the communist north, the US secretly had Diem assassinated



FINALLY, THE VIETNAM WAR IS

AMERICANIZED

GULF OF TONKIN RESOLUTION

Each regime after Diem was **MORE CORRUPT** and **INCOMPETENT** that the next IT SOON BECAME EVIDENT THAT THE US WOULD HAVE TO DIRECTLY FIGHT THE NORTH ITSELF



August 2, 1964 - A **North Vietnamese** patrol boat fires on the **USS Maddox**

IT LED TO **US AIRSTRIKES** INTO **NORTH VIETNAM** & **GAVE LBJ A REASON TO SEND TROOPS**

August 7, 1964 - Congress approves the **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution**

NOT A DECLARATION OF WAR, THE RESOLUTION GAVE LBJ UNCHECKED MILITARY AUTHORITY JOHNSON COULD USE MILITARY FORCE AS HE SAW FIT IN VIETNAM **W/O VOTES OR APPROVAL**



LBJ

& THE

GULF OF TONKIN



CLOSURE

In **one paragraph**, describe how you would have felt after hearing this speech in 1964 and why.