

## Chapter 29 Vietnam War Years

- I. Kennedy and foreign policy
  - A. Established Peace Corps
  - B. Bay of Pigs – Cuban exiles with American support invaded Cuba to get rid of Castro – failed
  - C. Berlin Wall – Communist East Germany built a wall between East and West Berlin
  - D. Cuban Missile Crisis
    - 1. Soviets had nuclear missiles in Cuba
    - 2. Kennedy demanded they be removed and Navy blockaded Cuba
    - 3. Soviet ships went back to Russia
    - 4. Krushchev agreed to remove missiles from Cuba; Kennedy promised not to invade Cuba
    - 5. Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty- banned testing of nuclear weapons above ground
  - E. Race to the Moon
    - 1. Soviets ahead of us in space
    - 2. 1961 JFK speech- goal to land man on the moon in this decade
    - 3. 1969- Neil Armstrong walked on the moon
  - F. Vietnam
    - 1. Owned by France; WWII Japan took over
    - 2. Ho Chi Minh – Communist, leader of Vietminh, wanted Vietnam to be independent
    - 3. U.S. supported French in Vietnam; if Vietnam became Communist then other nations would too = domino theory
    - 4. Geneva Accords- divided Vietnam into North (Communist, Ho Chi Minh) and South (led by Diem)
    - 5. Vietcong – Communist guerilla forces in South Vietnam
    - 6. U.S. helped South Vietnam (Diem)
  
- II. Escalation in Vietnam
  - A. Pres. Johnson committed to total victory in Vietnam
  - B. Tonkin Gulf Resolution – gave Pres. Johnson authority to take all necessary measures to repel an armed attack
  - C. Pres. Johnson sent U.S. combat troops into Vietnam
    - 1. Fought mainly in jungles and villages of South Vietnam
  - D. U.S. air strikes over the ho Chi Minh trail – main supply route

- E. Escalation of the war = increased U.S. involvement
- F. U.S. General Westmoreland- search and destroy missions – searched for hidden enemy camps
- G. Tet Offensive – Vietnam surprise attack all over South Vietnam including the U.S. embassy
- H. U.S. watched the war nightly on TV
  - 1. Doves – wanted to get out of Vietnam
  - 2. Hawks – supported Vietnam War
  - 3. My Lai massacre- U.S. soldiers killed 500 unarmed villagers
    - a. Caused many to think we should get out of Vietnam

### III. End of the Vietnam War

- A. Antiwar protests
  - 1. Students for a Democratic Society – against the draft and companies made weapons used in Vietnam
  - 2. Hippies – Out of the mainstream; their own lifestyle
- B. 1968 election – Nixon won
  - 1. Johnson announced he would not run again
  - 2. Democrats: Humphrey(V.P.), Robert Kennedy(assassinated)
  - 3. Republican – Nixon – bring “peace with honor” to Vietnam
- C. Vietnam War under Nixon
  - 1. Vietnamization – Nixon and Kissinger (national security advisor) plan to get out of Vietnam
  - 2. Nixon secretly bombed Cambodia and Laos – supply route; sent U.S. troops into Cambodia
  - 3. Student protests intensified – e.g. Kent State
  - 4. Pentagon Papers – secret gov’t documents that showed U.S. had been lying about the Vietnam War
- D. 1972 election – Nixon vs. McGovern(immediate troop withdrawal)
  - 1. 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment – 18 year old vote
  - 2. Nixon won by a landslide
- E. Vietnam War ends
  - 1. 1973 Paris Peace Accords(cease fire agreement) U.S. will withdraw troops
  - 2. 1975 N.Vietnam invades S. Vietnam
  - 3. Communists took over Vietnam, Cambodia. And Laos
  - 4. War Powers Act – requires congressional approval before Pres. Can commit troops to an armed struggle