

# U.S. & the Vietnam War



# Gulf of Tonkin

U. S. claimed that 2 U.S. Navy warships had been attacked by N. Vietnam in the Gulf.

Pres. L. Johnson -reason to ask Congress permission to use more force in Vietnam.

Congress agreed, -Johnson a “blank check” to fight the war

This resolution led to an escalation in the number of U.S. forces in Vietnam.



USS Maddox fires upon three North Vietnamese torpedo boats



Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

# The Tet Offensive

Jan. 30, 1968, Communist forces launched an offensive on the Vietnamese holiday of Tet.

We stopped the communists

Public opinion in America started to turn against the war.

Americans realized that government reports, that America winning the war, were not accurate.

U.S. Marines advance past a tank during the battle for Hue



# Cambodia

- Nixon secret attacks
- Stop the Ho Chi Minh Trail
- Public anger & mistrust

# Anti War Movement

Some Americans felt the U.S. had no business becoming involved in another country's civil war

Fighting methods were immoral & cost too high

Draft was unfair -singled out the poor and minorities.

Kent State – Ohio National Guard killed 4 anti war protesters



# Divided Society

Counter-culture movement (1960s-70s)

Young people (Hippies) - reject the middle-class (Parents)

War further divided the country between:

Hawks – supported war

Doves – opposed war



# U.S. leaves Vietnam

## Paris Peace Accord

1973 the U.S. and S Vietnam signed a cease-fire agreement with the N. Vietnam & Viet Cong.

U.S. would withdraw all of its combat forces.

Civil War continues



# War Powers Act

Passed by Congress-limiting President's ability to use military force.

President has 48 hours to report to Congress -sending soldiers into combat.

Soldiers can't stay longer than 90 days unless the president gets approval



# Outcome

1975 -The war ends with N. Vietnam taking over S. Vietnam.

Vietnam unified – 1 communist country.

U.S. tried to evacuate many S. Vietnamese before N. Vietnam took over

26<sup>th</sup> Amendment – 18 year olds – right to vote



Vietnam War Memorial, Washington DC

Vietnamese civilians  
boarding an America  
Helicopter during the fall of  
Saigon.

