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| **Year/Event** | **Description** | **Your Notes** |
| **1945**  **Vietnam**  **Declares Independence** | **Vietnam was part of the colony French Indochina**  **Ho Chi Minh**, leader of the Vietnamese independence movement, declared Vietnamese independence from France. Members of this independence movement became known as **Viet Minh.** |  |
| **1950-1954**  **US Supports France in First French Indochina War** | **President Truman,** who wanted to **stop the spread of communism in Asia (Domino Theory),** called  for increased military aid to French Indochina. **Aid increased** from $10 million in 1950 to more than $100 million in 1951. |  |
| **1954**  **Battle of Dien Bien Phu** | **Viet Minh** forces launched a surprise attack against  a large French military base at Dien Bien Phu and surrounded more than 12,000 French troops. US President Eisenhower considered sending in U.S. bombers to save the French troops, but he decided not to increase U.S. involvement. The Viet Minh win, and France began leaving Vietnam. |  |
| **1954**  **Geneva**  **Accords** | Under the Geneva Accords, the First Indochina War ended and **Vietnam was split temporarily along the 17th parallel. North Vietnam became a Communist country under Ho Chi Minh. South Vietnam supported by the US.** |  |
| **1960**  **The Vietcong are formed.** | The president of South Vietnam, **Ngo Dinh Diem**, was a brutal leader. **He oppressed Buddhists and gave land away to the rich.** The **Vietminh in South Vietnam became known as the National Liberation Front or Vietcong.** The **Vietcong received aid from North Vietnam** |  |
| **1963**  **US “approves”**  **Assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem** | **The US sends more money and advisors into South Vietnam to fight the Vietcong,** but President Diem was loosing the support of his people. **He brutally killed Buddhists, jailed protestors. Several Buddhists protested by burning themselves alive.** Some **S. Vietnamese generals rebelled against Diem, and with US approval, assassinated Diem.** |  |
| **1964**  **Gulf of Tonkin**  **Incident** | August 2, North Vietnamese boats fired on a U.S. destroyer off the coast of North Vietnam. Two nights later, U.S. sailors thought they had been attacked again; but, no attack had taken place. President Lyndon Johnson used this as justification to push the **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution** through Congress which allowed the president **to take “all necessary measures”** **to “prevent further aggression”** by North Vietnam. |  |
| **1965**  **First US Troops land in Vietnam** | March 8, about **3,500 marines arrived in Da Nang, South Vietnam.** Their job was to defend the air base there, whose planes were bombing sites in North Vietnam. Soon, they were sent out to find and eliminate enemy forces. These search-and-destroy missions led to the first fights with the **Viet Cong.** **The Communist rebels in South Vietnam**. |  |
| **1965**  **Operation**  **Starlight** | The **first major assault** by U.S. ground troops in Vietnam took place in August against 1,500 Viet Cong who were preparing to attack a U.S. air base near the coast. Supported by tanks and fighter planes, the **marines killed more than 600 Viet Cong, while 45 of their own soldiers died.** |  |