

Vietnam & Korean War

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Korean War

How it Began

- In a nutshell, the Korean War was a result of the Cold War.
- After WWII, the Japanese lost control of the Korean Peninsula which eventually was divided up between the US and the USSR.
- The line that divided the peninsula was named the “38th parallel.”

38th Parallel

- The line that separated North Korea from South Korea.
- North Korea was given to the Soviet Union and South Korea was then handed to the U.S.
- Each country was to decide what happened to their half of the territory.



North vs. South



North:

- Soviets chose Kim Il-Sung (without a proper election) to run North Korea as a communist territory.

South:

- The U.S. had South Korea elect Syngman Rhee to run South Korea as a democratic territory.



Where Conflict Began

- The Soviet Union supplied North Korea enough weapons and good to prepare for war while the US would deny South Korea weapons and tanks.
- Eventually North Korea began to invade the South, which is when the UN had to take a vote for the US to get involved in the war.
- From then on, the US has fought over the land of the Korean Peninsula several times.

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Propaganda

- Free North Korea activists
 - Released balloons with leaflets attached
 - Anti-Kim Jong-un
 - Had many speakers
- Broadcast were held throughout the war.
 - Trying to convince soldiers to surrender to get home sooner.
 - Used throughout the war and to delay the ending of the war.
- The use of propaganda between North and South Korea continues till this day.
 - The U.S. and Russia used propaganda to influence their sides of korea, which caused more strife between the Koreas.

Home-Life

- This war was not popular with the people.
- People from the previous war were sick and tired of sacrifice.
 - Losing sons/family members
 - Making-do at home because of being in the war.
- The president didn't even refer to the war as a “war” but used the idea of “police action”.
- From then to even now, people did not understand the significance of the war.
 - The reason behind it
 - The hardships and horrors people went through.

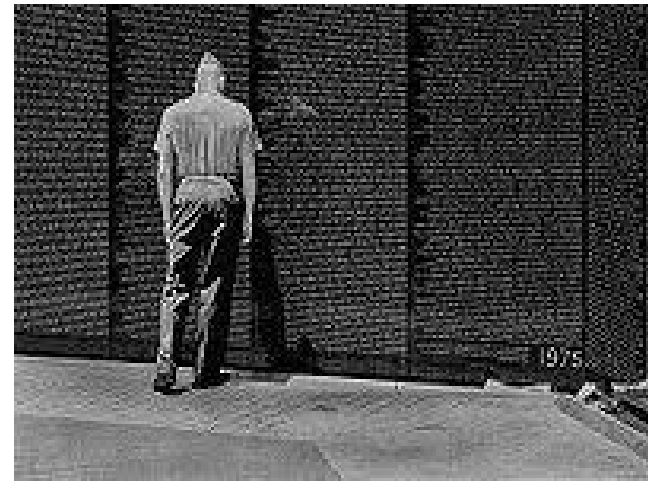
Ending Results of the War

- North and South Korea remained separate
 - Occupying about the same amount of land like before the war
- The Korean Armistice Agreement
 - Military document
 - Not a permanent peace treaty
 - Stopped hostilities
 - Prevented each side from entering the others
 - Established the Military Armistice Commission (MAC)
- Even after the Armistice, preventing communism in Asia was still the main focus.
- No “actual” end to the war because there wasn’t an official peace treaty, just the Armistice Agreement.

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Vietnam War



Background Information

Who: North Vietnam (USSR) vs South Vietnam (US)

What: A 'civil war' of some sorts in Vietnam

When: 1955-1975

Where: Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia

WHY: To stop the spread of communism, and fear of the 'Domino Theory'.



**Why did the U.S.
Join?**

Reasons U.S. Joined the Vietnam war

- Result of the cold war
 - Soviet Union was spreading communism
 - U.S. saw them as wanting to dominate the world
- Truman Doctrine
 - U.S. would resist any communist take overs in other countries
- Communist Insurgents tried to take over Greece & Turkey
 - U.S. invaded & defeated insurgents
- Communist North Korea invaded South Korea to take it over
 - U.S. went in defense of South Korea



<https://www.goodfreephotos.com/public-domain-images/b-66-destroyer-and-four-thunderchiefs-dropping-bombs-vietnam-war.jpg.php>

Soldiers' feelings towards the war

“We Gotta Get Out of This Place”

- Song by a British Group named The Animals
 - Popular amongst soldiers in vietnam
 - “Short” “Two-digit midgets”
 - The main goal was getting home
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My Lai Massacre

- One of the most horrific incidents against civilians
- a company of American soldiers brutally killed the majority of the population of the South Vietnamese hamlet of My Lai
- March 1968
- Total # of casualties unknown
 - Approximately 500
- Covered up by higher up officers in the Charlie Company & the 11th brigade
 - Continued until Ron Ridenhour (11th Brigade) began a campaign to bring the events to life



Napalm & Agent Orange

-U.S. troops used a substance known as napalm from about 1965 to 1972 in the Vietnam War

- mixture of plastic polystyrene, hydrocarbon benzene, and gasoline
 - jelly-like substance that, when ignited, sticks to practically anything and burns up to ten minutes
 - unbearably painful and almost always cause death among its victims.
-

Napalm & Agent Orange

- Agent Orange is a toxic chemical herbicide that was used from about 1965 – 1970
- Main mixture used during Operation Ranch Hand.
 - ♦ intended to deprive Vietnamese farmers and guerilla fighters of clean food and water
 - ♦ in hopes they would relocate to areas more heavily controlled by the U.S.
 - ♦ By the end of the operation over twenty million gallons of herbicides and defoliants were sprayed over forests and fields.
 - 50x more concentrated than normal agricultural herbicides



<http://vietnamawbb.weebly.com/napalm-agent-orange.html>

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The Homefront



Presidents and Politics

Ike: Help the French and send advisors

JFK: Increase advisors and send some troops

LBJ: Escalate- can't lose a war

Nixon: Peace with honor- have to get out of the war



The Two Sides

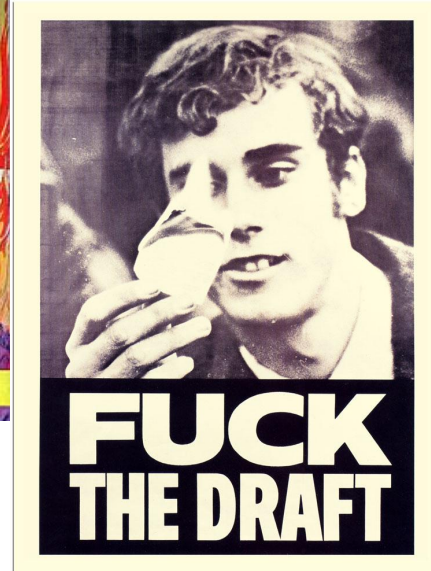
Those who supported the Vietnam War:

- The Hawks
- They believed the N. Vietnamese aggression forced the US into the war, and they should do whatever they needed to do in order to win.
 - Containment
 - MUST WIN!
 - Containment of Communism
 - Domino Theory

Those who protested the Vietnam War:

- The Doves
- They believed that Vietnam was a civil war, one the US had no business being in.
- Also believed that the money could be used for better things.
- Caused an uprising in the baby boomer population.
 - \$\$
 - Destroying people and society
 - Anti-War Movement (college campuses)

Propaganda

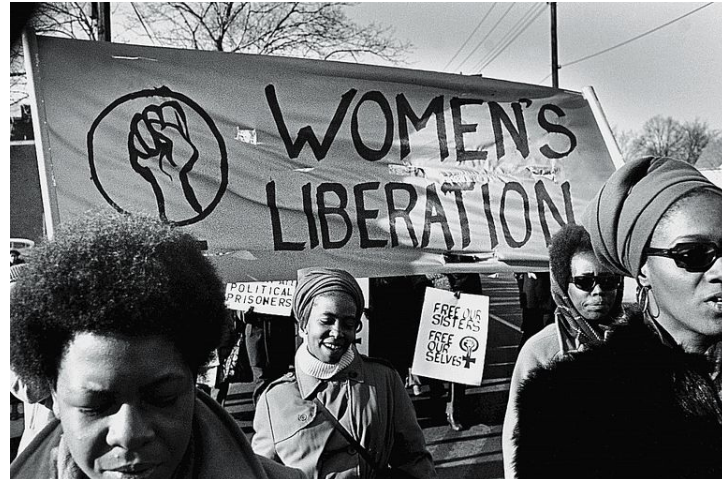


Women

- General Moore's wife
 - Delivered telegrams
 - "The Army wasn't ready"



- Feminist Movement takes off
 - Jobs open up
 - Protests
 - Liberation groups



The Effects of the War

- Rise in the youth counterculture
 - New fashion
 - New ideals
 - Breaks away from previous generations
 - Drugs
 - Sex
- Rise in the feminist movement
- Weakened the faith Americans had in their government
 - War
 - Watergate Scandal
 - My Lai Massacre
 - Other morally questionable things

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