

## North Vietnam JCC



Chairs: Truman McRay, Theo Morrison

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# Welcome to the North Vietnam JCC

The Dais of the North Vietnamese welcomes you to our committee! We are all super excited and ready to help guide you through the world of Vietnam during our JCC simulation. As a reminder, we appreciate all types of debate, but any kind of discrimination will not be tolerated and will be reported. We have no reason to suspect anything like that from you guys, but it is a critical reminder. That being said, having you all on our committee will be a blast!

## Crisis:

For crisis notes, we request you use notes written on paper and given to a sim or, if none are present, a chair. We will limit tech use in our committee to engage everyone equally, just like communism. If you'd like to use your computer to research a topic, we will give permission to the committee at specific times. We request phones be off and away unless there is a pressing reason to use them. It is also worth noting that you shouldn't go into this blind so make sure to do good research before MADMUN starts!

## Parliamentary Procedure:

This committee will implement parliamentary procedure. We want to ensure all delegates have speaking times and times outside of moderated caucuses to engage others in important but less formal discussions. Let's make sure that debates and conversations are respectful and constructive.

-Thanks, Truman, Theo, Dawik, Oskar, Ash

## **Committee Overview**

Desperate times have consistently called for desperate measures, but nothing compares to the strife and desperation of the Vietnamese people. After a brutal French occupation, a Japanese invasion, the French coming back, and finally, a US intervention, Our people have called for new leadership. The time has come for the people of North and South Vietnam, our great nation, to embrace what the world has been embracing: COMMUNISM! With the help of our communist brothers in arms like the Soviets, Chinese, Viet Cong, and the brave soldiers of the Northern Vietnamese army (NVA), we will achieve a victory over Western imperialists once and for all.

## **History of Indochina as a Colony**

Of France's colonies, it could be reasonably argued that Indochina was the empire's crown jewel, spanning thousands of miles filled with lush forests and abundant natural resources. Indochina was ruled by a French bureaucracy that implemented different state agencies to tackle aspects of life in the colony. Agency heads were often French politicians who knew nothing about the colony or its people. Discrimination and ignorance surrounding the people's needs were rampant. Soon, an even more tyrannical force swept through Vietnam. The Japanese Empire invaded in September of 1940. But through the fires of war and colonialism, a new Vietnam arose. Ho Chi Minh led a struggle against the French when they tried to return, and in 1954, the French gave up. However, Vietnam elections soon turned for the worse; while many saw the true liberty that was Vietnamese communism, there were many holdouts of an

imperialist past. The election fractured Vietnam, and we now understand colonialism in its true form only divides the North and South. This, however, will change. The French have gone, yet new threats have emerged. The United States of America has decided to clamp down on our new government struggling against oppression—ironic given their founding. America underestimates the harsh jungles of Vietnam and the thousands of men and women willing to die for the cause of freedom from oppression, a vibrant Communist state, and peace in our nation. These are our goals, achieved through a constant struggle with colonial powers, and it's intensely necessary to ensure our independence.

The horror in Vietnam can be described as a byproduct of the Cold War. Although Vietnam has had its fair share of abusive history with the French and then Japan, the postwar conference that divided Asia along parallels set the stage for conflict. After the grueling election, Vietnam was divided in 1954 by the Geneva Accords. The North under Ho Chi Minh believed in patriotism, welfare, and the power of the peasantry as opposed to the previous European oligarchs. The South, under Diem, believed in nationalism, corruption, and Catholicism over Buddhism. The North and South were mainly divided on how to bring prosperity to Vietnam and develop the country. The North believed in an ideology closer to Marxist Leninist thought, while the South believed in closer ties with Western countries to bring Vietnam forward. Soon, foreign powers intervened in Vietnam's division. The war started in 1955. The United States of America backed capitalism and the South in 1963 by sending military advisors. America soon decided this wasn't enough, and in 1964, under Lyndon B. Johnson, they sent troops in after what many now call the Gulf of Tonkin incident. The incident is highlighted by an unsuccessful attack on the USS Maddox by North Vietnam and a second attack with murky details of whether it happened or not. Regardless, the US used the incident to escalate, allowing the American

military to conduct airstrikes in North Vietnam at the discretion of the White House. The USSR backed North Vietnam by sending weapons and aid, particularly in the form of anti-air weapons, in 1965, soon followed by the People's Republic of China. To counter U.S. technological superiority, North Vietnam opened the Ho Chi Minh trail in 1959 as a pathway from neutral countries like Laos and Cambodia to launch raids into unprepared Southern defenses.

## Topic A: USSR or PRC support

The situation in Saigon is tense. The Communist Party does not stand entirely behind Ho Chi Minh. Different groups, such as the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (Viet Cong), have strengths and weaknesses that could pose a threat to our government. Vietnam also remains under both Chinese and Soviet influence as both powers seek to protect Vietnamese Communism or spread their influence, albeit so Vietnam aligns with their separate ideals of Soviet Communism or Maoism. The USSR sees Vietnam as another country willing to enter the Warsaw Pact. The Soviets have actively used Vietnam as a testing ground for their weapons as well as attempting to spread more Communism into Asia. Meanwhile, China has a violent past with Vietnam and even lays claims to its Northern regions. China also uses Vietnam as another buffer state, like the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as a defense against the West. However, the proximity and potential power their help brings to North Vietnam cannot be understated. China supplies more small arms and conventional firearms to the NVA while the USSR sends rockets, missiles, radars, and Anti-air for more significant conventional attacks. Other forms of aid were also provided, such as food and financial aid. China had likely supplied 10%-15% of North Vietnam's food supply till 1973. China has also extensively provided financial aid equivalent to 160 billion dollars adjusted (2022). Not to be outdone, however, the USSR was the largest supplier of medical supplies, mechanized trucks, and tanks for the Vietnamese army. It was also later discovered the Soviet Union had garrisoned up to 3,000 soldiers during the war, providing a backline for medical and strategic needs. In total, the Soviet Union annually sent 450 million dollars worth of aid until the end of the conflict. After the war,

unlike China, the Soviets continued supporting Vietnam with military contracts and advisors until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

As well as how to best funnel equipment to proxy groups supporting our cause, such as the Khmer Rouge, Vietcong, Pathet Lao, and any uneasy villagers ready to subside with the South Vietnamese disappointing government and way of life. Further allies lie West of the Mekong River in the form of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia. Both countries have covertly allowed Vietnam to transport vital supplies to the frontlines through the Ho Chi Minh trail. The Lao PDR even covertly fought American troops. Yet both regimes look to distance themselves from North Vietnam because of the recent American bombings that have leveled nearby towns, villages, and infrastructure. No matter who this committee chooses, the downsides and upsides of our potential and current alliances are worth noting.

## **Current Situation**

As a committee, we must consider the best option to achieve success in the conflict. Understanding what the Vietnamese people and the NVA need is a top priority. It is also essential to understand what our allies want from us to handle the matter with grace and good diplomacy. Failure to establish lines of communication and help with our allies could cost us the war or prolong its destruction.

### **Questions to Consider**

- Who is the best choice for Vietnam and its people?
- What weaknesses or strengths do our current and or future allies pose?
- Is it possible to play both sides without losing the support of either party?
- What kind of support do we need to prevent a collapse of society in Northern Vietnam?



## Topic B: A New Offensive

When we won our freedom from the French colonizers, Vietnam was split into two states: the North under the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the South under the State of Vietnam. Under the capitalist government led by Ngo Dinh Diem, corruption ran rampant, with government officials accepting bribes, among other schemes, and problems became exaggerated as Diem's lack of administrative skill ran the Southern state into the ground. Yet, the Southern state under Diem was able to outrun Diem's poor statesmanship primarily due to continued American support for the Diem administration.

American support for the suffering of Ngo Dinh Diem's people has not blinded us to it. We maintain a solid commitment to freedom and prosperity for our people. In that commitment, we are urged to act against such horrors and bring unity to Vietnam, and on November 1st, 1950, our armed war for unity began. At the start, the Americans were content to support Diem by continuing to supply and train his army. However, as the war raged on, it became ever more apparent that Diem would need help to stop the invasion if communism was to be stopped in Southeast Asia. So, aid was increased, and the conviction of the American president was strengthened that Vietnam was a necessity to stop the spread of communism.

The war kept escalating. Aid increased from the United States, and even with corrupt Southern arms profiteers looting weaponry, the wave of powder and steel kept rolling in. Eventually, by November 1963, Diem was thrown out of power, and his family, including himself, were executed, an event the US, in all effects, endorsed when they were asked if they would interfere with the coup and gave the conspirators a far from discouraging response. Following the death of Kennedy, his VP, Lyndon Johnson, shared the view of Vietnam as a fight

against communism and increased US military personnel in Vietnam from 16,000 to 23,000 by the end of 1964.

The US, at this point, was ready to mobilize for war. Still, they pushed into the decision when, on Aug 2, 1964, North Vietnamese torpedo boats unsuccessfully launched an attack on the American vessel *USS Maddox*. Yet, the United States claims another attack on Aug 4, 1964, just two days later, when the *USS Maddox* was on patrol again. However, according to the ship herself, the ship never came into contact with manned vessels and was firing at “phantom targets” when the ship's faulty equipment malfunctioned (Paterson). These became infamously known as the Gulf of Tonkin incident(s).

Even though Congress was unaware of the full circumstances around the attacks, they provided the president with broad authority to deal with Vietnam. With his authority, Johnson ordered sustained air strikes on the North(along with Laos and Cambodia) under Operation Rolling Thunder. However, it was eventually concluded that the operation had minimal effect –other than destroying countless villages and people– on the war. Faced with a choice to abandon Vietnam or invest in ground troops, in late July, Johnson authorized 100,000 troops to be deployed, with an additional 100,000 in 1966, and with that, the war was started in full.

## **Current Situation**

The Americans have shown how they intend to reshape Vietnam into their new capitalist ally: a war of attrition. With a full U.S. intervention, the U.S. intends to hold all Southern Vietnamese fronts and continue raining hell from the sky, all while presenting themselves to the international community as “victims.” While the bombings may destroy village after village, the

spirit of freedom remains strong in Vietnam. Yet, to crack the new American shield the corrupt Southern government enjoys, the stalemate must be broken.

### **Questions to Consider**

- What strategies have worked in the past? Will they work now?
  - What weaknesses does attrition present?
- How does the American mandate against communism present us with opportunities?
  - How does it detriment us?
  - What strategy(s) will we deploy?

# Individual Background Guides

Individual background guides can be found [here](#) with names, titles, and brief descriptions listed, please reach out if you have any questions about any discrepancies or other matters

## Works Cited

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