

Forum: Historic Security Council

Crisis Issue: The Vietnam War (1955-1975)

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Introduction

The Vietnam War, also known as the Second Indochina War, is a conflict of huge effects and proportions in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. The conflict started from 1st November 1955 and is still ongoing as of 1970. The war is being fought between South Vietnam and North Vietnam. Anticomunist allies such as the United States, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Australia are backing South Vietnam, whereas North Vietnam is being supported by the Soviet Union as well as other communist allies such as China. This war is considered by many historians as a Cold War proxy war. The war also included the Cambodian Civil War and the Laotian Civil War, which are still ongoing.

The Soviet Union and U.S were allies against the Axis forces during the Second World War. The relationship between the two countries, however, was unstable and fragile. Americans have long been distrustful of Soviet communism and concerned about the oppressive leadership of Russian dictator Joseph Stalin. For their part, the Soviets were incensed by the Americans' decades-long refusal to acknowledge the USSR as a legitimate member of the international community, as well as their tardy entry into World War II, which killed tens of millions of Russians. After the war, these criticisms evolved into an overpowering sense of mutual suspicion and hate.

Suspensions of a Russian plot to control the world were fostered by postwar Soviet expansionism in Eastern Europe, which reinforced many Americans' fears of a Russian

plan to control the world. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union grew dissatisfied with American officials' inflammatory language, armament buildup, and interventionist foreign policy. No single party was wholly at fault for the Cold War in such a hostile environment; in fact, some historians believe it was unavoidable. Hence began many international proxy wars which fueled many conflicts that are still ongoing today. The Vietnam war is also considered a proxy war between the two superpower nations which has created disastrous effects.

Since the 19th century, France had ruled over Vietnam, a Southeast Asian country on the eastern side of the Indochinese peninsula. During World War II, Japanese armies invaded Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh created the Viet Minh, or League for the Independence of Vietnam, to fight both Japanese occupiers and French colonial authorities. The Viet Minh was inspired by Chinese and Soviet communism. Japan withdrew its forces from Vietnam following its defeat in World War II in 1945.

Because Japan's armies left the country, Emperor Bao Dai, who was schooled in France, took charge. Ho's Viet Minh soldiers seized control of the northern city of Hanoi and declared the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) with Ho as president, seeing a chance to grab authority. To reclaim control of the territory, France backed Emperor Bao and established the Vietnamese state in July 1949, with Saigon as its capital. The goal was the same for all sides: a united Vietnam. However, while Ho and his allies desired a communist-style country, Bao and many others desired a Vietnam with strong economic and cultural ties to the West.

The Vietnam War, and the United States' active participation in it, began in 1954, despite decades of fighting in the region. Armed confrontation between northern and southern armies continued after Ho's communist forces assumed power in the north, until the northern Viet Minh won the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in May 1954. The defeat of the French in the fight brought an end to nearly a century of French colonial control in Indochina. The

treaty that followed, signed in July 1954 at a Geneva meeting, divided Vietnam along the 17th Parallel (17 degrees north latitude), with Ho in charge in the north and Bao in the south. The treaty also stipulated that nationwide reunification elections be held in 1956.

The administration of South Vietnam strove to keep Vietnam increasingly linked with the West. Military advisers from the United States, which had been present in modest numbers during the 1950s, were introduced on a big basis in 1961. By 1969, the United States had sent over 500,000 troops to Vietnam. In the meantime, the Soviet Union and China poured weapons, supplies, and advisers into the North, which provided backing, political direction, and regular combat troops against South Vietnam. The war is looking to take a toll on both sides as rising expenses and costs are inflicting damage on their economy.

The Viet Cong, also known as the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, was a South Vietnamese and Cambodian armed communist political revolutionary organization. The major purpose of the National Liberation Front was to overthrow the government of South Vietnam. The National Liberation Front (NLF)'s tactics along with America's tremendous military force, almost assured that the civilian population suffered horrendous losses. The Vietnam War's greatest immediate effect is the massive death toll. A total of 2 million Vietnamese civilians, 1.1 million North Vietnamese forces, and 200,000 South Vietnamese troops have been killed throughout the battle. Since 1965, America has dropped many millions of tons of bombs during the aerial offense. The bombs used varied in nature, ranging from high explosives to napalm used in air strikes on villages suspected of housing the NLF.

North Vietnam forces had started to build an integral and effective supply route through Cambodia and Laos to South Vietnam to support their guerrilla warfare against the government in the south. This supply route is known as the “Ho Chi Minh Trail” and has continued to enhance and expand to this date. This supply route sent manpower, weapons, ammunition, and other vital supplies from the communist North to their soldiers in the

South. To avoid detection from the air, the NLF used the Ho Chi Minh Trail. As a result, defoliants were deployed by the Americans.

Agent Orange was the most common chemical employed in Operation Ranch Hand. Agent Orange is a tactical herbicide that is used by the US military to clear leaves and vegetation for the North's military operations around the country. Agent Orange devastated 1,034,300 hectares of forest in 1969 alone. To deny the North of its food supply, Agent Blue was sprayed on crops. Agent Blue was another tactical herbicide that the US military uses. Agent Blue was mostly used to harm food crops by desiccation or to defoliate thin grass plants. Between 1962 and 1969, 688,000 acres of agricultural land, mostly paddy fields, were sprayed. Vietnam is a complete disaster. Vietnam is shaping up to being one of the most war-torn countries in the world.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United States of America

The United States has and continues to support South Vietnam against the communist forces of North Vietnam. The nation's involvement in the Vietnam War started after World War II. However direct involvement or full commitment for the war started in 1955 and is still present today. The United States' involvement in South Vietnam grew from numerous factors: The United States' war with Japan in the Pacific, France's prolonged colonial history in Southeast Asia and Mao Zedong and Joseph Stalin's pledge in 1950 to support Viet Minh and Ho Chi Minh's guerrilla forces. At first, the United States wasn't directly involved in Vietnam as the nation was intransigent against providing any sort of aid to France. This was because the U.S was against France's struggle to maintain its pre-World War II colonial empire. However, the Viet Minh's acceptance of Stalin and Mao's backing in 1950 altered the battlefield dynamic and geopolitical character of the struggle to one of a global conflict against Maoist and Stalinist expansionism. It was at this

period, in September 1950, that American forces began to provide minor support to French soldiers.

From that first support of US\$10 million in military supplies, President Harry S. Truman gradually supplied larger amounts of financial and military assistance to French soldiers fighting in what was still referred to as French Indochina by Western countries. Beginning in 1950, the United Governments' engagement shifted from helping French collision forces to directly giving military assistance to the affiliated states (Annam, Tonkin, Laos, and Cambodia). By sending increasing amounts of military help from the United States, U.S. missions were eventually carried out at a more consistent rate. Their principal goal was to block Communist progress in Indochina, believing that it would quickly lead to Communist takeovers in Thailand, Laos, Malaya, and the whole of what became Vietnam. This would have resulted in a shift in the power balance in Asia. Because the advent of this Communist expansion threatened the United States' national security and Western Europe's interests, the US foreign policy establishment sought to limit it.

Truman increased financing from \$10 million in September 1950 to \$150 million by the end of 1951. The war shifted from Truman to Eisenhower, who saw the defeat of French Indochina, then from Eisenhower to Kennedy in 1961. Kennedy ordered 500 more military advisers to the country in May 1961, bringing the total number of American troops to 1,400. With the money expanded and American boots on the ground in Vietnam by at least 1961, different parts of the US government and the American public began to challenge these activities. With Lyndon B. Johnson taking up the role of president from John F. Kennedy who got assassinated, the future of the war remains uncertain. A large part of American society is against taking part in war due to financial and other humanitarian reasons.

The Soviet Union

The Soviet Union also known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is a socialist state that has spanned through Europe and Asia. The USSR was founded in 1922 by a treaty signed by Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Transcaucasia (modern Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan). The previous administration was overthrown by the newly formed Communist Party, led by Marxist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin. The nation's government and economy are more "centralized" rather than the normal capitalistic economic and political framework. During the Cold War, the nation wanted to continue to pressurize and decrease the United States' role in the world. However, they didn't want to engage in war directly, as the effects would be disastrous. Rather, the countries set up proxy states that would allow the nations to fight without getting directly involved.

Following WWII, Soviet Russia only provided sporadic support to communist forces in Vietnam, which was then outside Moscow's area of influence. In 1946-47, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin wanted to keep his wartime alliance with the West, at least temporarily, by refusing to antagonize them by supporting the Viet Minh. Stalin held a firm dislike for Asian communist organizations, believing them to be weak, undisciplined, and tainted by self-interest and chauvinism. The situation had drastically changed by the end of 1949. Tensions between the US and the Soviet Union were increasing, and Mao Zedong's communist victory in China (October 1949) was a watershed moment in the Cold War. Moscow finally recognized Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh as Vietnam's "official" rulers in January 1950. Ho Chi Minh traveled to Moscow in search of Soviet military support for his anti-French insurgency. His overtures were turned down by Stalin, who was focused on Europe. Instead, Stalin urged Mao Zedong, his communist partner, to back the Viet Minh.

The USSR continues to lend material, technological and logical support to North Vietnam. Along with the People's Republic of China, they are hoping to expand and

implement communism in the Asian hemisphere. USSR's main goal was to diminish the influence of Western ideologies in lengthy and expensive conflicts abroad and hence gain an advantage in the ongoing Cold War. The Soviet Union hasn't openly stated what support they are giving the National Liberation Front (NLF); however, it is believed that the nation - along with China - is supplying the NLF with troops, advisors, and air forces. During this tyrannous war, North Vietnamese forces were equipped with both Chinese and Soviet-manufactured weaponry, equipment, and munitions along with their financial assistance or loans, intelligence, strategic advice, and technical expertise.

People's Republic of China

China has played a very important role in the Vietnam wars starting back in 1950. China had helped the Vietnam forces against the French forces in the First Indochina War. The nation is still helping North Vietnam against its war with the West in the form of South Vietnam to reunite the war-torn nation under their own regime.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) was established in mainland China in October 1949, and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) was recognized by the PRC in January 1950. The Chinese government participated actively in the First Indochina War under Mao Zedong's leadership. The Viet Minh formally requested military assistance, including equipment, advisors, and training, in April 1950. The People's Republic of China began sending advisors and later formed the Chinese Military Advisory Group (CMAG) to help the Viet Minh, led by General Wei Guoqing and Senior General Chen Geng. This was the start of China's involvement in Vietnam.

Mao saw the United States as the biggest threat to China's security and revolution during the 1950s and most of the 1960s. Indochina was one of three fronts Mao saw

as vulnerable to imperialist invasion (the others being Korea and Taiwan). Hence, the People's Republic of China took a strong stand in the Vietnam war.

France

After the Second World War, France had successfully reoccupied Vietnam as part of its efforts to bring the French colonial empire to its prewar status. The French had occupied Vietnam in 1858 and had been controlling it for generations before the war had occurred. The French government could not risk losing Vietnam as it was both a matter of national pride and, if one colony was lost the other French colonies could get inspired to do the same.

The Vietnamese, on the other hand, strongly opposed colonial rule, and this caused a rebellion to break out. This rebellion was led by pro-independence and communist leader Ho Chi Minh. France was struggling in their fight to keep control of Vietnam. In 1954, Ho Chi Minh's forces won a decisive battle at Dien Bien Phu, a very strategic location. The communist forces succeeded in evicting the French from the nation once and for all.

France had also stayed away from the Second Indochina War, also known as the Vietnam War, even though France was and is a political ally of the United States. French President Charles de Gaulle had warned the presiding American president John F Kennedy, that Vietnam is a "bottomless military and political swamp." This advice however went unheeded as the United States continued to take part in the gruesome war.

Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
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1887	France establishes a colonial regime in Vietnam, named French Indochina. Tonkin, Annam, Cochin, China, and Cambodia are all part of the system. In 1893, Laos was added to the list.	The aforementioned countries are now part of the French Colonial Empire.
1923-1925	Ho Chi Minh, a Vietnamese nationalist, was educated in the Soviet Union as a Communist International agent (Comintern).	Ho Chi Minh became a staunch believer in the ideals in communism which later shaped the Vietnam War.
February 1930	At a meeting in Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh establishes the Indochinese Communist Party.	A party solely dedicated to implementing communism is one of the reasons why the war started.
June 1940	Nazi Germany takes control of France	French colonies all over the world are now under the Nazis. Nazi ideology is firmly established in Europe.
September 1940	With minimal resistance from the French, Japanese troops invade French Indochina and capture Vietnam.	The Japanese tried rapid expansion techniques around the region. The capture of Vietnam meant Japanese ideology and practices were established in Vietnam.

<p>May 1941</p>	<p>The League for the Independence of Vietnam was founded by Ho Chi Minh and his communist allies. The Viet Minh movement strives to resist the occupation of Vietnam by the French and the Japanese.</p>	<p>First notable communist resistance to the Japanese and French rule over Vietnam. One of the roots of the Indochina war.</p>
<p>March 1945</p>	<p>Japanese troops in Indochina stage a coup against French authorities and declare independence for Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, effectively ending the colonial era.</p>	<p>End of colonialism in the region from Western powers.</p>
<p>August 1945</p>	<p>In World War II, the Allies defeated Japan, leaving Indochina with a power vacuum. France is reasserting its control over Vietnam.</p>	<p>Rise of French influence in the region.</p>
<p>September 1945</p>	<p>In an (unsuccessful) attempt to gain US assistance, Ho Chi Minh declares an independent North Vietnam, basing his declaration on the American</p>	<p>Ho Chi Minh's unsuccessful attempt to gain US approval, would lead to a conflict between the two parties which have everlasting effects.</p>

	Declaration of Independence of 1776.	
July 1946	Ho Chi Minh rejects a French plan that would offer Vietnam limited self-government, and the Viet Minh launches a guerrilla war against the French.	With Ho Chi Minh rejecting the French offer, both the parties are forced to go to war which has disastrous effects on the local population. Guerilla Warfare is also introduced.
March 1947	President Harry Truman declares in a speech to Congress that the United States' foreign policy is to support any country whose stability is threatened by communism, naming it the Truman Doctrine.	Truman Doctrine is received as a threat from the Soviet Union as they continue to expand the communist ideology around the world.
June 1949	Former emperor Bao Dai is crowned as Vietnam's new leader by the French.	Bao Dai will be the main resistance to the communist forces who look to take over Vietnam.
August 1949	In a remote corner of Kazakhstan, the Soviet Union detonates its first atomic bomb, signaling a dramatic turning point in the Cold War with the United States.	Numerous proxy wars are fueled by the battle in ideological supremacy between these two superpowers.

October 1949	Mao Zedong, a Chinese Communist leader declares the formation of the People's Republic of China.	Huge concerns for the West as communism become prevalent in Asia through the People's Republic of China.
January 1950	The People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union publicly recognize the communist Democratic Republic of Vietnam and begin providing economic and military assistance to communist resistance forces within the country.	The West realizes the rise of communism in the Indo China region which makes tensions between NATO and the East increase predominantly.
February 1950	The Viet Minh intensify their campaign against French outposts in Vietnam, aided by the Soviet Union and emerging Communist China.	The French struggle against the Viet Minh who are aided by the Soviet Union and Communist China.
June 1950	The United States, recognizing the Viet Minh as a Communist problem, increases military aid to France in support of its anti-Viet Minh operations.	Tensions are escalating as both superpowers (US and Soviet Union) are indirectly involved in the war.
March-May 1954	At Dien Bien Phu, French troops are humiliated by Viet Minh forces. The defeat	France's rule over Vietnam diminishes as a large part of Vietnam becomes communist.

	effectively brings French rule in Indochina to an end.	
April 1954	In a speech, US President Dwight D. Eisenhower warns that the communist takeover of French Indochina could have a "domino" impact throughout Southeast Asia. For the following decade, the United States' views on Vietnam will be guided by the so-called domino theory.	The Domino theory affects the decisions of US politics as their number one agenda is to reduce the spread of communism around the world.
July 1954	The Geneva Accords divided Vietnam into North and South, with the 17th parallel serving as a dividing line. The accord also calls for elections to be held within two years to unite Vietnam under a single democratic government.	Elections are supposed to be held; however, these never happened.
1955	Ngo Dinh Diem, a Catholic nationalist with US backing, becomes the leader of South Vietnam, while Ho Chi Minh commands the communist state to the north.	The United States backs South Vietnam against the forces of the Viet Minh.

<p>May 1959</p>	<p>To support guerrilla attacks against Diem's government in the south, North Vietnamese soldiers begin to create a supply route through Laos and Cambodia to South Vietnam. During the Vietnam War, the path becomes known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and it is considerably expanded and improved.</p>	<p>This supply route would continue to provide Viet Minh's forces with manpower, weapons, ammunition, and other vital supplies.</p>
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Crisis Stages

Prelude

From May 1941 to 1959

Ho Chi Minh and his communist allies establish the League for the Independence of Vietnam also known as the Viet Minh. The establishment of the Viet Minh aimed to combat the Japanese and French possession of Vietnam. In March 1945, the Japanese troops, who controlled the Indochina region, cleverly staged a coup against the French authorities. This announces an end to the colonial era, which effectively declares Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos independent. After the defeat of Japan by the allies in World War II, there is a power vacuum in the Indochina region which is yet to be filled. Seeing an opportunity, France starts occupying the region with complete authority over Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh on the other hand had declared an independent North Vietnam and had modeled his declaration based on the American Declaration of Independence in 1776. This was to attempt to gain the approval and support of the United States, however this attempt was unsuccessful. The French had then offered a proposal granting Vietnam limited self-

government. Ho Chi Minh had rejected this proposal as the Viet Minh began guerrilla war against the French.

In March 1947, in an address to Congress, President Harry Truman proclaimed that the United States' foreign policy is to assist any country whose stability is challenged by communism. This policy is known as the Truman Doctrine. As the United States clearly claims its position in global ideological tension, the French install former emperor Bao Dai as the head of Vietnam. With the creation of the People's Republic of China a communist country. The West has no doubt that Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong will support the Viet Minh. In January 1950, the People's Republic of China, and the Soviet Union both openly recognized the communist Democratic Republic of Vietnam and began providing economic and military aid to the country's communist rebel forces.

The United States views the control of Vietnam integral, as the nation believes there could be a domino effect if Vietnam becomes communist. This means that if Vietnam is controlled by communists, many countries in that region would adopt communism as well. Hence, the United States supports the catholic nationalist Ngo Dinh Diem as the leader of South Vietnam. This effectively sets up the war.

Crisis Stage 1: North Vietnamese kill the first American soldiers with potential direct American involvement

July 1959

The North Vietnamese are quickly gaining more control over Southern Vietnam with its strategic supply routes. In May 1959, North Vietnamese had started building a supply route through neighboring countries Laos and Cambodia to South Vietnam. This was done to support guerrilla attacks against the Diem government in South Vietnam. This route is known as Ho Chi Minh Trail. This has made South Vietnamese troops struggle in their war against the North. Countless guerrilla attacks supported by the supplies coming in from the Ho Chi Minh Trail, has caused many deaths for South Vietnamese troops. The

war seems to be tipping in the North's favor. The first United States troops in Saigon are killed, much to the surprise of the international community.

Since 1955, the US has supported South Vietnam supplying advisors, resources and money but hasn't been directly involved in the war. However, with the death of American troops, the United States of America is directly involved with the consequences of the war. The direct involvement of United States seems imminent. The involvement of the nation would likely lead to decades of conflicts which the innocent people of Vietnam would be recipient of. The effect of the Vietnam war would be extremely disastrous for both sides. The economic and humanitarian effects of this war will be devastating. The war may terminate any hope for democracy in the region for decades to come.

Crisis Stage 2 – United States deploying Agent Orange with much international backlash

January 1962

The war between the two sides seems to be intensifying day by day. The United States is fully involved in the war supporting the South, as the North is being supported by Soviet Union and China. A repeat to the devastations of the Korean War seems to be occurring. With United States President John F Kennedy has sent many helicopters and around 400 Green Berets to the southern Vietnam region, the consequences of this war are increasing day by day. In December 1960, The National Liberation Front (NLF) is formed. The NLF is a political wing tasked to create an anti-government insurgency in South Vietnam. The NLF is heavily backed by North Vietnamese means it is somewhat of a direct link of North Vietnamese troops. This means that there is a wave of political confusion in Vietnam, resulting into huge political divisions. Furthermore, the guerilla warfare of the war results in the civilian population getting caught up in the conflict.

To cope up with the guerilla warfare nature of North Vietnamese troops, the US military launched Operation Ranch Hand, an intensive chemical warfare campaign. US military has

sprayed a variety of herbicides across more than 4.5 million acres of Vietnam to eliminate enemy North Vietnamese and Viet Cong Forest cover and food crops. United States planes are being used to spray herbicides on highways, rivers, canals, rice paddies, and cropland. Crops and water sources needed by the non-combatant native population of South Vietnam were also affected during this operation. Agent Orange contains considerable levels of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, often known as TCDD, a kind of dioxin, in addition to its active components, which caused plants to "defoliate" or lose their leaves. Dioxin is a highly persistent chemical molecule that can be found in soil, lake and river sediments, as well as in the food chain, for many years. Fish, birds, and other animals collect dioxin in their fatty tissue. Meats, poultry, dairy products, eggs, shellfish, and fish are the most common sources of human exposure. Dioxin is very harmful even in minute amounts, according to experimental animal studies. It is widely recognized as a carcinogen (a cancer-causing agent). Short-term dioxin exposure can cause skin darkening, liver issues, and chloracne, a severe acne-like skin disorder.

Considering the US engaging in chemical warfare, the international community becomes increasingly concerned over the situation in Vietnam. The death toll is increasing exponentially as the consequences of the war are becoming alarming. The United States, Soviet Union and China are pouring in millions of dollars into the conflict that sees no end to it. Seeing the US's aggressive techniques and use of chemical warfare, Soviet Union and China voice their displeasure internationally against the United States for their actions in Operation Ranch Hand. The outcome of the international jurisdiction is unknown, as the world is effectively divided between two distant ideologies. With the US fearing, the domino effect, the end of the war doesn't seem near.

Crisis Stage 3 – North Vietnam expansion as America faces trouble back home

When two US destroyers were torpedoed by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered retaliatory bombardment

of military sites in North Vietnam. By the time American planes began bombing North Vietnam on a regular basis in February 1965, some critics were beginning to doubt the government's claim that it was conducting a democratic war to rescue the South Vietnamese people from Communist assault. Members of the socialist organization Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) began organizing "teach-ins" on college campuses to express their opposition to the way the war was being conducted.

By November 1967, American troop strength in Vietnam had surpassed 500,000, with 15,058 Americans dead and 109,527 wounded. The Vietnam War was costing the United States \$25 billion a year, and disillusionment was spreading among the public. Every day, additional casualties were recorded in Vietnam, despite US commanders' demands for more troops. As many as 40,000 young men were drafted into duty each month under the draft system, adding gasoline to the fire of the anti-war movement. On October 21, 1967, one of the largest anti-war demonstrations took place, with 100,000 demonstrators gathering at the Lincoln Memorial; later that night, roughly 30,000 of them marched on the Pentagon. Hundreds of demonstrators were arrested after a heated clash with the army and US Marshals guarding the premises. One of them was author Norman Mailer, who recorded the events in his book "The Armies of the Night," which was widely acclaimed when it was published the following year.

US support back home for its role in the Vietnam war decreasing at an alarming rate, whereas North Vietnam is expanding its territory steadily. Member nations around the world have realized that peace is the only ideal option. However, it stands to question how the UNSC will address this issue. A final rebellion by the United States during peace talks to limit North Vietnam advancement may be applicable for leverage. However, this would be very risky as peace talks could end before any positive decision may be implemented. The United States leaving Vietnam in general is also an option, however member states around the world fear the domino effect. This would effectively make communism the

center of political regimes in many countries in that region. The UNSC and member states around the world must address this situation carefully and systematically.

Positive Outcome

The positive outcome of an armistice between North and South Vietnam would be the sovereignty of Vietnam. A further positive possibility of this would be that the nation would govern under the principles of a capitalistic economy and a democratic constitution, although this would be in unfavorable conditions as there would be territorial repercussions. On the other hand, this cannot be ruled out as history has proven, smart and strategic diplomacy from delegations has formalized positive benefits from the reunification of a region. Even if the reunification of the Vietnam doesn't happen on capitalistic or democratic basis, it does plant the seeds for future reformations and policy changes.

With the sovereignty of Vietnam safe and secure, post-apocalyptic measures can be taken place to ensure a safe direction for the region. An armistice would also allow for the creation of policies that are for the benefit of the larger society. Economic policies would also be streamlined as there would be a more national and complete economy with a reunification. With stronger and astute economic policies there can be humanitarian and social reforms for regions feeling the post-apocalyptic disaster.

About the cold war between the Soviets and Americans, neither side would be willing to compromise any solution that is promising for them. Diplomacy between these nations need to be addressed from world forums such as the UNSC and other bodies. Making reforms for the two large superpowers is the first step that should be looked at for world peace.

Negative Outcome

The negative outcome would be the exact opposite from an armistice as it would likely be a successful takeover of South Vietnam from the communist party. The most likely effect of the war would be the death of millions of people across the country. American forces and troops would if not neutralized be completely decimated. The chance of reforms or democratic policies would be diminished as there wouldn't be any party or group in the region that would be able to combat the dictatorship. The region would be in the same condition as much of Eastern Europe after the Second World War, decimated by war. The communist parties on the other hand would be much focused on the domino effect, spreading communism around the region. It is likely the nation would be unified as a Socialist Republic.

With Vietnam effectively in the control of the communist bloc, the cold war will be intensified to a degree not seen before. The communist parties will be looking to build their influence across the world with America looking to control communist expansion. With both superpowers having nuclear capability, if a war would occur it would be the most disastrous the planet has seen to date. Ruling out a direct confrontation seems unlikely as the fall of Vietnam would be a thorn in the capitalistic side. On the other hand, diplomacy between these two nations would be unlikely as both parties do not have matching needs. A direct confrontation at this point seems inevitable.

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