MEMORANDUM FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE AMERICAN CULTURE OF WAR: A History of U.S. Military Forces from World War II to Operation Iraq Freedom

SUBJECT: Course Syllabus, Spring Semester 2009

1. Introduction: Welcome to the study of the history of U.S. Military Forces and Wars from World War II to the present. This syllabus delineates the scope of the course, the objectives, methodology, required books, grading procedures, written requirements, midterm and final examination and discussion questions, reading schedule, and other pertinent information.

2. Scope of the Course: This course is a study of the recent military history of the United States, 1945 to 2008. It places the “Cold War” and post Cold War periods in context of the traditional American practice of war. We will study and analyze American foreign and military policies, national and national-military strategies, strategic and operational doctrines, conventional and nuclear technological developments, leadership and organization of the national command structure, and numerous post war developments that emerged in the wake of World War II. In the post-war period, national policy changed in response to the Communist threat. The nation and its armed services adapted to the new demands of a bipolar, hostile world. Permanent readiness for war and the constant threat of nuclear war became part of American life, huge defense budgets were accepted as the norm, a military defense industry grew to greatly influence national military policy, and Congress took a more active role in national defense policies and budgets. The American economy became accustomed to large defense appropriations, and the American people became accustomed to being the most powerful nation on Earth responsible for maintain the status quo. During the Cold War, some Americans fought two major limited wars in Korea and Vietnam. It is argued that these wars represented a break from the traditional American practice of war. The causes and conduct of these wars will be studied and analyzed. In the post Cold War period the U.S. fought two wars in Iraq, and a number of smaller wars. Arguably these wars were fought to maintain the American Empire. These wars will be analyzed and discussed.

3. Course Objectives:
   a. General.
      (1) To educate students on historical methods and standards, and develop critical thinking.
      (2) To educate students on the theories and practice of war, and develop analytical skills.
      (3) To provide students with the language and fundamental concepts and principles of war, essential analytical tools.
(4) To educate students on the American practice of war.

(5) To develop in students an understanding of the experience of war at the operational and tactical levels of war.

b. Specific.

(1) To educate students on the historiography of the Korean and Vietnam wars and Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. To develop an understanding of the major historical arguments on the causes, conduct, and outcomes of the wars.

(2) To trace the advent and evolution of the "Cold War," and explain American and Soviet behavior during this period.

(3) To trace the American conduct of the Korean and Vietnam Wars by studying and analyzing each major operational phase of the wars, and each major shift in political objectives, strategic phases of the war.

(4) To develop an understanding of the national strategy and decision-making processes, the national command structure, and the leadership of Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations.

4. Methodology: War is a cultural endeavor. While war is a part of human nature, the conduct of war is a function of culture. American defense, foreign, and domestic policies were a function of a dynamic decision making process that was greatly influenced by culture. Factors such as: the communist threat, nationalism, national budget, organizational structure of the national defense establishment, perceptions of the level of threat, the experience of World War II, technology, personalities, military traditions and doctrines, social and cultural norms, domestic politics, and other factors influenced to varying degrees the national decision making process. By analyzing the dynamic relationship between these and other factors in context of culture we will endeavor to make intelligible a complex period in American history—a period in which the threat of total war was ever present. Throughout this course we will ask whether a particular policy or decision represents change or continuity in the American practice and culture of war, and whether national strategy and national military strategy were effectively designed to achieve stated political objectives. In other words, was national strategy and national military strategy adequately designed and funded to achieve policy goals and political objectives in various parts of the world, or did American cultural tenets impede the ability of the United States to use its resources more effectively?

5. Required Reading:


### 6. Class and Reading Schedule:

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<td>21 Operation Desert Shield</td>
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Operation Desert Storm

22 Network Centric Warfare

23 The Terrorist Attack on 9/11
   The Bush Doctrine: Preemptive War

24 Operation Enduring Freedom: Afghanistan

25 Operation Iraqi Freedom I: The Conventional War

26 Operation Iraqi Freedom II: The Insurgency War

27 The Obama Withdrawal Plan and Reality

28 The American Empire:

29 The End of the American Century?

30 Review

7. Grading:
   Midterm Exam………………………………………………………………………….20%
   Midterm Exam………………………………………………………………………….20%
   Paper……………………………………………………………………………………20%
   Final Exam………………………………………………………………………………40%

Note: Graduate Students will produce a paper on the historiography of a specific event. The paper will be based on a minimum of five books. The topic and books require the approval of the instructor. Graduate Student papers will be worth 40% of their grade, the final exam 20%. Papers will not exceed 20 pages, 3 to 4 pages per book.

8. Disability Accommodation: Any person with special circumstances covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act should register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA), and also inform the instructor of this class. Reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate the special needs of students with disabilities where such adjustments are necessary to provide equality of educational access. Students who have registered with the ODA should make an appointment to discuss their disabilities accommodation requests with the instructor. The Department of History A.D.A. Liaison is Professor is________.

9. Plagiarism: Students are responsible for their own work. To plagiarize is to "steal and pass off as one's own the ideas and words of another." Plagiarism is against University of Kansas policies for students. Students that plagiarize automatically receive a failing grade, "F," for entire course. An account of the misconduct and the professor's actions will be forwarded to the university for review and consideration for additional actions. Students are responsible for the proper
documentation of their work, to include quotation marks, footnotes, endnotes, and other forms of
documentation. Students with questions regarding the proper procedures for documentation will
make an appointment to see the professor or his teaching assistant.

10. **Paper Requirement**: Each student will write an eight-to-ten-page historiography paper based
on two books that address the same subject. Students will select from the list of books at Annex A
and B. **Books from the required reading list cannot be used.** Students will delineate the author’s
thesis, how they go about proving their thesis, and the flaws in analyses or sources used. Students
are required to think critically, and to challenge the author’s arguments. Students may examine
book reviews, and use the books required for this course to analyze arguments. **Papers are due in
class on _________. Papers will not be accepted after class.** See annex A for recommendations
on writing your paper.

11. **Office Hours**: Attendance is mandatory. Students must also attend a discussion session. My
office is in Strong Hall, 308. Office hours are immediately following class 2 to 3 PM. Email:
arl0008@ku.edu. Students are required to see their GTA for issues and questions involving the
content of the course, before seeing me. The syllabus, Fundamental Terms and Concepts, and other
information pertinent to this course can be found at
www.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415979757.

ADRIAN R. LEWIS
Professor
Department of History
University of Kansas

Annex A: Paper Requirements
Annex B: History and War Discussion, Study, and Examination Questions
Annex C: The Korean War. Discussion, Study, and Examination Questions
Annex D: The Vietnam War Discussion, Study, and Examination Questions
Annex E: Bibliography
Annex F: Chronology of the Korean War
Annex G: Chronology of the Vietnam War:
Annex H: Fundamental Concepts
Annex I: John Shy, "The American Military Experience"
Annex K: Cooper, “The Day It Became the Longest War”
Annex L: Westmoreland, “As I saw it and now see it”
Annex A, Paper Requirements:
1. Read the *entire* book. Delineate the author’s thesis, and explain how he/she made his/her argument. Read the introduction, preface, acknowledgements, table of contents, and last chapter first. Then, read the entire book. Know the name of the author, and the titles of his/her other publications. Knowing something about the author tells you something about his/her work.

2. Delineate the author’s thesis on the first page in the first one or two paragraphs.

3. Determine the historical method the author employs to make his/her argument, and assess the effectiveness of that method. For example, to explain the outcome of war an author can argue: a great man theory of history, a resource abundance theory, a technological theory, a social/cultural theory, and so on.

4. Analyze and assess the sources used by the author to make his/her argument. Determine whether the author used all the available sources, whether he/she found new, unused sources, and examine the validity of the sources.

5. Utilize the spell check, grammar check, and footnote or end note functions on your computer.

6. Double space papers, use one inch margins, and use paragraphs and complete sentences. Papers will not exceed *ten* pages, and each page will be numbered.

7. Have someone else read your paper before you turn it in for grading. Ask your reader to look for mistakes, awkward constructions, and statements that amount to nonsense. Ask your reader: what is the thesis of the book? What methodology did the author employ? What sources did he/she use?

8. Avoid redundancy, and do not write a book narrative.

9. Papers will be turned in at the date and time specified in the syllabus. Papers will not be accepted after class.

10. Students will do their own work, and seek assistance from GTAs as needed. Do not wait until the day before the paper is due to ask for assistance.

    *   *   *   *   *
Annex B: History and War Discussion, Study, and Examination Questions:

1. What is history? Define history. What is the historian’s task? What is historiography? Is history a science? Is history an art? Explain. Delineate the major problems in writing history. What does an understanding of history and historiography tell us about humanity about ourselves? Who are the authors of the books used in this class? Given their backgrounds what problems might they have in writing an accurate narrative, and explanation for events?


3. Who was Carl von Clausewitz? Delineate the five tenets of Clausewitz. Explain his concept of the total and limited war? World War II was the most total war in human history. Why? Explain Clausewitz’ thesis of the “remarkable trinity.” According to Clausewitz how do you win a war? Explain Clausewitz’ thesis on “friction,” “the center of gravity,” and the “culmination point.” Explain Clausewitz discussion on the levels of war.

4. What is policy? What are political objectives? What is strategy? How are policy and strategy related?

5. What is doctrine? What is the relationship between technology and doctrine? What were the most significant technological and doctrinal developments in the conduct of war in the twentieth century? How does doctrine influence strategy?

6. Trace the evolution of military technology from the Civil War to World War II. Using technology explain the outcome of the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. How did technological developments influence the conduct and outcome of the war?

7. How did the relationship between technology and doctrine change after World War II? Why?

8. What are “Joint Operations?” What are “Combined Operations?” Delineate the problems involved in conducting joint and combined operations.

10. Who was the father of modern strategic bombing doctrine? What exactly was his thesis on the role of the bomber in modern warfare? How did the British, Americans incorporate air doctrine into their practices of war? Why did the British and Americans adopt strategic bombing doctrine, and why did the Germans fail to adopt it? Which air doctrine was most effective? Why?

11. Who was the father of modern naval warfare doctrine? What was thesis on naval power? Is it still valid today? If so, why? If not, why?

12. Who are John Shy and Edward Coffman? What are their theses on the American way of war? Characterize and describe the traditional American Way of War. How did the American way of war influence the U.S. conduct in the post-World War II period?

13. What is a state? What is a nation? Can a state fight total war? Can a nation fight total war?

14. What resources are required to achieve "superpower" status? What makes the United States a superpower? What made the Soviet Union a superpower?
Civilian control of the military is a major tenet of the American, constitutional democracy. How did the founding fathers seek to insure civilian control of the armed forces? Are the measures they put into place still operative today? What changes have taken place to strengthen the system of civilian control? What are the repercussions of these changes? Does the system impede the ability of the United States to successfully fight war?

**Identify and State the Significance of the Following Terms**

- **Strategy**: President of the United States
- **Doctrine**: Congress of the United States
- **Policy**: Secretary of State
- **Generalship**: Secretary of Defense
- **Combat Power**: The Joint Chiefs of Staff
- **Center of Gravity**: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- **Joint Operations**: Carl von Clausewitz
- **Combined Operations**: Alfred Thayer Mahan
- **The American Way of War**: Giulio Douhet
- **The levels of War**: The *Influence of Sea Power Upon History*
- **Command of the Air**: *On War*
- **“The Iron Triangle”**: The Military Industrial Complex
- **The National Security Act of 1947 and Amendment of 1949**
- **The National Command Structure**
- **National Strategy**
- **National Military Strategy**
- **The National Security Council**
- **Limited War and Total War**
- **The Trinity of War**
- **CIA**
Annex C: The Korean War Discussion, Study, and Examination Questions:
1. What was the "Cold War?" Describe and characterize the Cold War? Chronologically delineate the events that led to the Cold War. What are the major arguments on the causes of the Cold War? Which argument do you believe is most accurate? Why? Is the Cold War over? If so, when did it end?

2. It is argued that nuclear technology revolutionized war. Did it? If so, how? Describe and characterize this revolution in warfare. How did the revolution in warfare influence the conduct of war in Korea and Vietnam?

3. Who was George Kennan, and what was the "Policy of Containment? What was the "Truman Doctrine?"

4. When and why was Korea divided into two states? Korea’s geographic location and circumstances is of strategic significance why?

5. Why did North Korea invade South Korea? Delineate the various arguments on the causes of the Korean War.

6. Why did the United States intervene in the Korean War?

7. What was the condition of the United States Army at the start of the Korean War? Explain why the Army was in this condition.

8. What was the condition of the U.S. Eighth Army in 1949? Explain why the Eighth Army was in this condition. What was the organization of the U.S. Army?

9. Divide the Korean War into phases using national, strategic objectives as the criteria. Explain the thinking behind each transition in strategy.

10. Divide the Korean War into phases using major ground operations as criteria. Explain the thinking behind each operational transition.

11. Who is General Douglas MacArthur? What was his plan for saving Korea?

12. What was Task Force Smith? What was the mission of the Task Force? Was this a valid mission? Did the Task Force achieve its objective? What happened to Task Force Smith?

13. What was the significance of the Port of Pusan to the U.S. war effort? What was MacArthur's strategy for retaining control of the Port of Pusan?

14. Who was General Walton Walker? How did he fight the battle for the Port of Pusan?

15. What type of maneuver was the Inchon landing operation? What was the significance of the operation? Delineate the view of those opposed to conducting the Inchon operation. Delineate the
view of those in favor of conducting the operation. Given your knowledge and understanding of operations and tactics do you agree with those in favor of the operation, or those opposed to it?

16. Why did United Nation forces cross the 38th parallel? Was this decision in concert with the stated political goals of the United States and United Nations?

17. Define the following terms: pursuit, unity of command, interior line, strategic consumption, economy of force, mass, objective, surprise, limited war, and attrition.

18. Who was Omar Bradley? What role did he play in the Korean War? Was this role in concert with the rank and position he held?

19. Why did the Chinese Volunteer Army intervene in the Korean War? Did the Chinese fight a limited or total war? Explain your answer.

20. Characterize the Chinese conduct of war. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Chinese army? How did the Chinese Volunteer Army defeat the United States Army in November of 1950?

21. Why were the United States and United Nations surprised by the Chinese invasion? Explain this intelligence failure.

22. Who was General Matthew B. Ridgway? How did General Ridgway reverse the situation in Korea?

23. Why did Truman relieve General MacArthur? Do you agree or disagree with his decision?

24. Why did the United States and United Nations decide to halt the advance of the United Nations forces in the spring of 1951? What were the repercussions of this decision? Do you believe this was the best decision given the circumstances? Explain your answer.

25. Characterize the Chinese defense at the 38th parallel in late 1951. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Chinese defenses? Characterize the American defense at the 38th parallel in late 1951. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the American defense? How were these defenses reflections of the societies that produced them?

26. How did Eisenhower bring the war in Korea to an end? Why was Truman unable to bring the war to an end?

27. What lesson did Ridgway learn from the Korean War? What lessons did Eisenhower learn from the Korean War?

28. As a strategic commander analyze the geographic factors involved in the war in Korea. Why did Omar Bradley, Chairman of the JCS argue against the use of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula?
29. As an operational commander analyze the terrain on the Korean Peninsula. How does this terrain influence the conduct of operations? As a strategic commander analyze the geography of the Korean Peninsula. How does this geographic region influence the American conduct of war? How

30. Why was the Korean War so unpopular in the United States? Why did support of the American people deteriorate throughout the war? Why was Truman incapable of bring the war to an end?

31. Explain the outcome of the Korean War? Did the United States win or lose the Korean War? Delineate both arguments. Which argument do you believe is most accurate?

32. Was the Korean War a limited or total war? Consider the war from the perspective of North and South Korea, from the perspective of China, and from the perspective of the United States and the Soviet Union.

33. Define victory in the nuclear age. Characterize the dilemma facing the American people in the age of nuclear war. With the end of the "Cold War" will America return to its traditional approach to war? Explain your answer.

34. What was Eisenhower’s military policy and strategic doctrine? What was the thinking behind them? How did Eisenhower plan to defend the U.S. and its interests? What was the argument against his strategic vision? What do you think? Assess Eisenhower’s performance in regard to national defense.

35. The 1947 National Security Act (along with the 1949 Amendments) created the organizational command structure for the United States during the period of the Cold War. Describe this system. What did it create? What did it fail to create? What were its strengths and weaknesses? How did it function. Did the system work effectively during the Korean War? Explain your answer.

Identify and state the significance of the following terms related to the Korean War and Cold War:

- Pusan: Occupation forces
- Inchon: J. Lawton Collins
- Eighth Army: 23rd Infantry
- Task Force Smith: Chipyong-Ni
- Walton Walker: Bloody Ridge
- Douglas MacArthur: Heartbreak Ridge
- Chosin: Dean Acheson
- 38th Parallel: Atomic Age
- Matthew B. Ridgway: Chou En-Lai
- Omar Bradley: Gen. William F. Dean
- Eisenhower: ROK Army
- CCF: Kaesong
- Policy of Containment: George Kennan
- Kim Il Sung: Turning movement
- Syngman Rhee: Indian fighting
- United Nations: KMAG
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**Cold War:**

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Annex D: The Vietnam War Discussion, Study, and Examination Questions:

1. Why did the United States lose the Vietnam War? Delineate the four major types of explanations for America’s defeat. Which explanation do you believe is most accurate? Why?

2. Why was the Vietnam War so incomprehensible to most Americans? How did the Johnson Administration approach the Vietnam War in regards to the American people? Why did he use this approach? What were the results of this approach? Was Johnson's approach in keeping with the American way of war?

3. Why was the United States in Vietnam? Delineate three arguments that explain how the United States became involved in the Vietnam War. Which explanation do you believe is most accurate? Why?

4. Who is Robert S. McNamara? How did he plan to win the war in Vietnam?

5. Clausewitz noted that there are three ways to lose a war. What are they? Explain the concept of center of gravity. What do you believe was the center of gravity in the North Vietnamese war against the United States? Explain your answer. What do you believe was the center of gravity in the American war against the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong (NLF) in South Vietnam? Explain your answer.

6. Who is Harry Summer? What is his argument on the causes of American defeat and North Vietnamese victory in the Vietnam War? Do you agree or disagree with his argument? Explain.

7. Who is U.S.G. Sharp? What is his argument on the causes of American defeat and North Vietnamese victory in the Vietnam War? Do you agree or disagree with his argument? Explain.

8. Who is General Westmoreland? What is his argument on the causes of American defeat and North Vietnamese victory in the Vietnam War?

9. Who is George Herring? What is his argument on the causes of American defeat and Vietnamese victory in the Vietnam War? Do you agree or disagree with his argument? Explain.

10. Who is Richard Gabriel? What is his argument on the causes of American defeat and Vietnamese victory in the Vietnam War? Do you agree or disagree with his argument? Explain.

11. Who is Vo Nguyen Giap? What is his argument on the causes of American defeat and North Vietnamese victory in the Vietnam War? Do you agree or disagree with his argument? Explain.

12. Who is Frances Fitzgerald? What is his argument on the causes of American defeat and North Vietnamese victory in the Vietnam War? Do you agree or disagree with his argument? Explain.

13. Divide the American war in Vietnam into phases based on major changes or transitions in American strategy. Characterize each phase, and explain why the changes and transitions took place.
14. Characterize the Vietnam War during the (Advisory, Americanization, and/or Vietnamization) phase. What was the war like for the soldiers and marines who fought the ground war? What was the war like for the Navy and Air Force pilots who fought the war in air?

15. Who is Frances Fitzgerald? What is her argument as to why the United States lost the Vietnam War? Do you agree or disagree with her thesis? Explain your answer.

16. Who is Vo Nguyen Giap? What was his strategy for the conduct of the war against the United States and Republic of Vietnam? What were the sources of his strategic thought?

17. Describe and explain the Moa Tse Tung strategy of the "People's War." What are the strengths and weaknesses of this strategy? Could the United States employ such a strategy? Why, or why not?

18. What were the American foreign policy objectives in Vietnam? Did those objectives reflect America's security needs, and interest? Explain your answer.

19. What was Eisenhower’s strategic doctrine in the 1950s? What was Eisenhower’s strategy for the war in Vietnam? Why did that strategy fail to achieve his political objectives?

20. Why did President Johnson decide to Americanize the war in Vietnam? What steps did he take to get American forces in combat? Who is George Ball, and what was his assessment of the Americanization of the war? What is your assessment of the way the United States went to war in Vietnam?

21. What was Westmoreland's operational strategy for the conduct of the ground war in Vietnam? What was his operational doctrine for the conduct of the war? What were the problems with his operational approach to the war? Did the operations conducted under Westmoreland's command have the potential to achieve America's strategic objectives? Explain your answer.

22. What were the objectives of the strategic bombing campaign, "Operation Rolling Thunder," against the North Vietnam? Did the campaign achieve its objectives? Explain your answer.

23. Define the term "unity of command." Did the United States follow this principle of war in Vietnam? What are the potential consequences for violating this principle of war?

24. What influence did the legacy of French colonial rule have on the people of South Vietnam, and North Vietnam? How did this legacy affect the American war?

25. What influence did the ubiquitous helicopter have on America's conduct of the war? Was the helicopter a tactical, operational, or strategic system?
26. Characterize American tactics from 1965 to 1968, and from 1969 to 1972. Were these tactics effective? Why was there a change in tactics in 1969?

27. Assess the performance of the ARVN. How did ARVN units perform in combat against the Viet Cong and PAVN? What motivated the officer corps of the ARVN? Under what criteria were officers promoted? What motivated the individual soldier? Given your analysis explain why the combat effectiveness of the ARVN was considerably below that of the PAVN?

28. Why did the ARVN collapse so quickly after the withdrawal of the Armed Forces of the United States in 1972?

29. Characterize the Vietcong. What motivated them? How were they organized? How did they operate? How were they equipped? Under what command structure did they operate? What were their strengths and weaknesses? Were they successful? If so, why?

30. Assess the performance of the government of South Vietnam in its goal to become a free, independent, democratic, capitalist nation state. Were the actions of the government in accordance with the goals delineated? Why or why not? Were the goals of the government of South Vietnam and those of the United States in accord, if so, in what way, if not, in what way?

31. Were the strategies of the government of South Vietnam synchronized and coordinated with American strategies? Explain your answer.

32. Characterize the geography and terrain of South Vietnam. How did this influence the conduct of the war? What was the ethnic composition of South Vietnam? What influence did the ethnic make-up of Vietnamese society have on the war?

33. What was the Tet Offensive? Was it successful, if so, in what way? What role did the media play? Was the media the decisive element? Explain your answer.

34. Characterize the "American Way of War." On what experiences is the American way of war based? Did the United States conduct the war in Vietnam in accordance with the traditional American way of war? Compare and contrast America's conduct of the Vietnam War with the traditional American approach to war. How do you account for the differences?

35. What was the mission of the U.S. Army in Vietnam? How did this mission differ from that of previous wars? What experience did the United States have in carrying out the missions given it in Vietnam?

36. What were the lessons of the Vietnam War? Are those lessons still valid? What did the war achieve?

Identify the following terms and state the significance:

- Viet Cong (VC) "The other war"
- PAVN “Search and Destroy”
- NLF Tet Offensive
ARVN                                Ngo Dinh Diem
MAAG                                MACV
ROK Army                             Harry S. Truman
Westmoreland                         Eisenhower
helicopter                           Maxwell Taylor
My Lai                               John F. Kennedy
Ia Drang                             "The Hearts and Minds"
Robert S. McNamara                   U.C. Berkeley
Walt Rostow                           Kent State
Cold War                             Communism
Nation Building                      Nationalism
Insurgency                           Counter-insurgency
Special Forces                       Guerrilla War
Americanization                      Vietnamization
Ho Chi Minh                          Lyndon B. Johnson
Richard M. Nixon                     Nguyen Van Thieu
AK-47, M 16                          Revolutionary war
Civil war                            Conventional war
Dean Rusk                            Creighton W. Abrams
B 52                                 Enclave strategy
Vo Nguyen Giap                       "Flexible Response"
Strategic doctrine                   Strategic Hamlet Program
Jane Fonda                            Operation Phoenix
Henry Kissinger                      “The Best and the Brightest”
Harold K. Johnson                    Earle G. Wheeler
Frederick Weyand                     “Rolling Thunder” Operation
People's War                         Pacification
Napalm                               Henry Cabot Lodge
Khe Sanh                              JCS
Hue                                  Gulf of Tonkin Incident
Geneva Conference, 1954               Careerism vs. Professionalism
Gen. Wallace Greene                   Nguyen Cao Ky
Attrition                            Admiral David Lamar McDonald
Curtis LeMay                          McGeorge Bundy
John P McConnell                     Ulysses S. Sharp
Andrew Goodpaster                     Harold D. Moore
Paris Peace Talks                    War Powers Act
“Graduated Response”                  CAP
George Ball                           

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Annex F: Chronology of the Korean War:

Prelude to the Korean War

1945

8 Aug USSR enters war against Japan, and enters Korea.

15 Aug US General Order No. 1 calls for US to take Japanese surrender in Korea south of the 38th parallel, and USSR forces to take Japanese surrender north of the 38th parallel.

1948

15 Aug Republic of Korea (ROK) inaugurated in Seoul, under President Syngman Rhee.

9 Sep Democratic People's Republic of Korea inaugurated in Pyongyang under Premier Kim Il Sung.

1950 Invasion and the Pusan Perimeter (Phase One)

25 Jun At 0400 on Sunday morning the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) attacked across 38th parallel. At 0930 Kaesong was taken. United Nations Security Council called for an end of aggression and withdrawal of NKPA forces.

27 Jun President Truman orders United States air and naval forces under the command of General MacArthur to help the ROK repel the NKPA. The US Seventh Fleet is ordered to defend the Formosan Straits. The UN adopted a US resolution, with the Soviet Union absent, proclaiming the NKPA attack a breech of world peace. UN member nations are asked to assist the ROK repel the NKPA invaders. Fourteen nations sent ground troops to assist the US and the ROK.

28 Jun NKPA take Seoul, the Capital of South Korea. 40,000 ROK soldiers are missing, captured, or dead.

29 Jun President Truman authorizes General MacArthur to send ground forces to Korea.

30 Jun President Truman receives Congressional authorization to call into active service any or all reserve components of the Armed Forces for a period of 21 months.

1 Jul First US Army combat unit, “Task Force Smith” (1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, 24th Infantry Division) arrives in Korea.

3 Jul Inchon, a major port facility, falls to NKPA.

5 Jul TF Smith fights first engagement in Korea to gain time for the deployment of the 25th ID and 1st Cavalry Division. The NKPA breaks through at Konji.

7 Jul UN Security Council authorizes formation of a UN Command (UNC). UN flag flies over primarily American forces.
8 Jul  21st Infantry stalls NKPA advance at Chochiwon. General MacArthur named Commander-in-Chief of UNC.

10 Jul  25th ID and 1st CD begin movement from Japan to Korea; 29th Regimental Combat Team sails from Okinawa for Korea; 2nd ID at Fort Lewis, Washington prepares to embark for Korea.


14 Jul  NKPA crosses Kum River. All ROK forces are placed under MacArthur's command.

18 Jul  US reinforcements arrive in Korea.

19 Jul  President Truman authorizes the Department of Defense to call up reserve units and individuals.

20 Jul  US Army continues to retreat. NKPA takes Taejon. Major General William F. Dean reported missing.

24 Jul  NKPA in western Korea advance to southern coast, take Suchon, and attack toward Pusan, the last major port facility in South Korea.

31 Jul  Walker orders: "There will be no more retreating." First reinforcements from the United States arrive in Korea. MacArthur goes to Formosa to consult with Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalist. This meeting was not approved by Truman, and was not in concert with his foreign policy.

1 Aug  Walker forms the Pusan defensive perimeter with US and ROK forces.

3 Aug  US and ROK forces retreat to Nakdong River. NKPA attack to within forty miles of the Pusan--the only major port in South Korea.

6-8 Aug  MacArthur confers with Truman's military and political officials from the US (Generals Norstad, Almond, and Ridgway, and Averall Harriman) regarding the Inchon Landing.

7 Aug  US forces conduct limited counter-attack toward Chinju, west of Pusan.

16 Aug  X Corps activated for the Inchon Landing. It consisted of 1st Marine Division and 7th Infantry Division. It was commanded by Major General Ned Almond who was still MacArthur's chief of staff. The X Corps was constituted as a separate command, independent of Walker's EUSAK — a violation of the principle of war unity of command.

29 Aug  First British troops arrive from Hong Kong. By the end of August UN strength is about 180,000 soldiers. NKPA strength is about 92,000 soldiers.
1 Sep  NKPA establish bridgeheads across the Naktong River and push to within thirty miles of Pusan. Walker's Pusan Perimeter holds.

**Inchon Landing (Phase Two).**

15 Sep  The Inchon Landing was a turning movement that landed UN forces in the rear of the NKPA, causing it to fight in two directions at the same time.

16 Sep  Inchon captured by X Corps. Walker's EUSAK attacks out of the Pusan Perimeter up the Korean Peninsula.

19-25 Sep  NKPA troops retreat from Pusan. NKPA troops trapped between EUSAK and X Corps.

26 Sep  Seoul retaken by X Corps. EUSAK links up with X Corps near Osan.

30 Sep  UN forces recapture almost all territory south of the 38th Parallel. Chou En Lai, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China (PRC) warns: "The Chinese people will not supinely tolerate seeing their neighbors being savagely invaded by the imperialists."

**Advance to the Yalu (Phase Three)**

1 Oct  ROK Third Division cross the 38th Parallel.

7 Oct  UN General Assembly authorizes UN Forces to cross the 38th parallel into North Korea to complete the destruction of the NKPA.

9 Oct  US 1st Cavalry Division cross the 38th parallel.

10 Oct  Wonsan port on the east coast of North Korea captured by ROK Third Division. Chinese repeat warning of intervention in the Korean war. UNC ignores warning.

15 Oct  Truman and MacArthur meet at Wake Island. MacArthur informs the President that he does not believe the Chinese will intervene, and that if they do his forces can handle them.

16 Oct  Chinese Communist Forces (CCF), the "People's Volunteer" army secretly enter the Korean peninsula from Manchuria.

19 Oct  Pyongyang, capital of North Korea, captured by UN forces.


24 Oct  MacArthur orders his commanders to advance. He removed all restrictions on non-Korean forces. This was in violation of instructions received from the JCS.

**Chinese Intervention (Phase Four)**

26 Oct  ROK Sixth Division reaches the Yalu River at Chosan. CCF attack ROK forces.
27 Oct  CCF launch first phase of offensive.

1 Nov  UN forces reach the Yalu River on the Chinese border. UN pilots opposed for the first time by Soviet built MIG-15 jet fighter.

2 Nov  US 1st Cavalry Division suffers heavy casualties when attacked by CCF at Unsan, causing a withdrawal across Chongchon River.

5 Nov  MacArthur notifies UN that CCF are conducting operations in Korea.

6 Nov  MacArthur warns JCS that movement of CCF across Yalu threatens the position of UN forces.

7 Nov  CCF forces break contact with UN forces.

15 Nov  Elements of 1st Marine Division reach Chosin/Changin Reservoir.

21 Nov  Elements of US 7th Infantry Division (7th ID) occupy Hyesanjin on banks of Yalu River.

24 Nov  MacArthur flies from his headquarters in Tokyo to Korea to announce "end of war" offensive, having concluded that, "the Chinese are not coming in." EUSAK again advance toward the Yalu.

26 Nov  CCF, under command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, launches a violent counter-offensive on both the EUSAK in the west and X Corps in the east. UN forces caught totally unprepared to defend, even after numerous warnings of a pending attack. UN forces start to withdraw. 1st Marine Division cutoff at Chosin Reservoir.

28 Nov-11 Dec  1st Marine Division breaks out of encirclement, and move south to rejoin the X Corps at Hungnam.

30 Nov  EUSAK and X Corps in general retreat. Truman suggests that the Atomic Bomb might be used.

4 Dec  Pyongyang captured by CCF.

11 Dec  UN forces begin evacuation of Hungnam, Songjin, and Wonsan.

15 Dec  UN forces begin establishing a defensive line near the 38th parallel.

23 Dec  CG EUSAK, General Walker, is killed in a jeep accident. Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgway named new commander.

24 Dec  Navy completes evacuation of 105,000 soldiers of X Corps from Hungnam beachhead.
26 Dec  Ridgway arrives in Korea and takes command of all UN ground forces — X Corps and EUSAK.

29 Dec  CCF prepare for major new attack across the 38th parallel into South Korea.

1951

1 Jan  CCF attack across 38th parallel. Ridgway orders retreat.

3 Jan  CCF take Seoul.

7-15 Jan  UN forces on Pyongtaek-Wonju Line halt CCF offensive.

Ridgway's Offensive (Phase Five)

21 Jan  Ridgway initiates a series of offensives designed to halt the retreat, restore the confidence of the Army, destroy enemy forces, and regain lost territory south of the 38th parallel. The first limited offensive was "Operation Thunderbolt."

5 Feb  Ridgway launches offensive, Operation Roundup.

13-17 Feb  CCF launch offensive. US 23rd Infantry Regiment of the 2nd ID with an attached French Battalion is surrounded at Chipyong-ni. In a desperate battle the CCF offensive is defeated.

21 Feb  Ridgway launches Operation Killer, a general offensive to annihilate enemy forces and re-establish UN line east of Wonju.

7 Mar  Ridgway launches Operation Ripper to outflank Seoul and capture Chunchon.

14 Mar  Seoul retaken by UN forces.

23 Mar  US 187th Regimental Combat Team jumps at Munsan to cut off enemy forces south of Han River.

31 Mar  Advanced elements of UN forces reach 38th parallel.

8 Mar  UN forces in Operation Ripper clear most CCF from South Korea, south of Imjin River.

11 Apr  President Truman relieves General MacArthur of command for insubordination.

12 Apr  General Ridgway becomes Supreme Commander of UN forces. General James A. Van Fleet assumes command of EUSAK. Ridgway places tight control measures over Van Fleet’s operations.

15 Apr  UN forces establish defense along 38th parallel, the Kansas Line. CCF establish the "Iron Triangle" assembly area, Chorwan-Kumhwa-Pyonggang.
22 Apr  CCF launch all-out spring counter-offensive.

29 Apr  UN forces halt CCF advance, after a limited withdrawal, just north of Seoul and 40 miles south of the 38th parallel.

3 May  UN forces launch a limited offensive to regain former positions and reestablish contact with the enemy.

16 May  Second phase of CCF spring offensive initiated. CCF penetrate 15 to 20 miles into the south along a 75 mile front.

19 May  UN forces halt enemy drive on western front and conduct a counter attack.

20 May  Far East Air Force (FEAF) initiates Operation Strangle, a massive air effort to interdict logistic and other types of resources flowing from the north to CCF at the front.

21 May  UN forces counter-attack.

30 May  UN forces regain Kansas Line.

13 Jun  UN forces take Chorwon and Kumhwa in the Iron Triangle. UN forces start to construct a deliberate defense along the 38th parallel--generally along the same line that existed before the NKPA invasion.

**Truce Talks, Negotiating while Fighting (Phase Six)**

24 Jun  Jacob Malik, Soviet UN representative, calls for cease-fire in radio speech.

30 Jun  Ridgway proposes meeting with CCF leaders to discuss armistice, suggest Danish hospital ship in Wonsan harbor as site.

1 Jul  CCF commander proposes meeting at Kaesong near 38th parallel.

10 Jul  First meeting takes place between UN and CCF delegations. Admiral C. Turner Joy heads the UN delegation. LTG Namm Il, NKPA heads the CCF delegation.

26 Jul  After ten meetings, the two delegations announced agreement on five-point agenda.

5 Aug  UN delegation suspends armistice negotiation because of CCF violations into neutral area.

15 Aug  FEAF continue Operation Strangle.

23 Aug  CCF break-off talks because of FEAF violations of neutral area.

13 Sep  UN forces begin attack at Heartbreak Ridge.

Military demarcation line agreed upon. The line of contact is the cease-fire line.

Ridgway orders EUSAK to cease all offensive operations, and initiate active defensive operations. Stalemate develops. Both sides begin to construct substantial defenses that makes taking the offensive extremely costly.

Prisoner lists are exchanged. UN listed 132,474 communist soldiers, Chinese and Korean; and the CCF listed 11,559 UN soldiers.

UN delegation proposes principle of "voluntary repatriation" in POW exchange.

CCF rejected proposal.

Negotiations stalemated.

POWs uprising in UN camps on Koje.

CCF charge UN forces with using "germ warfare."

Brigadier General Francis T. Dodd, commander of UN Prisoner of War Camp Number One on Koje-do, is taken hostage by prisoners, and held for 78 hours.

General Mark W. Clark takes over from General Ridgway as Supreme Commander. Ridgway assumes command of NATO from Eisenhower.

Major General K. Harrison succeeds Admiral Joy as chief UN negotiator.

General stalemate along front. Armistice talks deadlock on POW issue.

Operation Break-up, the resettlement of Koje Island prisoners into 500 inmate stockades, is completed.

FEAF destroy majority of North Korea's power plants.

Truce talks enter second year.

FEAF attack North Korean capital, Pyongyang with 1,403 sorties, the largest one day air assault of the war.

Air Force reports record one day kill of thirteen MIGs.

CCF launch largest attack of the year.

Truce talks suspended indefinitely, deadlock over POW return policy.
4 Nov  Eisenhower elected President.

2 Dec  Eisenhower begins three-day tour of Korea.

1953

2 Feb  President Eisenhower ends neutralization of Formosa Strait with the 7th Fleet, creating the possibility that Chiang Kai-shek’s forces might be used against the PRC. Eisenhower also made known to the Chinese that the war might be expanded in areas and methods of his choosing. In other words, he threatened to use the atomic bomb if an armistice agreement was not reached in an expeditious manner.

11 Feb  General Maxwell D. Taylor takes command of EUSAK.

5 Mar  Stalin dies.

6 Apr  UN and CCF delegates open talks on exchange of sick and wounded prisoners.

11 Apr  Agreement reached on limited prisoner exchange, 605 UN soldiers and 6,030 CCF and NKPA soldiers.

26 Apr  Operation Little Switch, the exchange of POWs takes place at Panmunjom. The exchange consisted of 471 South Koreans, 149 Americans, 32 British, 15 Turks, 6 Colombians, 5 Australians, 2 Canadians, 1 Netherlander, 1 Filipino, 1 South African, and 1 Greek. Truce talks resume at Panmunjom.

7 May  CCF accept UN proposal that war prisoners unwilling to return to Communist control be placed in neutral custody within Korea.

28 May  Fighting intensifies as negotiations approach final phase.

8 Jun  CCF and UN delegates sign agreement on prisoners of war exchange policy. President Syngman Rhee and South Korean government vehemently oppose the agreement. Rhee wants Korea unified.

9 Jun  ROK National Assembly unanimously reject truce terms. General Clark attempts to negotiate with President Rhee.

11 Jun  CCF renew attacks along the front.

18 Jun  South Koreans release 25,000 North Korean anti-communist prisoners in the general population. President Rhee ordered the release demonstrating his opposition to the armistice agreement.

20 Jun  CCF accuses UNC of conspiring with the ROK to release the prisoners, and suspend negotiations.
25 Jun  CCF attack ROK position. Anti-armistice demonstrations take place in Seoul. Walter Robinson, US Assistant Secretary of State, and General Clark negotiate with Rhee to gain his compliance.

8 Jul  CCF agree to resume talks.

11 Jul  Robinson announces that he has gained the support of President Rhee.

13-20 Jul  CCF launch major attack, driving back ROK forces to adjust the cease-fire line.

27 Jul  Armistice agreement signed at Panmunjom. Fighting ends at 2200. No permanent treaty was ever signed. In the days following the CCF returned a total of 12,773 UN prisoners, including 3,597 American (General Dean among them), 7,862 ROKs, 945 British, 229 Turks, and 140 others. The UN returned a total of 75,823 prisoners, including 70,183 of the NKPA and 5,640 of the CCF. The US suffered 54,246 dead (32,629 killed in combat and 20,617 from other causes). The Pentagon estimated that military casualties on both sides were approximately 2.4 million. Korean civilian casualties were roughly 2 million men, women, and children.

Today  Thousands of US soldiers and airmen currently serve in Korea.
Annex G: Chronology of the Vietnam War:

The Prelude to the Vietnam War

1940 Sep  Japan occupies Indochina.

1941  Ho Chi Minh, a Vietnamese Nationalist and a Communist, returns to Indochina and forms the Viet Minh to fight against the Japanese and the French.

1945 Mar  Bao Dai, the former emperor under French rule, proclaims independence for Vietnam, now, under Japanese rule.

12 Apr  President Roosevelt dies. Harry Truman becomes President of the United States. The new President is not in a strong position to oppose the re-establishment of the British and French empires of non-white people. Roosevelt's vision of self-determination dies with him, and the emergence of the Soviet Union as a "Superpower". Truman seeks conciliation with western Europe in the face of growing Soviet power.

8 May  Germany surrenders.

Jul  At the Potsdam Conference, the British are designated to take the surrender of the Japanese in Vietnam south of the 16th parallel, and the Chinese Nationalists to take the surrender north of the 16th parallel.

6 & 9 Aug  The United States demonstrates the Atomic Bomb at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

15 Aug  Japan surrenders, ending World War II.

18 Aug  Japanese transfer power in Indochina to Ho Chi Minh's Vietminh.

23 Aug  Boa Dai abdicates.

2 Sep  Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam's independence. The Japanese formally sign the instrument of surrender on the decks of the battleship USS Missouri.

The French war in Vietnam

13 Sep  British forces arrive to take control of south Vietnam. The British, who are concerned with reclaiming and retaining their own colonial empire, permit the French into Indochina territories under British control.

1946 Feb  The French and Chinese Nationalists reach an agreement that permits the French to retake control of all Indochina under Chinese control.

**Mar-Nov** Ho Chi Minh and the French disagree on what the term "free state" means. Negotiations fail. Tension increases.

**23 Nov** French warships bombard Haiphong.

**Dec** Ho Chi Minh and his forces attack a French garrison in Hanoi, and withdraw into the countryside to build a rural base for operations. The French Vietnam war starts.

**1947 May** Under the "Truman Doctrine" the US Congress votes funds to aid Greece and Turkey against Communist insurgency.

**5 Jun** Secretary of State George Marshall promulgates the "Marshall Plan" to rebuild war torn Europe and construct a bulwark against Communist expansion.

**Jul** George Kennan of the State Department publishes an article, under the pseudonym "X," that conceptualizes the "Policy of Containment," which influences American foreign and military policies for the next fifty years.

**Aug** British officially recognize the independence of India and Pakistan, signaling the beginning of the end of European imperialism, and the start of inter-state conflict between the two new nations.

**Dec** Bao Dai, who was living abroad, negotiates and reaches an understanding with the French that grants Vietnam limited independence.

**1948 Apr** Tensions increase between the Soviet Union and the United States. Soviets blockade the land route to Berlin. Truman initiates the Berlin air lift to provide Berlin with food and heating fuel.

**Nov** Truman narrowly wins presidential election.

**1949 Mar** Boa Dai signs agreement with French making Vietnam an "associated state."

**Apr** Boa Dai returns to Vietnam to establish his government. Boa Dai is a puppet of the French, and is recognized as such.

**Aug** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a mutual defense organization between the United States, Canada, and ten Western European nations, is formed. USSR explodes its first atomic weapon, shocking the Truman administration and the American people.

**Oct** The Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) of Mao Tse Tung defeat the Chinese Nationalist force of Chiang Kai Shek. The Nationalists escape to island of Formosa, where they remain to this day, protected by the US Navy. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is formed.
1950 Jan  Ho Chi Minh declares the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) is the only legal government. The PRC, USSR, and Soviet bloc states recognize the DRV. The PRC begins supporting the DRV's war against the imperialists. The Truman administration concludes that Ho Chi Minh is part of the "Communist Monolithic" control from the USSR.

Feb  U.S. and Britain recognize Bao Dai's government. US begins supporting the French war in Indochina.

Jun  North Korea invades South Korea.

Jul  Truman grants $15 million in military aid to the French for the war in Indochina.

Oct  The US Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) is formed in Vietnam to monitor the French and Vietnamese use of American aid, and provide intelligence to Washington.

1951 Sep  US provides direct economic assistance to Vietnam.

1952 Jan  French casualties exceed ninety thousand.

Jan-Apr  Truman's National Security Council conceptualizes the "Domino theory," "the loss of any of the countries of Southeast Asia to Communist aggression would have critical psychological, political, and economic consequences."

Nov  Eisenhower elected president.

1953 Mar  Stalin dies.

Jul  Armistice agreement in Korea signed. Eisenhower expands on Truman's policy of support to the French in Indochina.

Oct  France recognizes the full independence of Laos.

1954 Jan  US, Britain, France, and USSR agree to hold a conference at Geneva on Korea and Indochina.

Mar  The Vietminh and French armies begin the climactic and decisive battle of Dienbienphu.

Apr  Eisenhower decides not to intervene in the French Indochina war, "without allies and associates."

May  The French are defeated at Dienbienphu. The Geneva Conference opens.

Jun  Bao Dai selects Ngo Dinh Diem as prime minister.
**Jul** An agreement is reached to end the shooting war. Vietnam is divided at the 17th parallel, pending elections. Boa Dai's government is established in the south and Ho Chi Minh's government in the north. US does not accept the agreement, but orally acknowledges that it will not disturb the agreement. The Geneva Conference produced no lasting agreement between the conflicting "-isms" of colonialism vs. nationalism and Communism vs. Capitalism.

**Sep** The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), a loosely worded mutual defense pact between the US, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, and Philippines, is formed.

**Oct** French forces depart Vietnam.

**The United States War in Vietnam**

**The Advisory Decade**

**1955 Jan** The US starts to provide direct aid to the government of South Vietnam, and agree to train the South Vietnamese Army.

**Jul** Diem rejects the Geneva agreement, and refuses to participate in a nationwide election. The US supports his decision. The USSR and PRC agree to support the DRV.

**Oct** Diem replaces Bao Dai as head of state, and proclaims the Republic of Vietnam (RVN).

**1956** The US assumes full responsibility for training and equipping the Vietnamese Army. The Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG) is expanded.

**1957 Oct** Communist insurgency begins in South Vietnam with the organization of company size units in the Mekong delta. Guerrilla warfare and terrorism begin.

**1959 May** The Ho Chi Minh trail is opened. The DRV initiates continuous, direct support for the insurgency in the RVN.

**Jul** The first Americans are killed in the Vietnam war.

**1960 Nov** John F. Kennedy is elected president. Robert McNamara becomes Secretary of Defense. Kennedy adopts General Maxwell Taylor's strategic doctrine of "Flexible Response," increases the size of the US Army, and initiates the development of a counter-insurgency operational doctrine. Special Forces units, the Green Beret, are created.

**Dec** The DRV forms the National Liberation Front (NLF) in south Vietnam, called the "Viet Cong" by the government of the RVN--a derogatory term for Communist Vietnamese.

**1961 Apr** The Bay of Pigs operation, an American backed attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro in Cuba, fails, causing President Kennedy to believe he received bad advice from the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), and to henceforth, distrust their counsel. McNamara’s influence with the President increases.
May  Vice President Lyndon Johnson visits Vietnam, and recommends more aid. Geneva Conference of Laos opens. President de Gaulle of France warns Kennedy that Vietnam is a "bottomless military and political swamp."

Oct  General Maxwell Taylor and Walt Rostow visit Vietnam and recommend the expansion of the role of American combat troops as advisers, and a large increase in the number of US advisers. Kennedy partially accepts their recommendations, but is not willing to go as far as Taylor advises. Premier Khrushchev announces that the USSR will support Communist insurgencies fighting wars of national liberation in developing countries. Berlin Crisis, Soviets begin the construction of the Berlin Wall, and threaten to close the single western land route to Berlin.

1962 Feb  American Military Assistance Command is formed in South Vietnam (MACV). American advisers increase from 700 to 1200.

May  DRV and NLF organize battalions in central Vietnam. The communist occupation and transformation of south Vietnam advances.

Oct  The Cuban missile crisis comes to a head with the withdrawal of Soviet missiles. McNamara's success in this crisis, causes him to adopt it as a model for managing the Vietnam conflict. The Strategic Hamlet pacification program is initiated.

1963 Jan  ARVN defeated in battle with VC

Jun  Buddhist monks conduct demonstrations against Diem's government by committing suicide by self-immolation. The scene is carried on national television influencing American public opinion.

Aug  Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge arrives in Saigon to take charge of the situation.

Sep  Lodge supports coup against Diem.

Nov  Diem is assassinated by mutinous generals with the approval and support of the American government. Twenty days later, 22 November, Kennedy is assassinated (probably not by a lone gunman). Lyndon B. Johnson becomes president. Johnson retains the Kennedy team of advisers.

Dec  15,000 American servicemen are serving in Vietnam as advisers, and America has expended $500 million to aid RVN. At the same time the DRV decides to move to the next phase of the People's war, before the US intervenes directly.

1964 Jan  General Nguyen Khanh seizes power in Saigon. He receives the support of the Johnson administration.

Mar  Secretary of State Dean Rusk, McNamara, and others meet in Honolulu and agree to increase aid to Vietnam, and begin work on a plan to apply "graduated pressure" to the Communist
government DRV through bombing. Bombing is seen as a form of communication, not an instrument for the destruction of enemy’s armed forces.

**Jun** General Taylor selected to replace Lodge as ambassador to South Vietnam.

**Jul** RVN begin covert maritime operations off the coast of North Vietnam.

**Aug** The U.S. Destroyer *USS Maddox* is attacked by North Vietnamese patrol boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. Two days later a second, questionable, attack on the destroyers *USS Turner Joy* and *USS Maddox* is reported. President Johnson retaliates by bombing North Vietnam for the first time. Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin resolution empowering the president to "take all necessary measures to repel an armed attack against the forces of the United States and prevent further aggression." The resolution gave the president full discretionary power, and removed congress from its Constitutional role in regard to war and the use of the armed forces.

**Oct** VC attack American air base at Bienhoa. Johnson rejects the recommendation of his military advisers to retaliate. Johnson is primarily concerned with the election, and is unwilling to take actions that appear “hawkish.”

**Nov** Johnson defeats Senator Barry Goldwater in the presidential election.

**Dec** VC bomb an American military billet, the Brinks Hotel, in Saigon. Johnson again rejects retaliation. Operation Barrel Roll begins—air attacks in Laos.

**Americanization of the War**

**1965 Feb** VC again attack American installations. Johnson authorizes the bombing of NV. Operation Rolling Thunder, a graduated, tightly controlled bombing campaign is initiated.

**Mar** American ground forces are deployed to South Vietnam ostensibly to guard American air bases, billets, and installations. Two battalions of Marines are initially deployed.

**Apr** Johnson gives speech at Johns Hopkins University in which he offers Ho Chi Minh a vast Southeast Asian development program in return for a negotiated settlement. Johnson attempts to buy peace. The government of DRV promptly rejects his offer.

**Jun** The U.S. government authorized the conduct of ground operations. The government of the RVN changes again. Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky takes over as prime minister of South Vietnam. Regular army units of People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) are identified in South Vietnam, indicating a step-up in DRV operations.

**Jul** Johnson becomes dissatisfied with Taylor's advice, and reappoints Lodge ambassador to South Vietnam. Taylor opposed the deployment of American ground forces. Johnson approves Westmorland's request for forty-four additional combat battalions. The mission of American ground forces changes from the defense of American facilities and personnel to offensive operations against the VC and PAVN. Westmoreland tries to stabilize the deteriorating situation in South Vietnam.
**Sep** PRC Defense Minister Lin Biao indicates that the PRC will not intervene directly in Vietnam.

**Oct** The American 1st Cavalry Division, mounted in helicopter, battle regiments of the PAVN in the Ia Drang River Valley. The "Big Unit" war began. Eventually the PAVN withdrew. Both sides suffered heavy casualties. America's first major battle in Vietnam confirmed for Westmoreland the effectiveness of his operational and tactical doctrine, “Search and Destroy.” Westmoreland adopted an attrition strategy because political leaders would not permit offensive operations into Laos, Cambodia, or North Vietnam.

**Dec** American forces in Vietnam number nearly 200,000. Johnson halts the bombing campaign in order to communicate to the DRV his willingness to negotiate.

**1966 Jan** Johnson resumes bombing.

**Feb** Johnson Administration emphasizes to the government of South Vietnam the necessity of stability in government and the pacification of South Vietnam. The "other war" for the "hearts and minds" of the Vietnamese people has to be won for real victory to be achieved.

**Dec** American forces in Vietnam number 400,000.

**1967 Jan** DRV Foreign Minister says US must stop bombing North Vietnam before peace talks can be initiated.

**Mar** Johnson meets in Guam with Ky and Thieu. DRV reveals that Johnson and Ho Chi Minh have exchanged letters.

**Apr** Johnson confers with Westmoreland in Washington, and Westmoreland addresses Congress the next day.

**May** Ellsworth Bunker replaces Lodge as ambassador.

**Aug** McNamara in testimony before a Senate subcommittee states that the bombing of North Vietnam is ineffective.

**Sep** Nguyen Van Thieu elected President and Ky Vice-President. PAVN and NLF initiate major campaign that will end with the Tet Offensive in 1968. Westmoreland fortifies Khe Sanh. Johnson again offers to stop bombing in exchange for "productive discussions."

**Nov** Westmoreland expresses optimism in public statements while in the US -- "the light at the end of the tunnel."

**Dec** DRV announce talks can begin once the bombing stops. US forces number almost 500,000. Protest against the war increases across America.
1968 Jan  Tet offensive begins. During the Tet holiday the VC and PAVN conduct major offensives in three-fourths of the 44 provincial capitals of SV. The American embassy in Saigon is also attacked. U.S. and ARVN forces launch counteroffensives. Battles are carried on national television in the United States. It appears that the US is losing the war, because all the television cameras are on one side of the battlefield and all the images are negative; and because the Johnson Administration and the Pentagon took too few actions to explain what was happening to the American people.

Feb  Westmoreland requests 206,000 additional troops, based on discussions with General Wheeler. Clark Clifford replaces McNamara as Secretary of Defense. Clifford opposes Westmoreland's troop request and the expansion of the war. He seeks withdrawal, and initiates actions to get the U.S. out of the war.

Vietnamization of the War

Mar  Westmoreland named Chief of Staff of the Army. General Creighton Abrams designated to replace Westmoreland. Senator Robert F. Kennedy announces he will run for president. The "Wise Men," a group of distinguished American leaders, meet in Washington to advise Johnson. They advise against further escalation. Johnson announces partial bombing halt, offers to negotiate, and tells the American people he will not seek another term.

Apr  Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis. Disorder breaks out across much of the country.

May  American and DRV delegations arrive in Paris for peace negotiations. Averell Harriman leads American delegation.

Jun  Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated in Los Angeles.

Aug  Richard Nixon wins Republican nomination for president in Miami. Vice-President Hubert Humphrey wins Democratic nomination in Chicago where riots break-out in protest to the war. Johnson halts all bombing, and continues to seek negotiations.

Nov  Nixon elected president. Nixon promises to end the war.

Dec  Henry Kissinger selected national security adviser. American forces in Vietnam number 540,000, and in America the protest against the war intensifies. The nation was in turmoil, caused by the war, the Civil Rights movement, and the general feeling that America was disintegrating.

1969 Jan  Paris talks expand to include government of SV and NLF representatives. Melvin Laird replaces Clark Clifford as Secretary of Defense and adopts Clifford’s withdrawal policy.

Mar  Nixon begins secret bombing of Cambodia. Melvin Laird, Secretary of Defense, invents term "Vietnamization" to describe Nixon's policy of withdrawing American troops and replacing them with Vietnamese troops. Abrams initiates "small unit war," seeking to complete the destruction of the VC insurgency.
**Apr** US military personnel in Vietnam peaks at 543,400.

**May** President Nixon proposes peace plan that calls for the simultaneous withdrawal of US and PAVN forces.

**Jun** Nixon meets with Thieu on Midway island, and announces the withdrawal of 25,000 American troops.

**Aug** Kissinger meets secretly in Paris with the DRV negotiator Xuan Thuy.

**Sep** Ho Chi Minh dies. He was seventy-nine.

**Oct** President Nixon allows draft deferments for graduate students. Massive anti-war demonstration takes place in Washington, and other cities.

**Nov** Nixon gives "silent majority" speech. Another antiwar demonstration takes place in Washington. Over 250,000 demonstrators participate, the largest such demonstration to date. The My Lai massacre is revealed by the *New York Times*.

**Dec** The first draft lottery since 1942 is held by the Selective Service Board. American forces in Vietnam decline to 475,200. 40,024 US servicemen killed to date.


**Apr** Nixon announces Cambodian "incursion." US and ARVN forces attacked Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia.

**May** National Guardsmen (poorly trained civilians who should never have been given live ammunition) kill four students at Kent State University in Ohio during a nation-wide antiwar demonstration.

**Oct** Nixon proposes "standstill cease fire," but repeats mutual withdrawal plan the following day.

**Nov** Lieutenant William Calley goes on trial at Fort Benning, Georgia for the My Lai massacre.

**Dec** US military forces in Vietnam decline to 334,600. 44,245 Americans have been killed to date.

**1971 Feb** ARVN conduct raids into Laos.

**Mar** Calley convicted of the premeditated murder of South Vietnamese civilians at My Lai. He received a life sentence. Nixon reduced the sentence to three years.
Jun *New York Times* begins publication of the Pentagon Papers. Supreme Court rules publication is legal.

Dec US forces decline to 156,800. 45,626 Americans have been killed.

1972 Jan Nixon reveals that Kissinger has been secretly negotiating with the DRV.

Feb Nixon arrives in China.

Mar PAVN launch major offensive across the DMZ. US delegates in Paris announce an indefinite suspension of peace talks until DRV delegates and NLF representatives are willing to enter into "serious discussion."

Apr Nixon responds with intensified bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong harbor after a four-year lull. Antiwar demonstrators respond to Nixon's escalation of the bombing campaign with hundreds of protest demonstrations across the country.

Jun Break-in at the Democratic National Committee office at the Watergate complex in Washington causes the arrest of five men.

Aug Kissinger meets again with Le Duc Tho in Paris to work out agreement.

Oct Kissinger meets with Thieu in Saigon. Thieu opposes draft agreement worked out by Kissinger and Le Duc Tho. DRV announces over radio broadcast the details of the agreement. This was an effort to pressure Kissinger, who had to convince Thieu.

Nov Nixon re-elected president, defeating Senator George McGovern in a landslide victory. Kissinger presents Le Duc Tho with 69 amendments to the agreement demanded by Thieu. Talks break down.

Dec Nixon orders the intensive bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong to pressure the DRV to return to the talks. The DRV agree to resume negotiations after bombing halts. US military forces decline to 24,200. 45,926 Americans have been killed.

1973 Jan Kissinger and Le Duc Tho meet. Draft agreement initialed. Nixon halts all US offensive actions against the DRV and NLF. Peace agreement signed in Paris by the US, DRV, NLF, and SV. To get Thieu to accept the agreement Nixon made numerous promises of military and economic assistance to the government of SV. US military draft ends. Elliot L. Richardson replaces Melvin Laird as Secretary of Defense.

The Vietnamese Civil War (Phase Four)


Apr "Last" US POW released.
**Jun** Watergate hearings start.

**Jul** Existence of White House tapes revealed.

**Aug** US stops bombing Cambodia in compliance with congressional prohibition. Nixon announces the appointment of Kissinger as Secretary of State.

**Oct** Vice President Agnew resigns. He is replaced by Representative Gerald Ford.

**Nov** Congress overrides Nixon's veto of a law limiting the power of the president to deploy American combat forces.

**1974 Jan** Thieu declares that the war has begun again. Nixon is not able to honor the promises he made to Thieu.

**May** House Judiciary Committee begins impeachment hearings on Nixon. Nixon is powerless to assist SV, and congress has taken control of the use of American military forces, and aid to Indochina.

**Jun** DRV build-up in SV intensifies in violation of the peace agreement.

**Jul** House Judiciary Committee votes to recommend impeaching Nixon.

**Aug** Nixon resigns. Ford becomes president. Nixon was proven to be a liar and a cheat, a paranoid man without honor or integrity.

**Sep** Ford pardons Nixon.

**1975 Jan** DRV offensive begins in SV. Thieu calls the U.S. begging for assistance.

**Mar** Thieu abandons northern provinces.

**Apr** Ford calls the war "finished." U.S. evacuates embassy in Saigon. Thieu leaves Saigon for Taiwan. Saigon is captured. The war is over. The United States lost.

**1976 Nov** Jimmy Carter elected president.

**1977 Jan** Carter pardons 10,000 draft dodgers. Total American dead 57,690 (This figure is updated periodically as the remains of American servicemen are discovered.)