

PLACES IN HISTORY—PAST AND PRESENT

The Vietnam War was the longest (from the late 1950s until 1973) and most unpopular war Americans ever fought. Fifty-eight thousand Americans lost their lives. Between three and four million Vietnamese died, as well as almost two million Cambodians and Laotians.

From 1946-1954, the Vietnamese struggled for independence from France during the First Indochina War. When it was over, the country was divided into North and South Vietnam. North Vietnam was under the control of the Vietnamese Communists, who opposed France and wanted Vietnam united under Communist rule. Ho Chi Minh was the principal leader of the North and its guerrilla warfare group, the Viet Minh. The South was controlled by the non-Communist Vietnamese, who were allied with France. The United States supported the South Vietnamese government, but its repressive policies and pro-Communist agitation led to rebellion in the South, and the NLF (National Liberation Front or Viet Cong) aligned with the North.

In order to understand what happened in Vietnam, there are a number of places that you should know. Find out where they belong on the map and write the corresponding number on the location.

1. North Vietnam
2. South Vietnam
3. Cambodia
4. Laos
5. 17th Parallel and the DMZ
6. Hanoi
7. Haiphong
8. Saigon
9. Gulf of Tonkin
10. Da Nang
11. Phnom Penh
12. Dien Bien Phu
13. Mekong River
14. Hue

