

## 1 American Involvement Grows

- Chapter 27 - Section 2

## 2 I. A Wider War

### A. Growing American Involvement

- After Diem's assassination, the military gov't that controlled South Vietnam was unstable
- Johnson believed in the Domino Theory: he felt the need to go beyond just sending aid and advisors

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- Johnson authorized a series of secret military actions against North Vietnam
- The USSR and China were backing the Viet Cong (South Vietnamese communists)

## 4 B. The Gulf of Tonkin Incident

- "Report" said US warships were attacked by North Vietnamese warships in the Gulf of Tonkin
- Johnson asks Congress to give him (as Commander in Chief) the military power to do whatever is necessary to settle this: Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- Johnson had now been given authority to escalate US military involvement in Vietnam

## 5 The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

## 6 II. An Unconventional War

- Vietnam War was an "undeclared" war - Congress never declared war on Vietnam

## 7 A. A Massive Build Up

- Early 1965: LBJ ordered air strikes against North Vietnam
- By March, 1965, the first US ground troops arrived in Vietnam (By 1968, there would be 1/2 million)

## 8 B. Search and Destroy

- The US brought new, high tech weapons: also chemical weapons like napalm and Agent Orange
- Napalm: jellied gasoline
- Agent Orange: defoliant (killed all plant life)

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- Search and destroy tactics: fly troops in on helicopters to kill the enemy
- Viet Cong used guerrilla warfare (hit and run tactics) - hid in the jungles, used tunnels, dressed like civilians

## 10 B. Tet Offensive: Jan 31 - Feb 25, 1968

- Tet is the New Year holiday for the Vietnamese
- Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese launched a simultaneous attack on every major South Vietnamese city

## 11 Tet is a major turning point:

- On the surface, Tet was military victory for the US (we took back the areas that were attacked)
- But, Americans were shocked that the enemy could carry out this kind of attack, and public opinion turned against the war.

- Seemed clear that the US could not win, and leaders began to look for a way out of the war

## 12 III. A Nation Divided

- Public opinion was split: Hawks v. Doves
- Hawks: supported the war and wanted an even stronger military response than LBJ was taking
- Doves: believed the war could not be won, and also opposed the war on moral ground; had many protests and marches

## 13

- Men began to resist the draft in various ways
- After 1965, the antiwar movement spread rapidly and sometimes became violent
- Graphic TV coverage of the war intensified many peoples anti-war feelings