

# Study Guide

## **Kennedy Administration**

What was the status of the US commitment to Vietnam during the Kennedy administration?

## **The Johnson Administration**

The Great Society –

What was it?

What was the aim of these programs?

Did they succeed or fail?

What impact did the Vietnam War have on the Great Society?

## **The Decision to Go to War**

The election campaign vs. Barry Goldwater

The Gulf of Tonkin Incident

- What happened?
- Why was the Johnson administration looking for an excuse to look tough in Vietnam?
- The phantom second attack

The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

- Why is this Congressional Resolution referred to as the “blank check”?

The November election - 1964

- The outcome

The decision to commit troops in Vietnam

- When did it happen and what were the immediate circumstances?
- Conflicting advice from advisors
  - o Robert McNamara
  - o George Ball

## **The War**

Who were the key figures?

- William Westmoreland

#### The tactics

- Search and destroy
- Kill ration obsession
- Defoliation
- Operation Rolling Thunder
- What were the levels of troop deployments? What was the peak number of troop deployments?

#### Credibility Gap

- Why did Johnson keep aspects of the war from the public?
- The role of the media in sowing doubt amongst the American people
- Hawks vs. Doves
- Senate hearings – J. William Fulbright
- At what point did Americans switch from supporting the war to believing it was a mistake

#### Response to the War

- The New Left
- Students for a Democratic Society
- Free Speech Movement
- Counterculture

#### 1968

- Violence at home and abroad
  - o Tet Offensive
    - What was it?
    - Why was this controversial?
    - A military victory but a psychological defeat – why?
    - Two biggest casualties – LBJ and McNamara – why?
  - o Vietnamization
    - What does this mean?
  - o Political assassinations in 1968
    - MLK
    - RFK
  - o Democratic National Convention
  - o Return of Richard Nixon
  - o Election of 1968

## Presidency of Richard M. Nixon

Stagflation – What was it and why was it a problem?

Nixon's efforts to respond – wage and price freeze

Environmentalism

- Creation of EPA
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
  - o Was Nixon a liberal?
    - No – had little interest in domestic affairs

Supreme Court and Rights Revolution

- Warren and Burger Courts
  - o Miranda rights
  - o *Roe v. Wade*

The campaign for the ERA

Nixon Foreign Policy

- Henry Kissinger
- Realpolitik
- Détente

Nixon and Vietnam

- Vietnamization continued
- Cambodia
- Kent State
- My Lai
- Christmas bombing
- Paris Peace Accords 1973
- Collapse of Saigon 1975

Impact of the War on the United States

- Casualties and deaths

Watergate

- What was it and how did it lead to Nixon's resignation?
- Executive privilege
- Saturday Night Massacre
- Smoking Gun
- Role of the press
- Ford's pardon

**Key Terms:**

Domino Theory  
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution  
Americanization  
Operation Rolling Thunder  
Credibility Gap  
Students for a Democratic Society  
Free Speech Movement  
Counterculture  
Viet Cong – National Liberation Front  
Tet Offensive  
Democratic National Convention, 1968  
Southern Strategy (Nixon)  
Vietnamization  
Kent State  
Détente  
Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)  
Christmas Bombing  
War Powers Act  
The Pentagon Papers  
Watergate

**Key People:**

Ho Chi Minh  
Ngo Dinh Diem  
John F. Kennedy  
Robert McNamara  
Lyndon B. Johnson  
Barry Goldwater  
J. William Fulbright  
George Ball  
Mario Savio  
Walter Cronkite  
The Beatles  
Bob Dylan  
Clark Clifford  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Eugene McCarthy  
Robert F. Kennedy  
Richard J. Daley  
Hubert Humphrey  
Richard Nixon  
George Wallace  
Henry Kissinger  
Daniel Ellsberg