

Conflict and Tension in Asia 1950-1975. Part 1: Conflict in Korea

Key Facts					
1	After WWII USA and USSR were the two biggest superpowers. Disagreements over capitalism and communism and the arms race led to a period of tension between these nations known as the Cold War. In 1947 President Truman signed the Truman doctrine, promising to help any country under the threat of a communist take over making relations worse.				
2	Between 1946 and 1949, USA gave \$2 billion of aid to help the Nationalists stop China becoming Communist. By 1949 the Nationalists had been defeated and the Communists took control of China. The Chinese leader Chiang Kai-Shek fled to Taiwan. The USA refused to recognise the new Communist government in China led by Mao-Zedong.				
3	The USA vetoed the decision to allow China to join the UN Security Council leading to the USSR walking out in protest. North and South Korea had been split by the 38th Parallel after WWII. In 1948, Kim Il Sung (backed by the Communist USSR) took power. Elections were held in South Korea and Syngman Rhee (backed by the Capitalist USA) became leader.				
4	25th June 1950 - North Korea, supported with tanks/artillery/aircraft from the USSR, invaded South Korea. President Truman called an emergency UN Security Council meeting and said that the USA would help S. Korea. By September 1950, N.Korean forces pushed the S. Koreans all the way down to Pusan and took control of most of S. Korea.				
5	Truman immediately sent support to the seas around Korea. The USSR were absent from the UN meeting and could not veto the decision to send troops to Korea. Led by MacArthur, the UN (made up of mainly US soldiers, ships and planes) landed at Inchon in September 1950, quickly taking back Seoul and pushing the N. Koreans back to the border with China.				
6	Mao Zedong warned that they would join the war if UN forces pushed beyond the Yalu river and into China. MacArthur and the UN planned to advance into N.Korea leading to China sending 200,000 troops (known as 'People's Volunteers') to join the N. Korean army. The UN forces were pushed back beyond the 38th parallel into S. Korea.				
7	Truman did not want to risk bringing the USSR into the war and was satisfied that the USA had helped to contain Communism. MacArthur however wanted the Chinese to surrender and threatened them with nuclear weapons. Truman sacked MacArthur and ordered him to come back to the USA. MacArthur was seen as a hero on his return.				
8	By the end of 1951 a stalemate had been reached. Peace talks between N. and S. Korea began but no progress was made after disagreements about releasing prisoners. Talks began again in 1952. By November, Eisenhower replaced Truman as President. Stalin's death in 1953 then meant that a peace treaty was signed in Panmunjom in July 1953.				
9	Korea remained divided after the treaty was signed. N. and S. Korea remained independent countries and the border remained at the 38th parallel. A 3km demilitarised zone was set up between the countries to prevent future conflict.				
10	Exact figures of deaths in the war are unknown. The US lost 40,000 men with 100,000 wounded. Around 200,000 S. Korean soldiers were killed and over 200,000 wounded. China lost 600,000 soldiers. N. Korea lost around 400,000. Between 1951 and 1953 the USA built 750 nuclear bombs (up from 100 in 1948) including ICBMs.				
11	The relationship between the USA and China did not improve after the war. In 1954 SEATO was created, designed to contain Communism in the Far East. The USA cut off all dealings with China and gave support to the Nationalists who had controlled China before the Communist takeover. The US increased support for any country fighting Communism.				
Key People		President Truman	The Capitalist President of the USA who supported S. Korea.	Mao Zedong	The leader of Communist China who supported N. Korea.
Douglas MacArthur	American General and leader of the UN forces, sacked by Truman	Syngman Rhee	The leader of S. Korea who was backed by the USA.	Kim Il Sung	The leader of N. Korea who was backed by China and the USSR.

Key Terms	
Arms Race	The race between the USA and USSR to develop more and better nuclear weapons.
Capitalism	A political system that promotes the private ownership of factories and businesses in order to make a profit.
Communism	A political system where the state owns all industry and business. There are no private owners and all money is spread equally.
Containment	US attempting to stop the spread of Communism.
Demilitarised Zone	Area where no military equipment or soldiers are allowed.
ICBM	Inter Continental Ballistic Missile - a nuclear missile that can be fired over a huge distance.
Nationalists	Group fighting to keep China as an independent country rather than becoming Communist.
Seoul	The capital city of South Korea.
SEATO	South East Asia Treaty Organisation
Stalemate	When neither side can win a war.
Veto	The right to block a decision made by others.
UN Security Council	An international organisation formed after WWII made to promote world peace.
38th Parallel	The dividing line between N. and S. Korea.
Key Dates	
1945	Korea is split at the 38th Parallel.
25th June 1950	Troops from Communist North Korea invade South Korea using arms given to them by the USSR.
15th Sept 1950	Inchon Landings - UN troops led by General MacArthur launch a surprise attack on the west coast of S. Korea.
October 1950	Mao Zedong sends 200,000 Chinese troops to join the North Korean army.
11th April 1951	General MacArthur is sacked after refusing to follow orders. He had threatened to bomb China.
27th July 1953	A peace treaty is signed by the UN, China and North Korea at Panmunjom. The Korean War is over.

Key Facts						Conflict and Tension in Asia 1950-1975. Part 2: Escalation of conflict in Vietnam	
1	During the 18th C, Vietnam was part of the French empire and was called French-Indochina. In WWII the Japanese took Vietnam from France. The Vietminh led by Ho Chi Minh and Nguyen Vo Giap (helped by communist China) fought against the Japanese. After the Japanese surrender in WWII, the French returned to Vietnam in 1946 leading to war with the Vietminh.					Key Terms	
2	From July 1950, the US supported the French spending \$3 billion and providing 80% of all French war equipment. The Vietminh initially struggled in the war with France, who took Hanoi, until China began supporting the Vietminh. In May 1945 10,000 French troops were defeated at an airbase at Dien Bien Phu leading to the French withdrawal from Vietnam.					ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnamese Army supported by US and trained by US advisers)
3	1954 - Britain, France, China, USSR and USA signed the Geneva agreement. Vietnam was temporarily split at the 17th Parallel: North ruled by Ho Chi Minh, South ruled by Ngo Dinh Diem. Election should take place before July 1956.					Domino Theory	President Eisenhower’s 1954 theory that if one country fell to communism, other neighbouring countries would also fall.
4	Ngo Dinh Diem (backed by the USA) persecuted Buddhists, raised taxes, killed opponents and held a fixed election in 1955. By 1957 a civil war started. The National Liberation Front (nicknamed Vietcong) were set up and were supported with weapons smuggled down the Ho Chi Minh trail. The V.C fought against the ARVN. By 1963, Diem was unpopular with the USA and was shot dead by the ARVN.					Adviser	US soldiers sent to Vietnam to help train the ARVN
5	During the Cold War (and after red scare of 20s and 50s) key US politicians believed USSR and China wanted to spread communism. In 1954, President Eisenhower used the phrase ‘Domino Theory’ and supplied S. Vietnam with money and advisers and supported Diem.					Guerrilla	A type of warfare that relies on surprise raids and uses ambushes to strike when enemy are not expecting it.
6	After 1961, President Kennedy increased the number of advisers in Vietnam to 16,000 as well as sending 300 helicopter pilots to transport the ARVN. Kennedy also backed the Strategic Hamlets Policy that forced peasants to leave V.C. areas and move to the South. Support against Diem/USA went up 300%. Kennedy approved the assassination of Diem in 1963.					Draft	The US system of selecting soldiers to go to Vietnam through a lottery system.
7	President Johnson (63-69) supported Domino theory and sent US navy ships to patrol waters around N. Vietnam (The Gulf of Tonkin). On 3rd August 1954, the USS Maddox was fired upon by 3 N. Vietnamese boats. On the 4th August another report mistakenly said that the Maddox had been attacked again leading to Johnson signing the Gulf of Tonkin resolution on August 7th 1964.					National Liberation Front	A group set up by Ho Chi Minh that fought against Diem’s corrupt government. Diem called them the “Vietcong” - this nickname was used by Americans.
8	US General Infantry (GIs) used a range of tactics in Vietnam - Operation Rolling Thunder (one million bombs, including cluster bombs dropped on Vietnam between 1965 and 1968), Search and Destroy (search for V.C. and burn villages down with zippo lighters), Agent Orange (cancer/deformity causing defoliant used to destroy jungle) and Napalm (sticky fire)					Napalm	Chemical weapon that sticks to surfaces and burns at a high temperature.
9	The V.C. used Guerrilla tactics (no base, retreat when attacked, attack when enemy retreats), Hanging on the belts of US (staying close to US soldiers to stop them using bombs), Ho Chi Minh Trail (secret jungle path used to smuggle weapons), Tunnels (300km of underground tunnels), Punji traps (bamboo spike traps), Mines (bouncing betties) and Propaganda.					Vietcong	The communist guerrilla force that fought against the ARVN and US troops. Another name for the NLF (National Liberation Front)
10	The V.C. changed tactics at the Tet Offensive (Jan 1968). 84,000 V.C. attacked 100 towns/ cities. US embassy in Saigon taken by V.C. for 6 hours. Although 50,000 N. Vietnamese and 10,000 V.C. were killed, the events were seen by millions of US people on TV. Support for a war that was costing \$30 billion per year and the lives of 300 men per week decreased.					Vietminh	The Vietnamese Independence League: communist guerrilla force who fought for Vietnamese independence against Japan and France.
11	16th March 1968 - 80 soldiers from ‘Charlie Company’ were sent to My Lai under orders to kill V.C. soldiers. 500 women, children and elderly had been killed with no V.C. found. Some GIs had raped and tortured villagers. Events at My Lai were not reported until a year later - US soldier Ridenhour wrote to US politicians leading to inquiry and trial. Only Lieutenant Calley was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison (but released 3 years later). US public were shocked by actions of their own troops leading to mistrust of the army and the government. Report into US army said that 1/3 of troops addicted to drugs. 700,000 protested against war in 1969.					Punji	Bamboo used by the V.C. to make traps.
12	Protests against war grew in the 60s. Some thought war was morally wrong. In 1967 Martin Luther King argued that money could be better spent helping America’s poor people and that a higher proportion of black soldiers were being sent to Vietnam. Late 60s, student protests reached new levels. Jan-June 68, 100 demonstrations took place involving 40,000 students.					Defoliant	Chemical weapon that burns leaves and destroys trees
Key People			Key Dates				
		Ngo Dinh Diem	French educated Catholic who led S. Vietnam backed by US.		Ho Chi Minh	Communist leader of North Vietnam backed by China.	
President Eisenhower	Domino Theory president who send advisers to Vietnam	President Kennedy	Increased no. of advisers and supported Strategic Hamlets		President Johnson	Signed Gulf of Tonkin resolution—started war in V.	
						May 1954	French defeated at Dien Bien Phu
						July 1954	Geneva Agreement signed. Vietnam split.
						1961	Number of advisers in Vietnam reaches 16,000
						August 1964	Gulf of Tonkin incident and Resolution gives Johnson power to take and military measure necessary in Vietnam
						Dec 1965	200,000 US troops are in Vietnam.
						Jan 1968	Tet Offensive - V.C. attack 100 towns and cities at once.
						Mar 1968	My Lai Massacre - 500 Vietnamese killed by US troops.

Key Facts					
1	Nixon was elected in '68 after promising to achieve 'honourable peace' and end the war. Nixon wanted to withdraw America from Vietnam without S. Vietnam being taken over by Communism. Nixon started Vietnamisation in Nov. '69 - training up the ARVN and giving enough equipment that it could carry on fighting without US help.				
2	Nixon wanted to destroy as many V.C. bases as possible before withdrawal - many of these bases were in Cambodia and Laos. March '69 US start bombing Cambodia attempting to destroy V.C. bases (kept secret from US public.) Bombing failed to destroy V.C. bases leading to Nixon sending 150,000 more troops to Vietnam and invading Cambodia. Protests against war increased and Khmer Rouge popularity went up.				
3	'71 - ARVN, supported by US troops, attacked V.C. in Laos. US helicopters, bombers and artillery used in attacks. The ARVN were beaten back. N. Vietnam then launched a major attack into S. Vietnam. Failed attack in Laos showed that Vietnamisation was not working.				
4	Disagreements between USSR and China led to both nations trying to improve relations with USA. 1970, USA and USSR talked about limiting their nuclear weapons and putting pressure on North Vietnam to end the war. February '72 Nixon visits China (first president to do so) and also asks China to encourage North Vietnam to end the war.				
5	Media coverage of war led to increased student protests. Draft dodging became a form of protest across the US. Hippie themes of peace, and student rebellion against government led to demonstrations. Invasion of Cambodia led to student protests at universities - May 4th '70 1000 Ohio National Guard sent to Kent State University—clashes with protestors killed 4 students. 2 million students went on strike as a result.				
6	Media played an important role in popularity of war. During early years of conflict, media was positive about the war and focussed on bravery of US troops who were seen as 'good guys'. The US army met with journalists every day to announce latest news - later on in the war, reporters shouted at army officials feeling that they were not being told truth.				
7	Tet offensive (Jan '68) was turning point in media reporting. TV crews showed US people that they were not winning the war (this did not match the government message that they were winning). Walter Cronkite (most famous news reader) said on TV that the war was 'unwinnable'. After Tet, US media reported negative news of war on poor morale and defeats in battle. My Lai was reported negatively by the media and <i>Life</i> magazine shocked US by publishing photos of faces of 242 US troops killed in one week in June 1969.				
8	Watergate Scandal in '72 led to Nixon's resignation in August '74. Nixon (a Republican) was linked to a burglary at the Democrat party offices. Nixon's attempts to cover up his involvement were eventually found out leading to the end of Nixon's presidency. Many people in the US began to lose trust in the presidency at a time when their trust in the government was already low.				
9	Kissinger (National Security Advisor) began peace talks with N. Vietnam in '69. Between '69 and '73, Kissinger met with Le Duc Tho (N. Vietnam's chief negotiator) in Paris to discuss peace treaty and also arranged Nixon's visits to China and the USSR. By October '72 a ceasefire had been put forward. It is agreed that elections for a new government in Vietnam will be held. By '73 the Paris Peace Accord was signed, with all US forces leaving Vietnam by March '73. Nixon promised to give \$1 billion of military aid to S. Vietnam to help them.				
10	The US government refused to give any more money to S. Vietnam. After Nixon's resignation in '74, President Ford failed to win support from the government to help S. Vietnam. In December '74, N. Vietnam attacked S. Vietnam. By April '75 Saigon had fallen to the communists and was renamed Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam became a unified country under communist control.				
11.	The US spent \$170 billion on the war (\$1 trillion in today's money). Under Johnson, money that could have been spent on his 'War on Poverty' was spent on Vietnam. 58,000 Americans aged 23 on average were killed. 300,000 were wounded. Around 1 million soldiers from Vietnam were killed with two million injured. Around 2 million Vietnamese were killed with 11 million becoming refugees.				
12	Country of Vietnam ruined by war. Huge areas of farmland destroyed by US troops. Agent Orange caused 300,000 acres of farmland to be useless for food production. Thousands of soldiers from both sides developed cancer from chemical weapons and many children have been born with deformities and disabilities because of harmful chemicals in the soil. US reputation as a unstoppable power was damaged by war.				
Key People		William Calley	Only person found guilty after My Lai - served 3 in prison.	Henry Kissinger	US National Security Advisor helped negotiate peace.
Walter Cronkite	Famous CBS news reporter who said war was 'unwinnable'.	President Nixon	Elected to end war. Invaded Cambodia and Laos. Resigned '74.	Le Duc Tho	North Vietnamese negotiator who agreed peace treaty.

Conflict and Tension in Asia 1950-1975.
Part 3: The ending of conflict in Vietnam.

Key Terms	
Khmer Rouge	Communist organisation in Cambodia that became more popular in '70s after US invasion.
Vietnamisation	Nixon's strategy of training up the ARVN so that they could fight without help from the US.
Draft Dodger	Someone who tried to avoid being called up into the US armed forces.
ARVN	The Army of the Republic of Vietnam—The Army of South Vietnam supported by the US.
Hippie	A movement popular in the 60s and 70s that taught ideas of peace and love.
Saigon	The capital city of South Vietnam.
Media	Journalists, TV crews, reporters.
Morale	The confidence and enthusiasm of a group (often used to describe the way soldiers are feeling)
Tet	Attacks on 100 cities by V.C. in Jan '68.
Deformity	Not having the normal shape (used to describe people born with missing or extra limbs)
Withdrawal	To remove, or leave. Used to describe the US leaving Vietnam during the 1970s.
Key Dates	
Nov '69	Vietnamisation begins.
April '70	Invasion of Cambodia by US troops.
May '70	Kent State Massacre—4 students shot dead.
Feb '71	Operation Son Lam—invasion of Laos
Jan '73	Paris Peace Accords Signed
Mar '73	All US troops withdrawn from Vietnam
Aug '74	Nixon resigns after Watergate Scandal reported
April '75	Saigon taken by North Vietnam and is renamed Ho Chi Minh City after their communist leader.