**The Vietnam War’s Legacy**

* 58,000 American casualties
* Over 300,000 Americans were wounded
* Over 2 million Vietnamese casualties
* More cynicism toward gov’t
* Many people became more cautious about getting involved in world affairs

Veterans Cope at Home

* The nation didn’t welcome many vets home with open arms
* About 15% of vets developed PTSD
* Large number of vets abused drugs and alcohol
* Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unveiled in 1982 in Washington DC

Turmoil in SE Asia

* SE Asia became highly unstable after the war
* Communist North Vietnamese regime was harsh on the South Vietnamese
* More than 400,000 S. Vietnamese were imprisoned in work camps
* 1.5 million citizens fled the country
* Business owners were forced to leave

Cambodia

* The US invasion of Cambodia touched off a civil war
* Communist Khmer Rouge regime seized power in 1975
* The goal was to create a peasant society
* Professional, educated people, or anyone with foreign ties was executed
* Over 1 million Cambodians were killed

Disagreement over Legacy

* Hawks believe that more military power could have led to a victory
* Furthermore felt that anti-war sentiment led to reduction in morale
* Doves thought that wouldn’t have helped based on the type of war it was
* Further attacks on N. Vietnam could have led to involvement by China or USSR
* Draft was abolished after Vietnam
* *War Powers Act:* President must inform Congress within 48 hrs of sending troops. Troops can only stay 90 days unless war is declared or Congress approves