**Vietnam Background**

* America’s role in Vietnam would be most controversial war in US history
* 60,000 Americans killed
* 2 million Vietnamese killed

American Involvement

* French ruled Vietnam from 1800s to WWII
* Vietnamese nationalists were upset with foreign rulers
* *Ho Chi Minh*: Communist Vietnamese leader who studied in China



* His goal was to free Vietnam from foreign rule
* *Vietminh:* group formed by Ho Chi Minh to win independence



* French Indochina War fought in the 1940s between Vietnam and France
* US supported France both militarily and economically
* $15 billion in aid paid to France
* *Domino Theory:* the idea of stopping countries from falling to Communism



* French eventually gave up in Vietnam
* *Geneva Accords*: agreement to split Vietnam along the 17th parallel



* N. Vietnam controlled by Ho Chi Minh/Communists, and S. Vietnam was anticommunist