

Vietnam War and Peace: Unit III

North Versus South Vietnam 1956-1963

Student Learning Outcomes

Subjects: Social Studies: World History and Geography, Industrial and Political Revolution, Vietnam War, Global Studies, Political Science and Human Geography.

Objective: Students (9-12) will understand the key geopolitical and internal dynamics shaping Vietnam's history 1956-1963. Experiential learning activity teaches the challenges of multi-lateral negotiations, international diplomacy and alliance-building in the context of post-colonial national sovereignty struggles.

Students will know:

- Why the United States supported South Vietnam's refusal to abide by the Geneva Conventions of 1954
- Who were the main personalities shaping Vietnam's conflict 1956-63
- What strategies the North Vietnamese employed against the South Vietnamese government
- How United States' domestic politics increased America's commitment to defeat the National Liberation Front
- What military strategies the United States used in Vietnam under the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations
- In what ways the neutral countries of Cambodia and Laos became involved in the Vietnam War
- How Vietnam's Buddhists earned world sympathy by using foreign media to the publicize of the brutal Diem regime
- Why the U.S. gave approval for a military coup d'état against the Ngo Dinh Diem government of South Vietnam
- What JFK may have done in Vietnam had he lived beyond 1963

California State Standards:

11.4 Students trace the rise of the United States to its role as a world power in the twentieth century.

11.9 Students analyze U.S. foreign policy since World War II. (2). Understand the role of military alliances, including NATO and SEATO, in deterring communist aggression and maintaining security during the Cold War. (3) Trace the origins and geopolitical

consequences (foreign and domestic) of the Cold War and containment policy.

- 12.9 Students analyze the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for political democracy, its advances, and its obstacles.

<u>For use with Unit III Student</u>	<u>Supporting Documents:</u>
<u>Lesson Files:</u>	
Unit III Vietnam 1956-1963: Essential Questions	Document #3.1 Elections Telegram Secretary of State to Vietnam, 1955
Unit III Vietnam 1956-1963: Vocabulary	Document #3.2 General Maxwell Taylor recommends ground troops, 1961
Unit III Simulation: Two-party system: Hawks and Doves	Document #3.3 Rusk / McNamara "December White Paper" 1961
Unit III: Debrief Two-party system: Hawks and Doves	Document #3.4 Cable 243: Authorizes Ambassador Lodge for coup 1963
Unit III Vietnam 1956-1963: Power Point	Document #3.5 Henry Cabot Lodge conversation with Diem, 1963
Unit III Vietnam 1956-1963 Unit III Quiz	Document #3.6 U.S. Army Advisor Recalls his Experiences 1962-63
	Document #3.7 JFK Correspondence with Betty Lou Pendergrass, 1963
	Document #3.8 JFK Interview with Walter Cronkite, 1963

Recommended Reading and Viewing:

***JFK and Vietnam: Deception, Intrigue and the Struggle for Power*, by John M. Newman, Warner Books (1992)**

Film: Virtual JFK: Vietnam if Kennedy Had Lived, (2008)
 American Experience / PBS DVD Series: Vietnam, disc (1)

ABC-CLIO Enrichment:

Army propaganda film of "American's Mandarin," Ngo Dinh Diem