

Official REASON FOR THE WAR: to stop the advance of Communism....
domino theory: necessarily expansionist tendency....

ATTITUDE TOWARD HO CHI MINH: b. in 1890...died in 1969...

treated by the Vietnamese people as a symbol of
national independence

indebted to the communist philosophy....
but friendly to the United States....

explain: believes fully in the eventual freedom
of oppressed peoples....

group called: Armed Propaganda Brigade for the
Liberation of Vietnam...

founded in Decmeber, 1944

had 30,000 by June 1946

renamed the Vietnam People's Army

by November 1946, the Army had 60,000 troops

by January, 1947, the total readched

100,000....

DURING THE WAR ITSELF: Ho offered U.S. the use of 1,000
"well-trained" guerrilla fighters for work against
the Japanese...

HO -- traveled around a bit....

his father held a doctorate in Chinese ideography...
(the representation of ideas by graphic
symbols)

HO lived in London from 1914 on, from the time of
the outbreak of World War I...

he did odd jobs at a London school...

at night he was a kitchen helper at the
Carlton Hotel...

he did so well that he was promoted
to pastry chef...

In London, he joined a secret group working for
the independence of Vietnam... called the Overseas
Workers Association...

It was during this time that he began studying
about revolutionary socialism and communism....

By 1918, Ho was in France...where he worked as a photo
retoucher....

continued reading socialist literature...

he studied languages: as a consequence, he
spoke Vietnamese, French, English, Russian
and Mandarin Chinese fluently as well as
several Indochinese dialects...

he started publishing...and was invited to
a meeting of the French Socialist Party Congress at
Tours in 1920...

(n) December 30, 1920, Ho became a founding member
of the French Communist Party....and the first Vietnamese
Communist...

HO (continued):

motivation throughout seems to be Vietnamese independence
anti colonialism

in and out of China...in and out of Russia....

returned to Vietnam in 1940...for the first time in
thirty years....

Japanese were beating the French in Vietnam....

Ho met with some of the Vietnamese local leaders....

and formed the VIETNAM INDEPENDENCE LEAGUE...

on May 19, 1941...with Ho becoming General Secretary...

people involved were communists and not communists....

HO's goal: to present a united Vietnamese

front for purposes of securing independence...

And during this period, from 1941 to 1945, Ho worked
in cooperation with the United States....

ANOTHER BIG QUESTION: If the United States and Ho Chi Minh were
allies during the 2nd World War...how did it happen that
they became enemies immediately thereafter...?

1st answer: after the war, the fear of the Soviet Union, the
dreaded fear of communism, made the United States
wary of any COMMUNIST NATION...

2nd answer (more particularly):

Franklin Roosevelt died in April 1945... and Harry Truman
became the New U.S. president...

Truman not worried about the renewed colonial aspirations
of either the British or the French, or the Dutch,
for that matter....

RATHER, Truman was worried about "the growing Soviet menace..."

The division of land among the four Allied powers (U.S.,
Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union) following
the war made the Soviet Union the strongest nation
in Europe and Asia...

All of Eastern Europe was already under its rule...
even by 1945, U.S. suspected Joseph Stalin of
having broad global designs...

THE UNITED STATES wanted to establish bulwarks in Western
Europe to keep Soviet expansionism in check...

THE MEANS: strengthen the western alliance...and this
entailed rebuilding the power of France...

a The United States agreed that it would not take colonial
~~power territory~~ territory away from former colonial
powers.....

TRUMAN, continued

Truman gave President Charles de Gaulle of France assurances that the U.S. would not interfere with France's efforts to restore its sovereignty in Indochina...

HO CHI MINH appealed to the United States...in 1947...
read pp. 36/37, in THE UNFINISHED WAR...

RELATED EVENTS: CHINESE government of Chiang Kai-Shek collapses in 1949...
and Mao Zedong takes over...
GREAT FEAR IN U.S. that Mao Zedong might continue southward....

IN EUROPE, following the WAR, countries occupied by the Soviet Union ~~and placed communists~~ placed communists in positions of authority... and adopted Soviet-conceived patterns of government

- Republic of Albania formed in 1946...
- 1948; the Social Republic of R omania
- the Republic of Czechoslovakia in 1948...
- 1949 -- German Democratic Republic
- Hungarian People's Republic
- 1952 -- Polish People's Republic
- 1950 -- Peoples Republic of China...
- and a Communist form of Government in North Korea...
- 1950 -- the beginning of the Korean War...
- 1950 -- Joseph McCarthy found "communist sympathizers in all walks of American life..."
- Korean War -- made China the most feared potential enemy of the United States...
- Communism = the #1 evil in the world...
- And the world drama becomes a contest between the evils of communism and the way of life of "the free world..."

to make a long story short --

United States didn't just take a "hands-off" attitude toward France's involvement in Indochina...

RATHER, little by little, it began assisting the French cause...first by supplying aid... in order to stop the potential advance of COMMUNISM....

1954 -- Battle of Dienbienphu...
northwest corner of Vietnam... Ho Chi Minh goes out against French troops.... and wins decisively...

DIENBIENPHU (continued)

first time in 3 centuries of COLONIALISM...

Asian troops defeated Western forces in open battle...

GENEVA CONFERENCE followed....

1. called for military cease fire...
2. partition of the country into northern and southern sections
3. restricted either side against forming new military alliances.
4. called for civil elections in 2 years...

A man named Ngo Dinh Diem..was established as rule of the South...

5. The United States took over the major responsibility from the French...

Why Diem...? Because many people in the United States knew him...

befriended by Cardinal Spellman of New York....
studied at Maryknoll seminaries in the United States between 1951 and 1953...

he knew Mike Mansfield and John F. Kennedy...
had the support of John Foster Dulles....

DIEM BOLSTERED BY U.S. ASSISTANCE.....

Casualties:

from 1961 to 1975, 3,200,000 wounded Vietnamese, Laotians,
and Cambodians.

in South Vietnam: 300,000 orphans
800,000 children who lose one or both parents
83,000 amputees
181,000 disabled....

FINANCIAL COSTS OF THE WAR:

132.7 billion Budgeted War Costs: 1965-1972

28.5 billion Military and economic aid to Saigon regime 1953-1975

~~224~~

168.1 billion -- total cost of the war -- it cost the U.S.

approximately \$168,000 to kill each enemy soldier

final cost: over \$500 billion -- when one includes veterans
benefits, interest etc.

QUESTIONS: