**1945** End of WWII

Ho Chi Minh forms Committee of Vietnam as provisional government; Japan leaves power to Vietminh

Vietnam declares independence from France

**1946** Indochina War (Vietnam v France)

**1950** Chinese & Soviets give Vietminh weapons

US gives France money

US (Pres. Truman) send troops to train French

**1951** Ho Chi Minh forms “Workers Party”

**1954** Eisenhower’s Domino Theory

Geneva Conference divides Vietnam at 17th Parallel until national elections are held

**1955** Diem (leader of South Vietnam) rejects the elections and is President of Republic of Vietnam (US supports)

**1956** France leaves Vietnam

US trains South Vietnamese troops

**1957** Communist insurgency in SV (guerrilla attacks) along Mekong Delta

First US fatality in Vietnam

**1959** Ho Chi Minh Trail: used to transport troops and supplies to South Vietnam and Laos

**1960** North Vietnamese Conscription

JFK elected

1st coup on Diem (failed)

Vietcong (National Liberation Front) formed in South Vietnam

**1962** Begin to use Agent Orange to kill foliage to expose Vietcong trails in jungle

Diem rigs election to win

US onto Diem wasting funds

**1963** Buddhists protest Diem; burning themselves in protest

Coup on Diem (organized by US); Diem assassinated

JFK assassinated

**1964** General Khanh seizes control of South Vietnam

Gulf of Tonkin: 8/2 3 VC boats fire on USS Maddox in Tonkin Gulf

8/4 2nd attack (allegedly)

Gulf of Tonkin Resolution: Pres Johnson given okay to “take all measures necessary” by Congress so okay for him to declare war on Vietnam without a Declaration of War from Congress

LBJ elected

**1965** Operation Rolling Thunder: bombing air raids over North Vietnam (3 yrs)

Marines in Danang

US up to 200k troops in Vietnam

Vietnman “Teach In” Broadcasts at over 100 college campuses

**1966** B52s bomb VC at Mugia Pass (main route for supplies from Laos)

LBJ meets with South Vietnam: US is monitoring their gov’t

Veteran anti-war rally

C.O.R.E. (Congress On Racial Equality) declares that the war is a burden on minorities (draft)

**1967** Operation Cedar Falls: US and SV discover Iron Triangle (tunnels of VC)

Dow recruiters driven from UW Madison by student protestors

Secretary of Defense McNamara declares the bombing as ineffective and that the VC is still strong

**1968** VC launch Tet Offensive: move south and capture Saigon

Battle for Hue: 26 days; US regains territory lost in Tet

My Lai Massacre: U.S. Charlie Company takes over the village of My Lai. Commanding Officer Lt Calley tells soldiers to sterilize the village. No VC were reported there; 450-500 elderly, women and children were murdered

Agree to peace talks in Paris

Nixon elected

**1969** Nixon secretly orders bombing of Cambodia (Operation Breakfast)

“Vietnamization”: Policy of reducing US presence and passing on to Southern Vietnamese

Ho Chi Minh dies

Anti-War demonstration in DC after press releases news of My Lai Massacre

**1970**  Cambodian prince is pushed out of power

UW Sterling Hall Bombing

Kent State

**1971** Lt. Calley (ordered My Lai) convicted of murder

Leaked Pentagon Papers by NYT shows deception of military/executive office about war

**1972** Nixon removes 70k troops

Secret peace talks

Heavy US bombing of Hanoi/Haiphong: Christmas Bombings

**1973**  Ceasefire in Paris between Kissinger (US diplomatic consultant, later National Security Council Advisor and Secretary of State) and Le Duc Tho (North Vietnam)

End of draft

Last US servicemen leave Vietnam

**1974**  Communists take Mekong Delta; renewal of war

Nixon impeachment hearings and resignation; Ford takes office

**1975** VC launch huge offensive: Ho Chi Minh Campaign to liberate Saigon

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot take over (genocide)

Ford declares war “finished”

South Vietnam surrenders

**1976** Pham Van Dung president of Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Hanoi is capital

Vietnam invades Cambodia

“Boat People” (Hmong) fleeing Vietnam/Laos