**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