

Vietnam Jigsaw #1

The Cold War Climate and the Domino Theory

During World War II, the U.S. and the Soviet Union (Russia and its member states) - the U.S.S.R. - were allies against Germany and Japan. They won the war together. But the two countries had very different ideas on governing. The U.S. believed in the right of people to elect their leaders and live freely; the U.S.S.R. believed in limited freedom and a strong, dominant central government. Free people will never knowingly choose to place themselves under a communist government, so the U.S.S.R. was trying to force itself on other countries with military force. It had done so in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and other countries. The U.S.S.R. had a formidable army, whose weapons included atomic and nuclear bombs and the means to deliver them. So the U.S. and other free countries feared that communism would spread. This was the essence of the **domino theory**.

"You have a row of dominoes set up; you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is that it will go over very quickly." President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954.

Memories of Hitler's attempt to dominate the world were still fresh. It could happen again. Both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson believed that the domino theory was applicable in Indo-China. There was real concern in the United States, and outright fear in much of the rest of the free world, that communism might overtake us.

In 1950, the United States announced that it would provide military and economic support to countries that were being invaded by communist forces.

Vietnam is a relatively small country located south of China in Southeast Asia. Vietnam had been engaged in an internal struggle for many years. Before World War II, France had claimed Vietnam as a colony. After the war, the Vietnam's leader, Ho Chi Minh, declared Vietnam as an independent, communist country. The French tried to protect their interest, if only to keep Vietnam out of communist control. But the French abandoned Vietnam in 1954, having determined that it was not worth the cost. Vietnam was divided into two parts: North Vietnam was under Ho Chi Minh's control, while the south remained free.

Connections: What do I already know about this?

Questioning: What questions do I have? What am I wondering about? Am I confused?

Visualizing: What images or pictures do I create in my mind?

Inferring: What is the author telling between the lines?

Reading Comprehension: Do I understand what I am reading?

Appendix #34a

Vietnam is a relatively small country located south of China in Southeast Asia. Vietnam had been engaged in an internal struggle for many years. Before World War II, France had claimed Vietnam as a colony. After the war, the Vietnam's leader, Ho Chi Minh, declared Vietnam as an independent, communist country. The French tried to protect their interest, if only to keep Vietnam out of communist control. But the French abandoned Vietnam in 1954, having determined that it was not worth the cost. Vietnam was divided into two parts: North Vietnam was under Ho Chi Minh's control, while the south remained free.

Synthesizing: How has my thinking changed? Do I have some new ideas?

Then there were the **boomers**.... 76 million spoiled, adolescent brats, used to getting our way... rapidly approaching draft age. The cold war, Vietnam, and the boomer generation were like three trains heading directly toward each other. The explosion took place in the late 60s.



Determining Importance: What is the selection mostly about? What are the major ideas?

Name _____ Hour _____

Jigsaw #1 ,

According to the article, the United States and the U.S.S.R. had different ideas in governing.
What two things did the United States believe in?

1. _____

2. _____

What two things did the U.S.S.R. believe in?

1. _____

2. _____

Why did the United States and other free countries fear that communism would spread?

Who was the first president to incorporate the idea of the domino theory? _____

Explain the "domino theory" _____

Where did Presidents Kennedy and Johnson believe the domino theory was applicable (would happen)?

Before World War II, which country claimed Vietnam as a colony? _____

How was Vietnam divided after WWII _____

Define what was meant by the term "boomers" _____