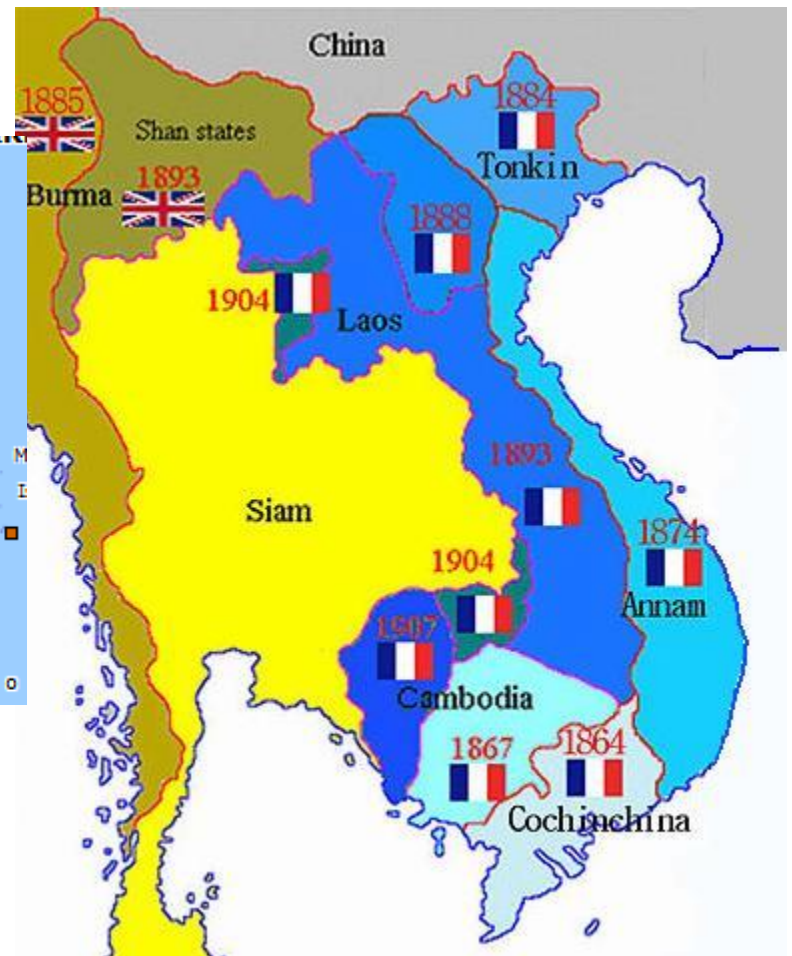




Indochina's Struggle for Independence



Vietnamese Struggle for Independence

- 1930s
 - Ho Chi Minh leads revolts against French
- 1940s
 - Occupied by Japanese during WWII
 - WWII U.S. supports Ho Chi Minh to resist Japanese
 - 1945 Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam independent



“Anti-French Resistance War” or “First Indochina War”

- French hold cities and southern half
- 1950 A. Peter Dewey [CIA] warns U.S. not to get involved
- 1950 Harry S. Truman sends French \$15 million to support war [first U.S. involvement]



U.S. Involvement continues

- Eisenhower continues support with total of \$1 billion
- Eisenhower's Domino Theory: "You have a row of dominoes set up. You knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one..."
- Battle of Dien Bien Phu decisive: Vietminh [North Vietnamese forces] under Ho Chi Minh overrun in Northwest Vietnam



Vietnam 1954: Geneva Accords



- Vietnam divided along 17th parallel
- North: communists
 - Ho Chi Minh and
- South: Capitalists
 - Ngo Dinh Diem selected as “temporary” president [election to be held in 1956]

U.S. Support continues in South

- Eisenhower and Kennedy send financial aid
- U.S. and Ngo Dinh Diem afraid South Vietnamese will elect Ho Chi Minh in 1956 elections
- Diem cancels election
 - Corrupt government
 - Fails to return land to peasants
 - Suppresses opposition
 - Restricts Buddhist practices

**South Vietnamese guerillas
[Vietcong] emerge to fight
Diem**



Support for Vietcong comes via Ho Chi Minh Trail

Red line
Indicates
Ho Chi Minh
Trail through
Laos &
Cambodia



President Kennedy



- Continues support of Diem
 - Financial support continued
 - 16,000 military advisors
 - Diem angers South Vietnamese
 - Moves all villagers off their land to “protected areas”
 - Imprisons and kills hundreds of Buddhist monks
 - Destroys Buddhist Temples
 - November 1, 1963: U.S. support coup of Diem
 - Diem assassinated against Kennedy’s wishes
- Kennedy announces plans to withdraw**
Kennedy assassinated November 22, 1963

President Johnson

- Johnson takes office-- fears appearing “soft on communism”
- U.S. Patrol boats sent to Gulf Of Tonkin



Gulf of Tonkin incident



- August 2, 1964: North Vietnamese patrol boat fires on the U.S. destroyer USS Maddox [misses]
- USS Maddox damages North Vietnamese patrol boat
- August 4, 1964: USS Maddox and another destroyer in Gulf of Tonkin
- Destroyers fire on North Vietnam [claims the destroyers had been fired upon were later denied by the crew of the USS Maddox]
- Johnson had launched secret raids on North Vietnam prior to event

[What really happened?](#)

Tonkin Gulf Resolution

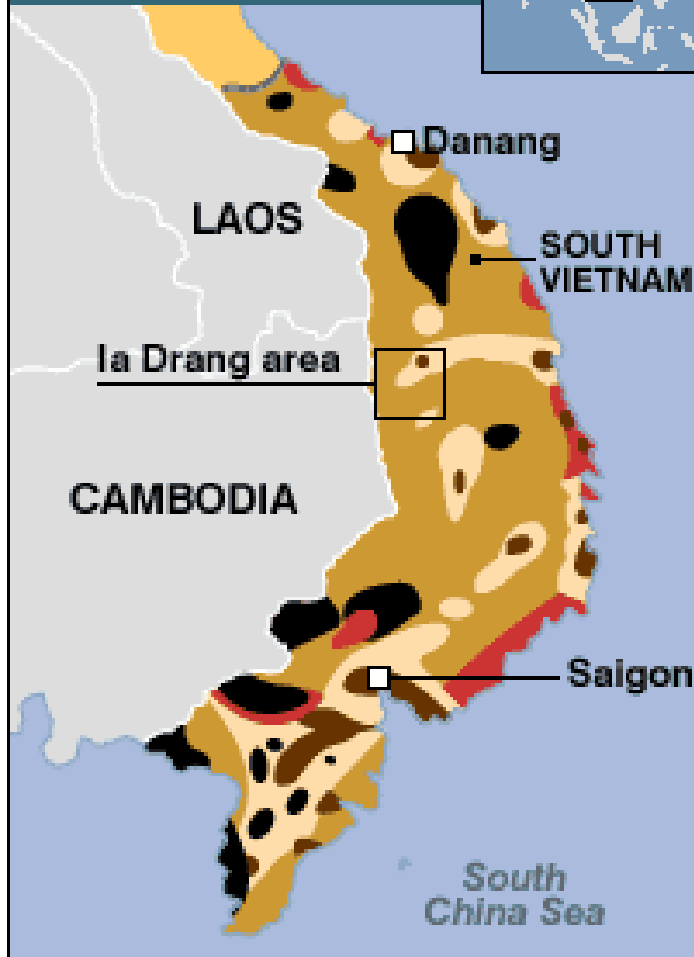
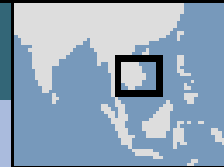


- Adopted by Congress August 7
- Granted broad powers to Johnson
- February, 1965: Operation Rolling Thunder
 - bombing raids on North Vietnam

In March U.S. combat troops begin to arrive

By June, 50,000 U.S. troops are battling Vietcong

SOUTH VIETNAM IN EARLY 1966



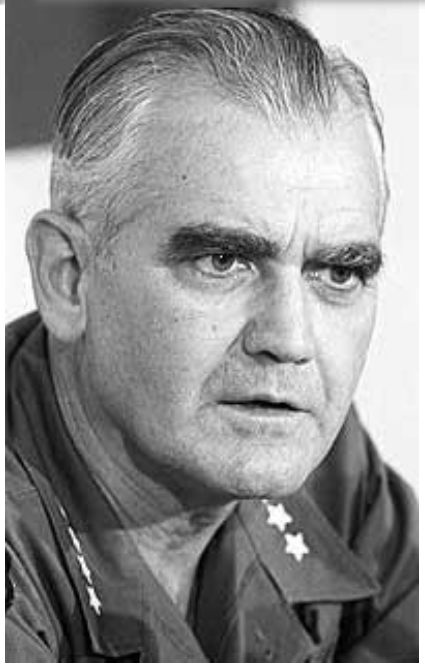
- Vietcong control
- Vietcong influence
- S. Vietnam gov. control
- S. Vietnam gov. influence
- Heavily contested

SOURCE: Times History of the 20th Century

Robert McNamara



William Westmoreland



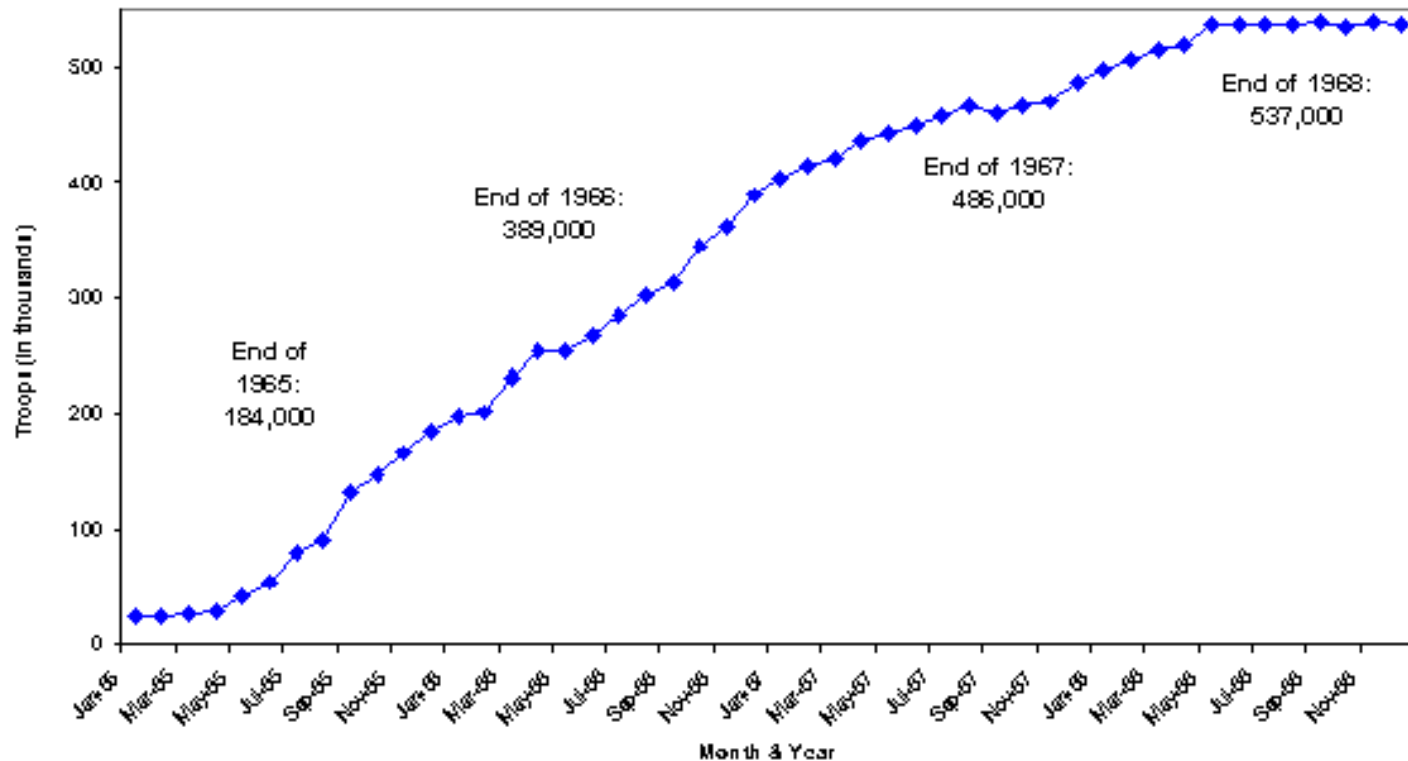
Dean Rusk and Lyndon Johnson

What McNamara says in 2000s



Johnson Increases troop strength

The War in Vietnam: Lyndon Johnson & The Escalatory Phase
U.S. Troops Stationed in Vietnam (in 1000s)
June 1965-December 1968



Napalm, Agent Orange



Roots of Opposition

- **Selective Service [draft]:** Men 18 to 26
 - Avoided through: medical deferments, college deferment, National Guard, Coast Guard
 - African Americans, Latinos, and poor whites drafted disproportionately

- **New Left**
 - Growing youth movement of 1960s
 - Didn't advocate socialism [as old left had



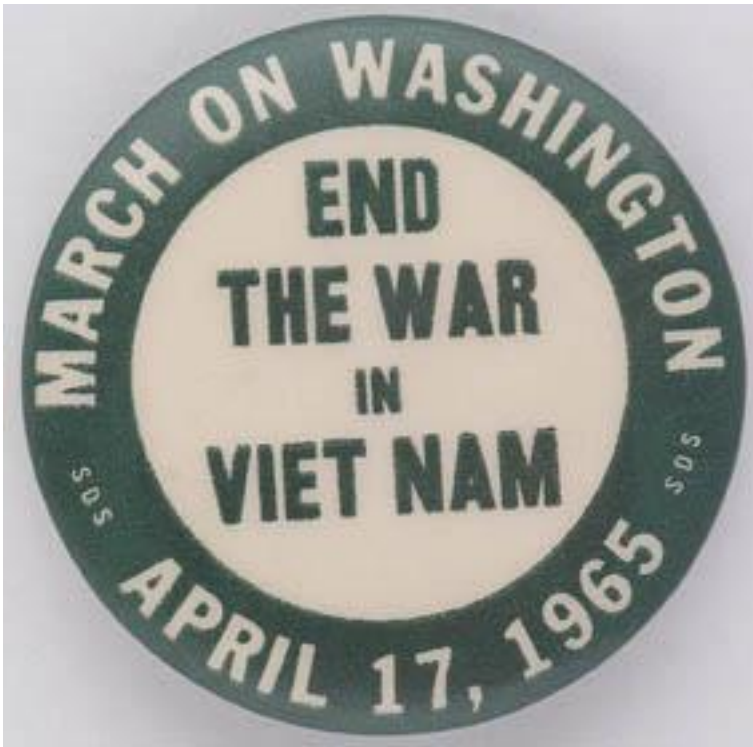
Students for a Democratic society [1960]



Free Speech Movement [1964]



In 1965 50,000 march on
the nation's capital

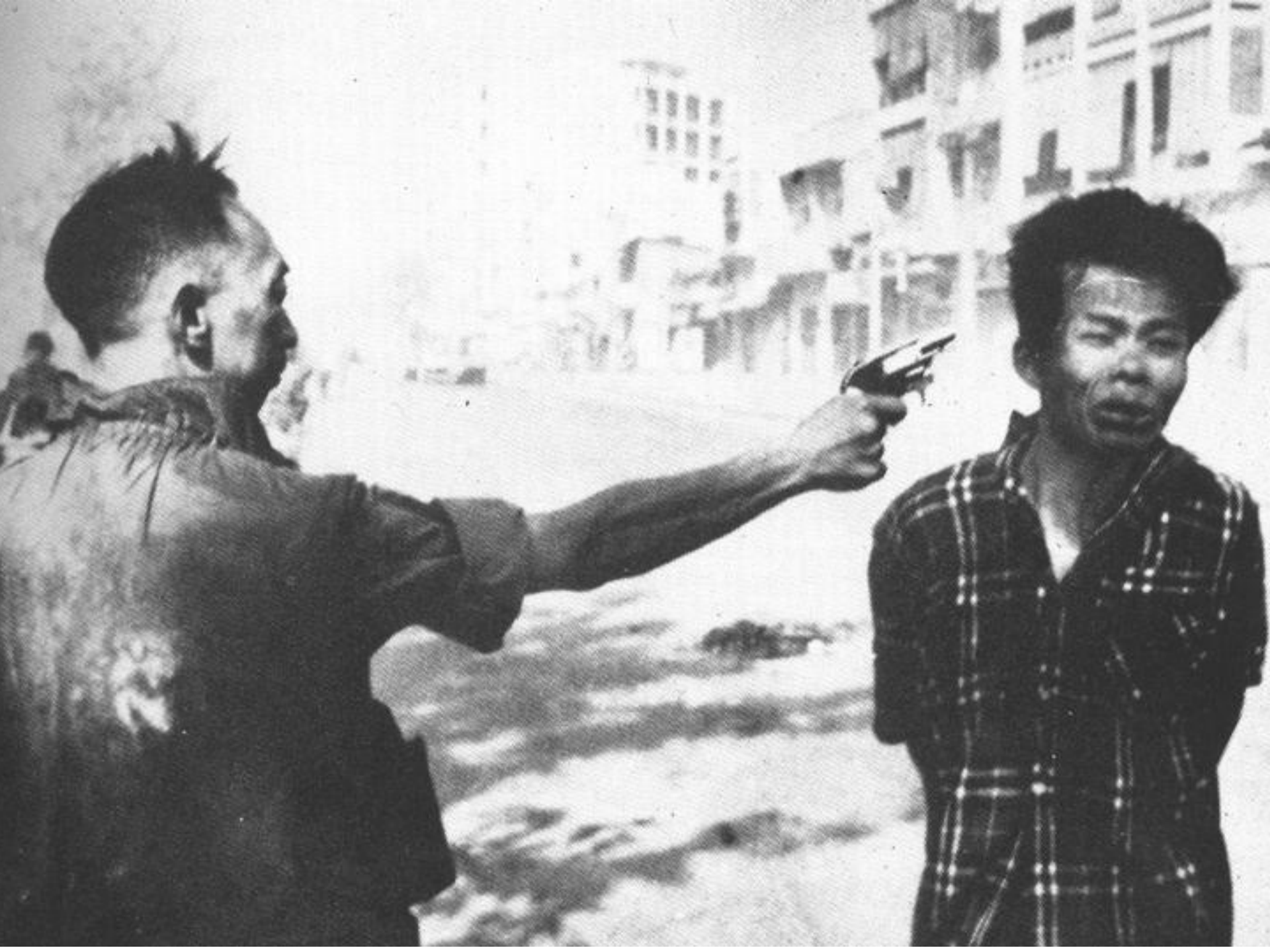


TET OFFENSIVE, 1968

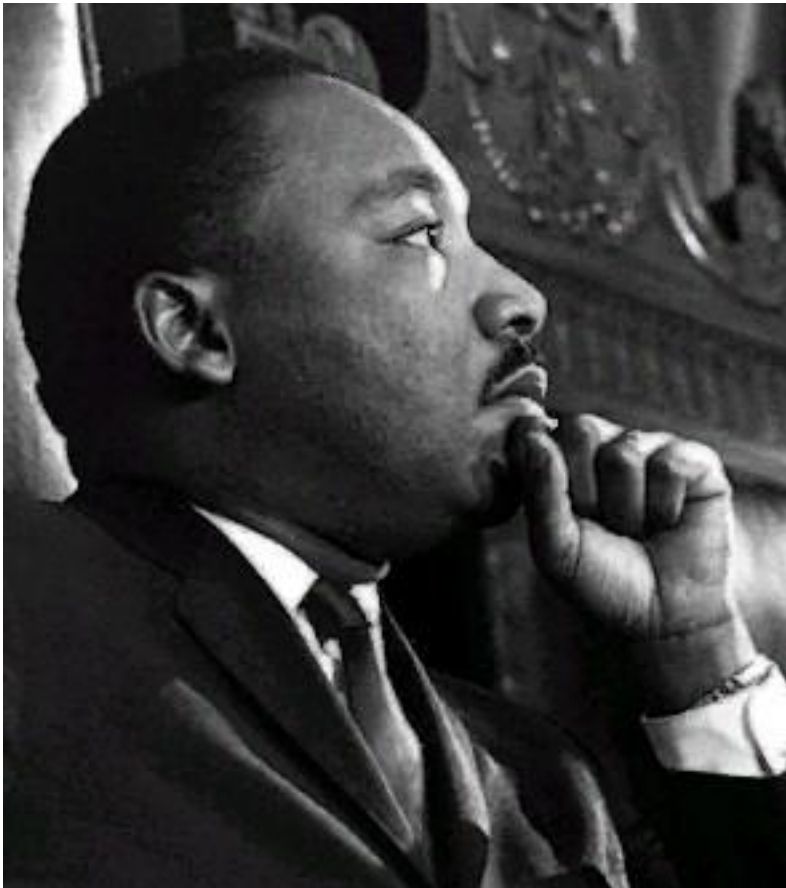


● Major NVA/Vietcong attacks

SOURCE: Times History of the 20th Century



Dove Leaders Assassinated: Spring and Summer 1968



Hawk leaders- Johnson and McNamara



1968 Primary elections

- Democrats
 - Eugene McCarthy v. Hubert Humphrey
[dove] [hawk]
- Republicans
 - Richard Nixon
[hawk]

**Humphrey won nomination before
convention**

1968 Democratic Convention



1968 Presidential Campaign

Hubert Humphrey: “We cannot withdraw”
(Democrat)

Richard Nixon: Peace with Honor
(Republican) “Vietnamization”

ELECTION RESULTS



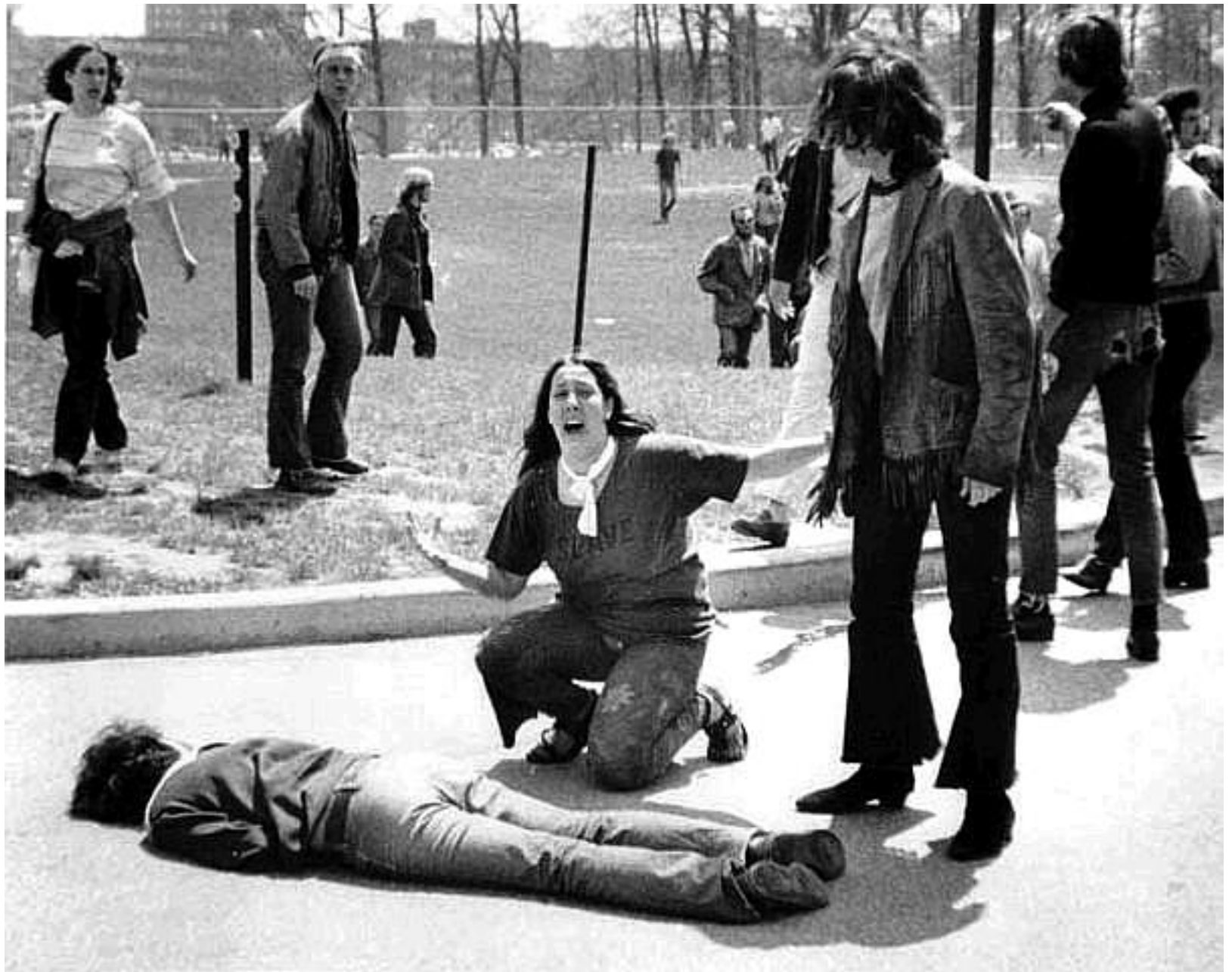
A Change in Defense

- McNamara steps down: In a later memoir he would admit that he and Johnson knew the war was unwinnable in 1965
- Clark Clifford is the new Secretary of Defense: presides over escalation of bombing in Cambodia under Nixon
- Henry Kissinger is new Secretary of State [chief negotiator for Paris Peace Talks]

The bombing of Cambodia sets off riots across the country on College Campuses Kent State: 1970

“Four Dead in Ohio” Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young





The Counter Culture

- Mostly middle-class college students
- Proposed basing society on different values
- Outgrowth of Civil Rights and anti-war movements

[Making Sense of the Sixties: PBS](#)

Pentagon Papers: published by New York Times in 1971

- Daniel Ellsberg [analyst at Rand Corp.] released to NYTimes
- Revealed myth of “body count”
- Revealed bombings in Cambodia and Laos
- Revealed government plans to enter the war in 1964 [despite Johnson’s campaign claims
- Revealed no plan for withdrawal

1972 Presidential Campaign

Democrats: McGovern v. Wallace

- Wallace
 - former governor of Alabama and Segregationist
 - Shot and disabled during campaign
- McGovern
 - Senator from Minnesota
 - Dove



1972 Presidential Election

Nixon: 520 electoral votes

McGovern: 17 electoral votes



War Powers Act: 1973

- President must inform congress within 48 hours of sending forces
- Troops may remain not longer than 90 days

“Paris Peace Talks” end with 1975 withdrawal



President Nixon and President Thieu

Over 300,000 Casualties



58,000 Killed in Action





Vietnam Memorial, Washington D.C.





Map 2:

US Military and CIA Interventions since World War II

■ targeted countries
  US bombings
  US government assassination plots

Source: William Blum, *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Intervention Since World War II*, 2004 and *Rogue State*, 2005. (<http://www.killinghope.org/>)

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