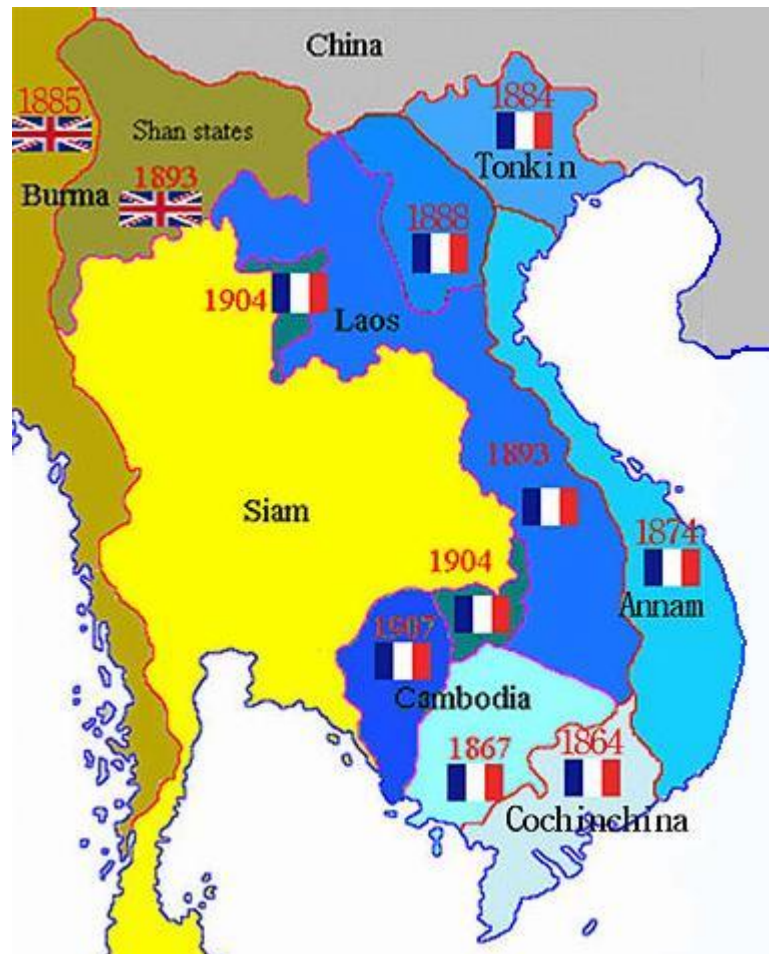


France colonizes Indochina



Vietnamese Struggle for Independence

- During the 1930s, Ho Chi Minh leads revolts against French
- During WWII U.S. supports Ho Chi Minh to resist Japanese
- Occupied by Japanese during WWII
- 1945 Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam independent
- French launch fight to regain control
- French take 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

Vietnamese Struggle for Independence

- 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: Ho Chi Minh and communists
- South: Ngo Dinh Diem selected as “temporary” president
- Capitalists-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

Vietcong Support 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 take office-- fears appearing “soft on communism”
- U.S. Patrol boats sent to Gulf Of Tonkin
- 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]
- Later it was found that Johnson had launched secret raids on North Vietnam prior to event



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



U.S. Troops on search and destroy mission

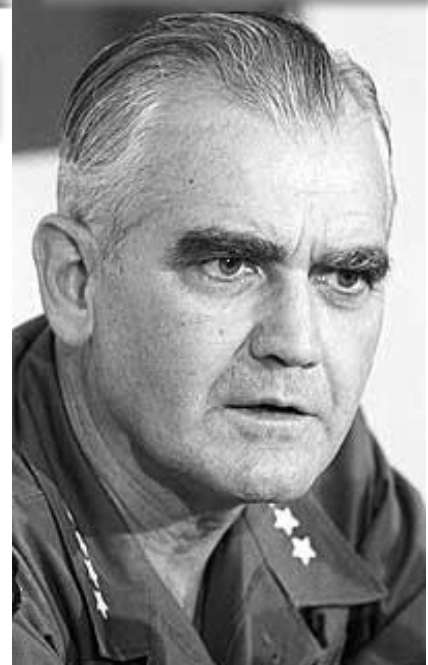


Robert McNamara



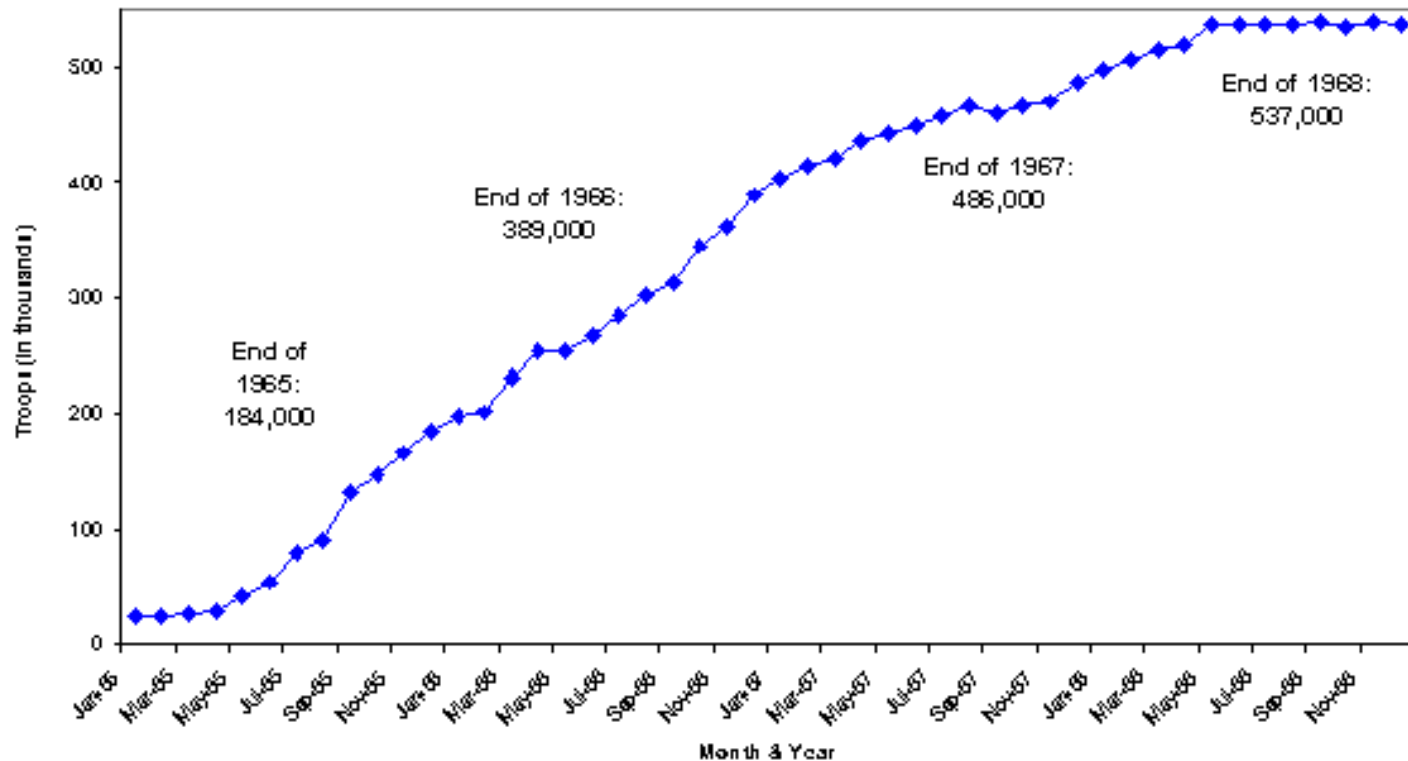
William Westmoreland

Dean Rusk and Lyndon Johnson



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



Soldier Hunt for illusive enemy



Tunnel Rats



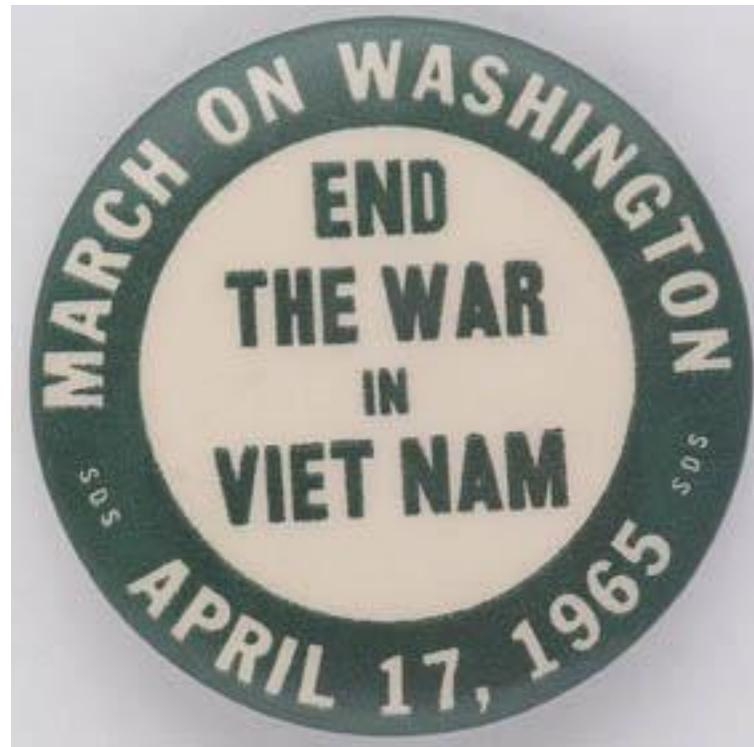
Napalm, Agent Orange



Roots of Opposition



20,000 then 30,000 march on
the nation's capital



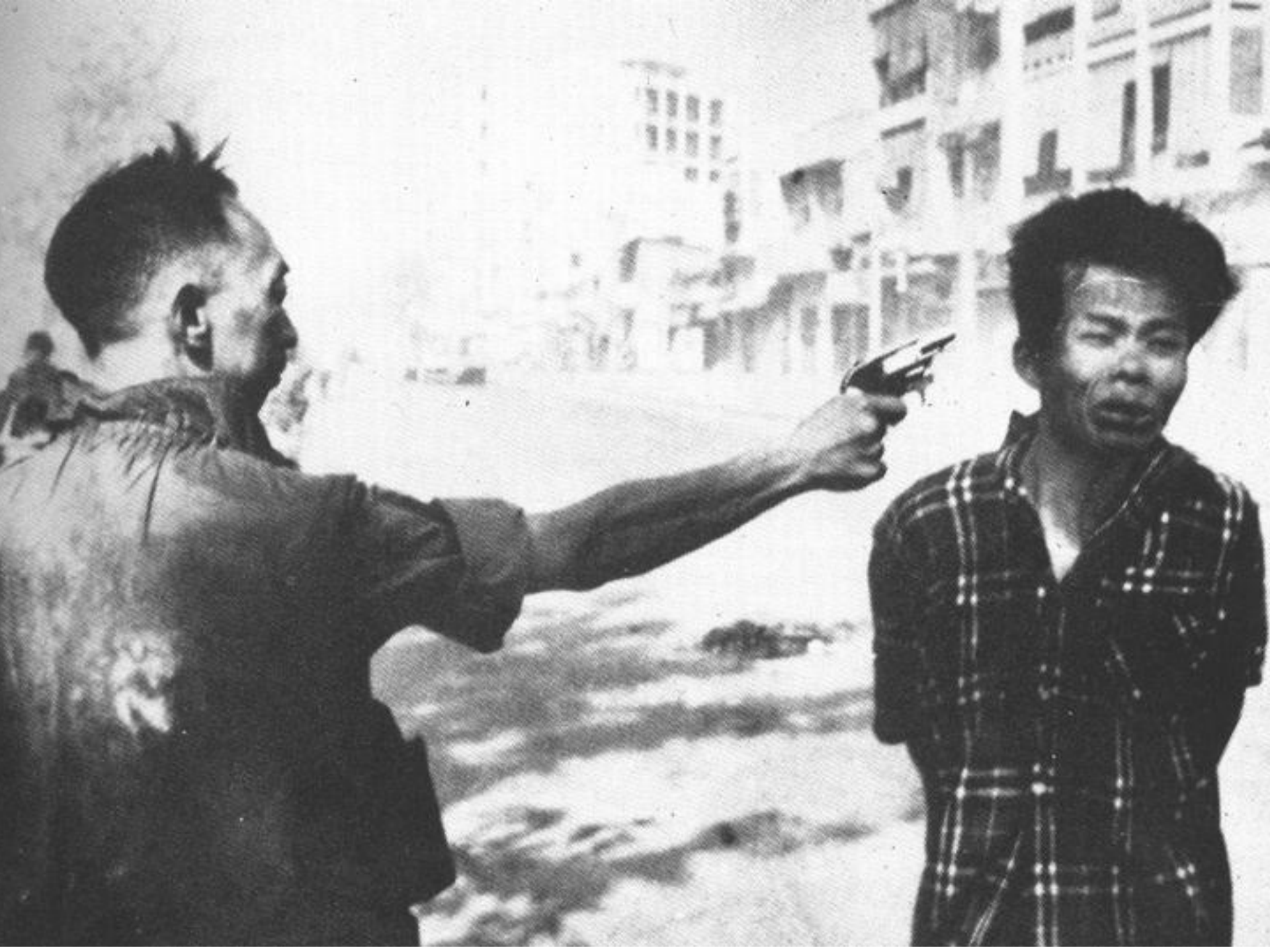


TET OFFENSIVE, 1968

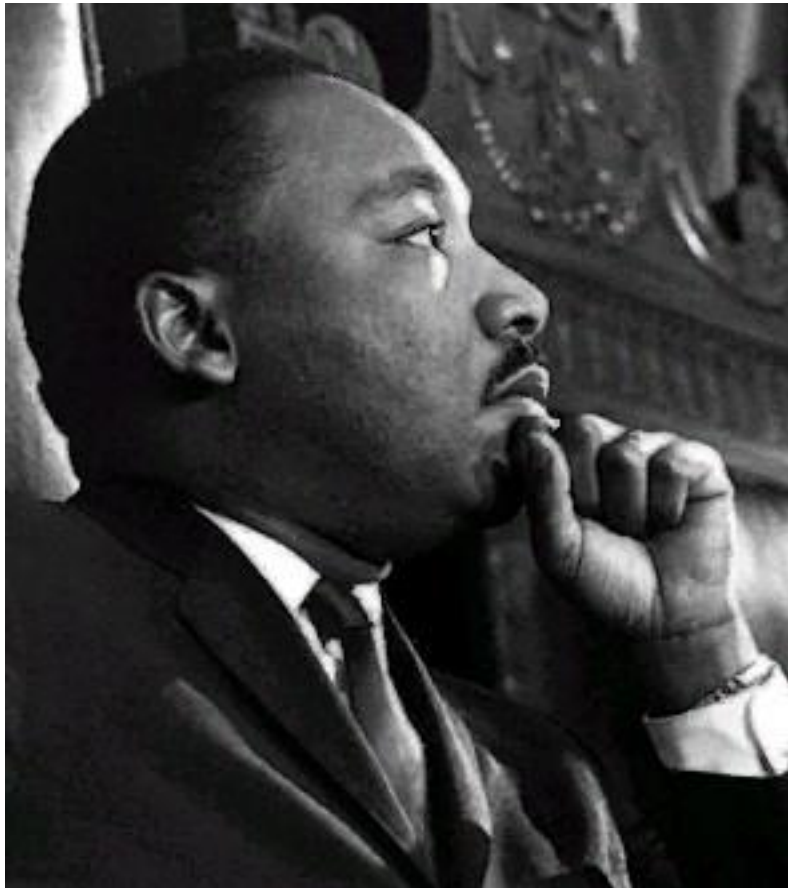


● Major NVA/Vietcong attacks

SOURCE: Times History of the 20th Century



Dove Leaders Assassinated: Spring and Summer 1968





1968 Presidential Campaign

Hubert Humphrey: “We cannot withdraw”
(Democrat)

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

Students for a Democratic society



Weathermen

**THE WEATHER
UNDER-
GROUND**

**“You don't need a weatherman To know which way the wind blows” - Bob Dylan.
Nel 1970, dopo le mobilitazioni contro la guerra del Vietnam, i riot urbani e le
lotte per l'autodeterminazione della comunità nera, un gruppo di giovani
studenti bianchi della SDS sceglie la clandestinità e dichiara guerra agli Stati
Uniti. Il film “The Weather Underground” ne ricostruisce oggi la storia.**

**Sabato 8 maggio, h. 21.30, C.S.O.A. Cox18 - Proiezione del film e incontro
col regista Sam Green. Presentazione della nuova edizione del libro dei
Weathermen - “Prateria in fiamme”**

Via Conchetta 18 - 20136 Milano - Tel. 0258105688 - Tram 3/15 bus 90/91 59 MM2 Romolo

1968 Democratic Convention



The Counter Culture

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

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





“Paris Peace Talks” end with 1975 withdrawal



President Nixon and President Thieu

Pentagon Papers

- Revealed myth of “body count”
- Revealed government plans to enter the war in 1964
- Revealed no plan for withdrawal

War Powers Act: 1973

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

Over 300,000 Casualties



58,000 Killed in Action



Vietnam Memorial, Washington D.C.

American Casualties of Major American Wars

