

BSBMUN VII

1969 Historical Security Council

Study Guide

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Letter from the Chairs:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Seventh Edition of BSB MUN! We are honored to serve as your Chairs for the Historical Security Council and hope that, whether you are new to MUN conferences and hoping to learn more about the procedure or you have already attended conferences and are looking to expand your skills further, this committee will provide you with the experience you are looking for in MUN. We also acknowledge that, since this will be a Historical Security Council, the topic will require rigorous research and planning on your part. As such, we have created this study guide to assist you on your research, as well as clarify the structure of this particular committee.

While this Security Council will deal with a subject that has already concluded, the Vietnam War, we ask that you try to be flexible about the outcome of this committee. A Security Council never actually occurred covering this topic, and most of the Cold War for that matter; thus, we do not expect you to follow how the Vietnam War was actually resolved. Instead, be as creative with your motions and points as you can be. After all, MUN should be fun and should give you the opportunity to express your debating skills. Also, as this is a Security Council, the five permanent members- USSR, USA, The French Republic, The People's Republic of China, and The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland- will all have veto capability; we ask that, if assigned one of these delegations, you use this power lightly, so as to encourage debate and resolution formation without restrictions.

Finally, we ask that you debate as much as possible. A committee is wholly reliant on the delegates and, while the chairs help lead, it would not be possible without delegate participation. Even if you are newer to MUN, we highly encourage you to speak as it is the best way to learn and grow as a delegate. As Chairs, we understand the unfortunate drawbacks of hosting the committee online; we will try to make it as engaging as possible but, again, we need your help in participating.

With that being said, we cannot wait to see you at the conference and hope you will be able to contribute to making it a committee with diverse opinions and high engagement.

See you at the conference,

Austin Monestel

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Background Information:

The Rise of Ho Chi Minh:

During WWII Vietnam had been under dual occupation by France and Japan. Many independence movements were formed but, in particular, the Viet Minh became an incredibly popular movement. A politician named Ho Chi Minh, who had been heavily influenced by the uprisings in Russia and China, formed the Viet Minh, which strongly supported the independence of Vietnam as well as the formation of a communist state. After their defeat in World War II, Japan was forced to retreat their troops from Vietnam and left behind French-educated Emperor Bao Dai to rule the country. Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh saw their opportunity and rose up. After obtaining the city of Hanoi, Minh declared the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV.) A few days later, Bao Dai abdicated and recognized the newly sovereign state. France, however, was determined to reestablish their colonial presence in Vietnam and, with the help of British troops, took the city of Cochinchina.

The First Indochina War:

With the seizing of Cochinchina by the French, two Vietnamese states were formed, the communist DRV to the north and the noncommunist south Vietnam. In 1946, negotiations between France and the DRV seemed to promise peace, as well

as recognition of the DRV as a nation under the French Union. Minh, however, sought to consolidate more power to the Viet Minh Party and France quickly decided that a colonial rule was needed. In June 1946, Georges-Thierry d'Argenlieu, the high commissioner for Indochina, declared Cochochina an autonomous republic. This led to the First Indochina War and it didn't end until the fall of the French garrison Dien Bien Phu, when France agreed to a peace treaty. The result was the division of Vietnam at latitude 17° (called the 17th parallel) and the transfer of all DRV troops to the north of that zone and the French, now an independent government under Emperor Bao Dai, to the south. After an uprising against Emperor Bao Dai in the south state of Vietnam, the Republic of Vietnam, led by Ngo Dinh Diem, replaced the old colonial government.

The Vietnam War until 1969:

With the USSR and communism's increasingly dominating influence in Europe and Asia, the USA began denouncing many USSR allies, including the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. As such, President Dwight D. Eisenhower publicly pledged support for President Diem and the Republic of Vietnam. With the help of US resources, the Republic of Vietnam began campaigns to crack down on the Viet Minh sympathizers that still existed in south Vietnam, called the Viet Cong. In turn, the Viet Cong began attacking several government regions in south Vietnam. In 1959, open firefights started to occur between the Viet Cong and Republic of Vietnam troops.

In 1961, fearing the spread of communism in Vietnam, US President John F. Kennedy sent a team to report on the state of the Republic of Vietnam. After advising the build-up of US military forces in south Vietnam, Kennedy began sending US aid to Diem to defend against the Viet Cong. By 1962, US military influence in South Vietnam had reached 9,000 troops and only continued to grow.

After a coup that resulted in the death of Diem and the Gulf of Tonkin incident, US military presence heightened and US President Lyndon B. Johnson was authorized to begin Operation Rolling Thunder in 1965. This allowed for regular bomb raids by the US on the Republic of Vietnam in order to prevent resources from being passed through the Ho Chi Minh trail from the DRV to the Viet Cong.

By June 1965, 82,000 US combat troops resided in South Vietnam and more were being demanded by US military leaders in Vietnam. Other nations, like South Korea and Australia, began sending troops and resources to Vietnam as well. In 1966, large regions of Vietnam were heavily bombed by B-52 bombers until the land was uninhabitable. By 1967, the number of American troops in Vietnam had risen to nearly 500,000 and the mortalities had reached 15,000. This led to a low-morale amongst soldiers, who were unsure of their reason for being in Vietnam. Many started protesting the war and the sentiment spread amongst civilians, leading to a large demonstration in front of the Pentagon building in the US.

The communist DRV grew impatient and unhappy with the situation and launched the Tet Offensive, which saw the mobilization of 70,000 DRV soldiers into various cities throughout South Vietnam. While the US and RV forces were able to defend their cities, the repercussions of the offensive further hurt Lyndon B. Johnson's approval rating; in 1968 Richard M. Nixon was voted president of the US.

In 1968, US soldiers slaughtered more than 400 unarmed civilians in what was known as the My Lai Massacre, further increasing anti-war protests in the US. In November, 1969 the largest US anti-war demonstration took place in Washington, D.C.

Position of Major Blocs:

United States of America:

The United States of America was one of the major players in this conflict as South Vietnam's most powerful ally. The war took place at the height of Cold War tensions between the US and USSR, and was, arguably, the most important proxy war fought by the two nations. Despite being, primarily, a civil conflict between North and South Vietnam. The ideological conflict between the two global superpowers fueled the violence, as the two nations wanted to further their national

interests and consolidate a government that they were on par with. The US was heavily involved and by 1968 there were 548,000 American troops in Vietnam, 30,000 of which had already died in conflict. The first president to send military aid was Dwight D. Eisenhower, but Lyndon B. Johnson intensified the country's presence. The conflict sparked several anti-war protests around the country, one of which led to the infamous Chicago 8 Trial. Johnson's approval rating during the ongoing conflict dropped over 30%.

The United Soviet Socialist Republic:

The USSR was also involved in the conflict as an ally to North Vietnam and its communist leader. As the original communist nation, the late Soviet Union saw the war as a way to further impact American foreign affairs. Furthermore, it would also be unegotinably advantageous to establish another communist regime in Asia within the fragile international scenario of the Cold War. Although, the nation only got more heavily involved after the fall of then leader, Nikita Kruschev, in the late 1960's. Despite being as much help as China, the Soviet Union aided majoritarilly in weaponry and sent approximately 3,000 troops to fight along the Ho Chi Minh's army.

The People's Republic of China:

The People's Republic of China was heavily involved in the conflict up until negotiation issues in 1968. Providing support not only for the Vietnam War, but also ensuring the DRV's creation during the First Indochina War. With communist leader Mao Zedong being leader during this period, he saw the United States, and other western countries, as significant threats to the stability of the region. However, throughout the 60's tensions between the USSR and the PRC have escalated, despite ideological similarities. Between June 1965 and March 1968, 320,000 Chinese troops were posted to North Vietnam, as well as various amounts of Chinese aircrafts and resources.

The Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam):

The Republic of Vietnam has seen, by far, the most chaos within their sovereignty. With North Vietnam sympathizers, like the Viet Cong, committing acts of terrorism within their borders and North Vietnam military pushing into

South Vietnam, the non-communist government of the RV was heavily supported by the US and South Korea. Following the US-backed coup d'etat that saw the death of President Ngo Dinh Diem, the stability of the Republic of Vietnam is at a larger threat than ever. No stable government had been established since the coup and the Republic of Vietnam's recognition by the UN was vetoed by the USSR.

The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam):

North Vietnam was one of the principal belligerent powers involved in the war. After declaring independence from France, it has had to defend itself from western attempts of invasion and annexation of the sovereign state. With South Vietnam being backed by the US, and the US directly bombing North Vietnamese territory, it's stable communist government is at threat. However, North Vietnam has seen immense support from fellow communist governments such as the USSR and the PRC.

Timeline of Important Events:

1945	End of World War II and the withdrawal of Japan from Vietnam.
September 2nd, 1945	August Revolution ends, DRV declares independence and Ho Chi Minh is declared President.
June 1st, 1946	The Republic of Cochinchina is declared an autonomous republic by France, start of the First Indochina War.
March 13th-May 7th, 1954	The Battle and fall of Bien Dien Phu occurs,

marking the end of the First Indochina War.

April 26th-July 20th, 1954

The 1954 Geneva Conference results in the division of Vietnam along the 17th parallel (17° latitude.)

1961

Military advisors determine that a US military presence is needed to neutralize the Viet Cong threat in South Vietnam. US military build-up in Vietnam.

November 22nd, 1963

President John F. Kennedy is assassinated.

August 7th, 1964

Gulf of Tonkin Resolution is passed, full-scale involvement of the US in the Vietnam War.

March 2nd, 1965-
November 2nd, 1968

Operation Rolling Thunder implemented, regular bombings of North Vietnam enacted.

January 30th, 1968

North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops launch the Tet Offensive.

March 16th, 1968

Charlie Company commit the My Lai Massacre, the anti-war movement in the US grows.

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