The Vietnam War

I. America’s Commitment to the Conflict in Vietnam (1950-1964)
A. During the Cold War, the U.S. was committed to _____________ communism
   1. The U.S. was effective in limiting ______________ influence in Europe
   2. But, the spread of communism in __________ led the U.S. to become involved in a ______________ in Vietnam
   3. Involvement in Vietnam from 1950 to 1973 proved to be America’s __________ & most __________________ war
B. Vietnamese Independence from France
   1. Since 1887, ______________ controlled the colony of Vietnam in SE Asia
   2. By 1945, Communist leader __________________________________________ led a war of independence for Vietnam
   3. Truman & Eisenhower feared the spread of communism in Asia (“____________________________”) & sent aid to France
   4. Vietnam won independence in 1954 but was divided along the 17th parallel
      a. Ngo Dinh Diem became __________________________________________ of South Vietnam
      b. Ho Chi Minh gained control of _____________________________________________________
         i. Ho Chi Minh’s communist supporters in the North were called the __________________________
         ii. In South Vietnam, a group of communists called the _________________________ were formed to unify Vietnam
C. Containing Communism in Vietnam
   1. South Vietnamese President Diem led a ______________ government, offered little assistance to the _______________, & oppressed Buddhists; Presidents Eisenhower & Kennedy __________________ Diem despite his growing unpopularity
   2. In 1963, _______________________________ Quang Duc immolated himself to protest Diem’s regime
   3. In 1963 President Kennedy recognized that Diem had ______________________ of Vietnam & gave approval for the __________________________ of Diem; Diem’s assassination led to __________________ in South Vietnam
   4. After JFK’s death in 1963, the responsibility for Vietnam fell to ______________
D. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964
   1. In 1964, a North Vietnamese gunboat attacked the ______________________________ in the Gulf of Tonkin
   2. Congress responded with the __________________________________________________________ Resolution which gave Lyndon Johnson broad powers to “defend Vietnam _______________________________

II. Fighting the Vietnam War under President Lyndon Johnson (1965-1969)
A. The Escalation of the Vietnam War
   1. In an effort to contain the spread of communism into South Vietnam, LBJ began sending U.S. ______________ in 1965; By 1968, over ________________________ U.S. soldiers were fighting in Vietnam
   2. In “Operation Rolling Thunder,” the U.S. military began ___________________ North Vietnam
B. Fighting the War in Vietnam
   1. The goal of U.S. military was to defeat the ______________ & support __________________ in South Vietnam:
      a. But, the Vietcong lived among the ____________________________ in Vietnamese in cities & villages (who is the enemy?)
      b. The Vietcong used __________________________ to combat U.S. military superiority
      c. __________________ made fighting difficult
   2. The U.S. military used a variety of tactics to fight the war in Vietnam
      a. The ____________________ bombed villages & ______________________________ (Ho Chi Minh Trail)
      b. The military used ______________ to destroy villages & pesticides ___________________________ to destroy crops
      c. Soldiers were sent on deadly “____________________________” missions into the jungles to find the Vietcong
   3. Despite overwhelming military superiority, the U.S. could not win in Vietnam & the war became ______________ at home
      a. Television made Vietnam a “____________________________”
      b. __________ broadcasts reported _______________, atrocities, declining troop morale, & lack of gains in the war
      c. The American public believed their was a “____________________________” between what the gov’t was saying & the __________________ of the Vietnam War
C. The Tet Offensive, 1968
1. In 1968, the Vietcong launched the ___________________ against U.S. forces in South Vietnam
2. The attack was contrary to media reports that the U.S. was ___________________ the Vietnam War
3. The Tet Offensive was a ___________________ in the Vietnam War
   a. President Johnson began to question whether the war ___________________ …& LBJ announced that he would not seek ___________________.
   b. American attitudes towards the war changed & ___________________ grew

D. Protesting the Vietnam War
1. As more men were ___________________ into the war, the larger the anti-Vietnam ___________________ became
2. ___________________ protested the killing of civilians & the draft, especially the large numbers of African Americans, ___________________, & high-school ___________________.

III. Fighting the Vietnam War under President Richard Nixon (1969-1973)
A. Richard Nixon & the Election of 1968
1. LBJ’s decision not to run for re-election & the assassination of ___________________ left the Democrats ___________________ for the election of 1968
2. Republican ___________________ took advantage of the divided Democrats & won the 1968 election

B. Nixon wanted “_________________ with _______________” in Vietnam
1. Nixon & National Security Advisor ___________________ developed a plan called ___________________: gradually withdraw ___________________ & replace them with South Vietnamese soldiers
2. But, Nixon really wanted a “knockout blow” in Vietnam & ___________________ sent U.S. troops ___________________ & ordered bombings of ___________________.
3. When Americans found out about Nixon’s attacks on Cambodia & Laos, it set off the largest ___________________ in U.S. history
   a. 250,000 people, mostly students on college campuses, protested the war & some protests turned ___________________.
   b. 4 student’s ___________________ when the National Guard shot into a crowd of violent protestors at ___________________.

C. Ending the Vietnam War
1. In 1973, the U.S. & North Vietnam agreed to a ___________________ & the U.S. _______________ troops from Vietnam
2. In 1975, North Vietnam ___________________ the cease fire, invaded South Vietnam, & ___________________ the nation under a communist government

IV. Conclusions: The Impact of the Vietnam War
A. The conflict in Vietnam was the longest & most divisive war in U.S. history
B. Of the ___________________ U.S. soldiers who served:
   1. ___________________ were killed & 303,000 were wounded
   2. 15% were diagnosed with ___________________ disorder after the war
   3. Many vets faced ___________________ from other U.S. citizens when they returned home
C. The war changed foreign policy
   1. ___________________ ended as Americans became cautious of the U.S. _______________ in the world
   2. Congress ___________________ a president's ability to ___________________ without a declaration of war by passing the _______________ in 1973
D. The war changed America at home
   1. People began to lose ___________________ in the ___________________ of gov’t leaders during the Johnson & Nixon years
   2. The $176 billion cost of the war led to high ___________________ in the 1970 & ___________________ LBJ’s Great Society
   3. The __________ Amendment lowered the voting age to __________ years old