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Introduction

The socialist republic of Vietnam had a war within its borders, putting its north against south.

The north eventually won it in 1975, but at the time, the country was already politically isolated. However, following efforts by the government to institute both political and economic reforms since 1986, the country has made important milestones in this endeavor. Vietnam is a one-party state where the government has an official commitment to socialism although it seems to be shifting to capitalism. The United State's, in an independent audit into Vietnam in 2004, classified its human rights record as 'poor'. In addition, the country is ranked 128 in terms of democracy by world audit and 133 in terms of press freedom. Out of the 150 countries ranked, Vietnam is considered among the least democratic countries. The major economic activity for Vietnam is agriculture and particularly the growth of wet rice.

S. had refrained from direct combat. This is when the United States formally entered the Vietnam War. The U.

S. did this for two reasons. We wished to maintain the independence of South Vietnam and we had to prove to allied nations that we would help them resist Communist takeover. As Congress was about to vote whether or not to allow the combat to move into North Vietnam, the North Vietnamese attacked a major U. S.

airbase at Bein Hoa. On February 7th, 1965, Johnson ordered retaliation bombing on North Vietnam. Rolling Thunder was the name of this

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operation. Its purpose was to put pressure on Hanoi and convince them that Communism could not and would not win. At the end of 1965, one hundred and eighty thousand Americans were in South Vietnam under General William S. Westmoreland.

The U. S. mainly depended on superior firepower and helicopters. The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese depended on surprise attack and concealment. The United States soldiers realized that the war would last for many more years and wondered if the U. S. war effort could succeed. At the end of 1968, the number of American troops in South Vietnam reached its peak of 542,000 men.

The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese launched a major invasion against the United States called the Tet offensive from January 30th to February 25th, 1968. At the Khe Sanh U. S.

firebase, there was a major ground battle. There was a siege from January 21st to April 14th. It was thought to be the American Dien Bien Phu .

The United States turned it around however, with their victory at Hue. By 1969, combat decreased rapidly and American troops began to return home. The role of Communism was extremely important in this conflict.

Communism was one of the main reasons of why the United States entered the war in the first place. The U. S.

had to enter the war to stop the spread of Communism in Asia since North Vietnam was Communist. Had North Vietnam succeeded in converting Vietnam into a Communist country, it could become very powerful and go on

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to persuade other countries to become Communist. The U. S. believed that Vietnam could become powerful.

They were amazed that France, an Allied power, had been beaten by the Vietnamese. North Vietnam was a Communist country. The man who had proclaimed Vietnam independent, Ho Chi Minh, was a Communist. During the war with the French, Ho Chi Minh took refuge in northern Vietnam and settled there with his followers. He founded the Indochina Communist Party and the Viet Minh.

He became the president of North Vietnam from 1945 to 1969. North Vietnam was a poor area and was cut off from the agricultural benefit of South Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh was forced to ask assistance from major Communist allies - the Soviet Union and China. Both aided North Vietnam before and during the war.

The North Vietnamese invaded South Vietnam. They wanted to use military tactics to force unification. The United States did not allow their unification. The U. S. knew that the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese wished to establish one ruling government, the Communist Party. This led to the Vietnam War and U.

S. intervention. On January 27th, 1973, South Vietnam Communist forces (Viet Cong), North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the United States agreed on many things during the Paris peace talks. The talks lasted over two years before any agreements were made that suited all of them. The forces involved agreed that U. S.

troops would gradually withdraw from Vietnam and all prisoners of war would be released. They also agreed that South Vietnam had the right to choose their own future, whether or not to unite with North Vietnam. North Vietnamese troops were given the right to remain in South Vietnam but they could not be reinforced. President Nixon finalized the accepted treaty and began to remove United States troops. After the peace talks, fighting continued between the North and South Vietnamese. North Vietnam went against all that was outlined at the peace talks after the majority of American soldiers left. History Essays