

Chapter. 4 Escalation

1. Kennedy and Johnson both expanded their commitment to South Vietnam not because they were confident in winning but feared what and what 2 reasons did they fear it?

I. JFK and Vietnam

1. What 2 opportunity did the US see in the crumbling of European empires?

2. During the 50's, the US military focused too much on building what, that JFK's advisors felt the US was ill-equipped to fight what kinds of wars and under the banner of "Flexible Response" it enabled the US to do what in all types of conflicts?

3. Where was JFK's most urgent crisis when he took office and what did Eisenhower say about the country and the consequences if lost?

4. By compromising over Laos, why did Kennedy have to make a stand in Vietnam and what did he say about his failures in Cuba and Laos?

5. What was operation "Beefup" and what 3 other forms of attacks against communist fighters that JFK approved?

6. What was the Strategic Hamlets program and what were they designed to do?"

II. The Overthrow of Diem

1. Why didn't the Strategic Hamlets program work for the South Vietnamese and how did South Vietnamese and American optimism burst in the beginning of 1963?

2. Why did a Buddhist monk set himself on fire in an intersection in Saigon and what did Buddhist demands become for some South Vietnamese?

3. Why did Ngo Dinh Nhu secretly talk to North Vietnamese leaders in the summer of 1963 and how did Nhu view the North's struggle?

4. What finally ended Diem's 9-year rule over South Vietnam?

III. New Faces, Old Problems

1. In the 2 years before Diem's coup, North Vietnamese and NLF leaders agreed to restrain military operations, why did they do it, and near the end of 1963, communist leaders agreed to do what but stopped short of sending who to the south?

2. What did Le Duan and North Vietnamese hawks do to moderates in the government and why did they do it?

3. What 2 reasons did President Johnson have for taking a hard line against communism after the assassination of JFK?

4. What did Secretary of Defense McNamara predict would happen to South Vietnam if the US did not step up involvement and what happened to the new leader of South Vietnam after Diem?
5. Any hopes of success in Southeast Asia, the US must expand its military activities which focused on old ideas and new ideas, what were they?

IV. Decisions for War

1. What 3 things did LBJ do to increase US presence in Vietnam before the end of 1964?
2. What happened on August 2 and 4, 1964 and what did Congress approve on August 7 and what did it authorize?
3. What did Hanoi do for the first time in September of 1964, and how did its leaders view US bombing attacks?
4. What were LBJ's 3 calculations that led him to use caution to avoid drastic moves?
5. What 3 events did LBJ approve after the NLF attack on US air bases at Pleiku?