

## **Chapter 5 - War on Many Fronts**

1. How did US and North Vietnam's leaders see what was the keys for their side's victory?

### **I. Towards a Major War**

1. What were the 2 sides LBJ was presented with the request of more troops by the Joint Chief of Staffs and what was the choice that LBJ made?

2. How did LBJ try to appease the hawks and the doves during his speech at Johns Hopkins University?

3. What was North Vietnam's 4-point program for a peace settlement?

4. Why did the Soviets cut aid in 1964 but stepped up support again in 1965?

5. Why did China refuse to send combat troops, but they sent support troops, which helped in what way?

6. What did Secretary of Defense McNamara predict if South Vietnam was lost to communists and what did LBJ do in response?

### **II. Bombing the North**

1. What were the 3 objectives of the US air campaign against North Vietnam and were the goals met?

2. By the end of 1968, how many tons of bombs were dropped by the US, and what was the total destruction down by Operation Rolling Thunder?

3. What were the 2 reasons why US bombing did not slow down North Vietnamese troops and supplies to the South and why didn't the bombing slow down the North Vietnamese economy like the US had hoped?

4. How much did the introduction of Soviet anti-aircraft weapons cost the US in planes, money and aviators and how did the captured pilots help Hanoi later in peace talks?

### **III. The War in the South**

1. What was the Joint Chiefs of Staff strategy of attrition and how did it work?

2. What was the most important reason why North Vietnamese and NLF forces were able to persevere and fight the Americans to a stalemate?

3. What percentage of all firefights involved US units numbered less than 200 troops, who usually held the advantage in these battles and what percentage of US casualties were caused by booby traps and landmines?

4. What were the 2 worlds that US troops inhabited in Vietnam?

5. How did many US soldiers view all Vietnamese, how did they alienate the local population and many Americans believed that many Vietnamese lacked what?

### **IV. The Politics of War**

1. Why did the communists hold a considerable edge in the political arena?
2. How did the Ky government manipulate the new South Vietnamese constitution and election, but what did the election results show about the government's support by the population?
3. What did large chunks of the international public opinion think about North Vietnam's struggle against the US?
4. Why did Martin Luther King lash out against the Vietnam conflict?