

MODERN WORLD HISTORY FROM
AD 1500:II
MODULE-3 ASIAN EXPERIENCES
TOPIC- VIETNAM WAR

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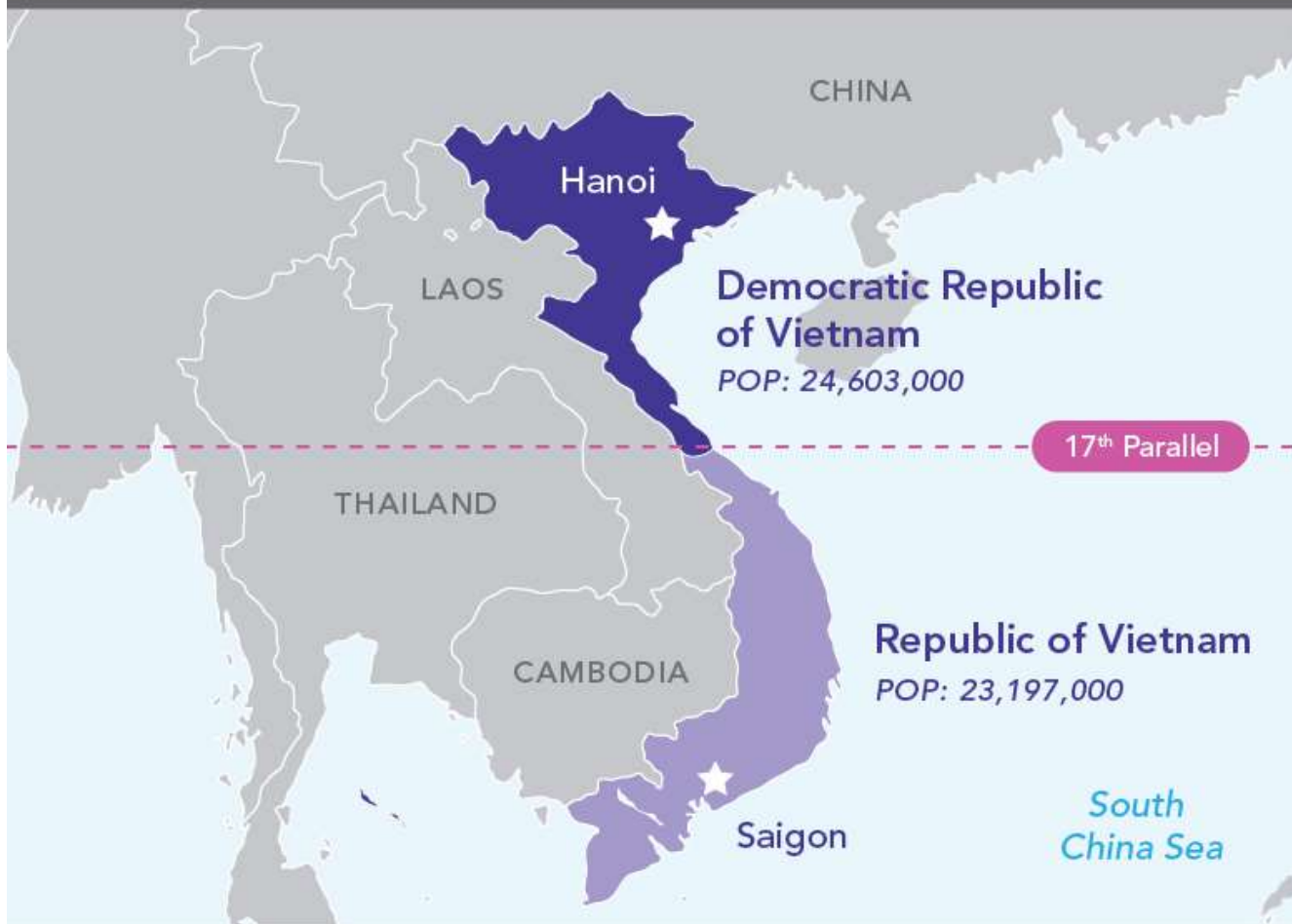
VIETNAM WAR

- Vietnam is a part of Indo- China in South East Asia.
- The French had established their domination over Indo- China during the 19th century
- The *Viet Minh or League for Independence of Vietnam* was formed in China in 1941 under the leadership of *Ho Chin Minh*- French had forbade any political activities inside Vietnam.
- During II world war japan conquered entire indo-china- overthrew French administration in Vietnam and set up a nominally independent state under emperor **Bao Dai**
- After II world war Vietnam once again came under French imperialism.

- The Viet Minh made an unsuccessful revolt against the French domination in 1946.
- Alarmed by the growing strength of the Communist movement of Viet Minh, the French accepted Bao Dai as a nominal ruler.
- The newly formed Communist government in China recognized the Viet Minh government of Vietnam.
- In retaliation to this the USA and Britain recognized Bao Dai government.
- Led to civil war in Vietnam- civil war was ended by the Geneva Accordance of 1954.

- As per the Geneva Accordance, Vietnam was divided into South and North Vietnam.
- Ho chin Minh was to rule north Vietnam and Bao Dai the south.
- It was further decided that general elections would be conducted in 1956 to unite the country.
- Bao Dai was succeeded by Dinh Dien who feared that the whole of Vietnam would become communist if elections were held.
- So refused to hold elections.

MAP 1: THE TWO VIETNAMS, EARLY 1975



- The communists in South Vietnam with support of Ho Chi Minh organized National Liberation Front and revolted against Dinh Dien government.
- America openly supported the South Vietnam government and sent troops to suppress communist revolt there.
- Soviet and China helped Ho Chin Minh – open fight between US military and Vietnam people. Ruler Dinh Dien was assassinated in 1963 and administration came under USA.
- In 1964 American ships and Submarines were attacked by Vietnamese people and in retaliation America declared war on Vietnam.

- **My Lai massacre**

- When America declared war , they believed that it was very easy to finish small country of Vietnam within weeks.
- But the Vietnam people showed stiff resistance and by 1967 more than one thousand US fighter planes were destroyed.
- Then US planes began to bomb the Vietnamese villages
- In 1968 March the US soldiers ruthlessly murdered the innocent habitants mostly women and children at the Village of My Lai in North Vietnam.



- The My Lai massacre shocked the outside world and American Public - demanded immediate withdrawal of US from Vietnam
- Internal and external pressure forced the US to withdraw its forces from Vietnam.
- In mean while Ho Chi Minh died in 1969.
- Newly elected President of America Richard Nixon initiated peace talks with Vietnam.
- In Paris Peace Talks of January 1973 a peace treaty was signed – war came into end.

- Eleven years of war in Vietnam was ended.
- USA suffered the heaviest casualties and a huge amount of money.
- More than 50,000 US soldiers had lost their lives in Vietnam, while nearly 10 lakhs Vietnamese had lost their lives.
- In 1976 the Unification of North and South Vietnam and establishment of Vietnam Socialist Democratic Republic.

Vietnam war – the defeat of imperialism and colonialism before the forces of nationalism.