

A light gray world map is shown in the background. The country of Vietnam is highlighted in a solid blue color. A thick red oval is drawn around the blue-highlighted area of Vietnam, drawing attention to its location in Southeast Asia.

# DIEN BIEN PHU (VIETNAM)

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# WHAT WAS DIEN BIEN PHU?

- Dien Bien Phu was occupied by the French during the start of the Vietnam war.
- The French built an airstrip here to lure the Vietminh into battle.
- There were 15,000 French troops who were expecting less Vietminh fighters and next to no artillery but instead they were surrounded by 50,000 Vietminh troops who had anti-aircraft guns hidden strategically in the mountains.
- The Vietminh also had 50,000 extra troops in reserves and over 200,000 civilians workers.
- The fighting lasted 55 days and the French surrendered on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1954.

# WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE BATTLE

On 21<sup>st</sup> July 1954 9 countries leaders met in Geneva to discuss what would happen to Vietnam.

## So what did happen?

- Vietnam was split along the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel.
- Ho chi Minh ran northern and Bao Dai ran southern
- No foreign troops could set up bases in either countries.
- Both sides of Vietnam were unhappy with the agreements.



# AFTER THE GENEVA ACCORDS (US INTERFERENCE)

- After Geneva President Eisenhower committed more aid to south Vietnam which annoyed the North
- The North was communist and Eisenhower didn't want the south to fall as well as he feared of a 'domino theory' where communism would spread across the world.



# DIEM GOVERNMENT AND USA BEING HATED

- Diem won a referendum in 1955 which meant he put himself as president which made villagers annoyed and mad them dislike him and the US.
- After 1955 Diem refused to hold elections because he feared they would lose
- To eliminate threats to credibility Diem arrested political and religious opponents
- Urged people to report communists to the government
- He killed 2000 communists in 1956 and arrested 65,000



# SITUATIONS WORSENERD

- The remaining communists fought back
- By march 1958 over 400 government officials had been killed.
- Rebellions because often and rebels were called Vietcong aka. Vietnamese communists.
- North Vietnam supported Vietcong
- In 1959 North Vietnam and china sent troops along the Ho Chi Minh trail that ran through Cambodia to help train Vietcong.
- This was now a civil war

# DEATHS AND PROTESTS

- A lot of killing was happening and civilians were dying.
- Traps were set up by guerillas and tons of us troops were killed.
- A monk even set himself on fire to protest to put an end to the war.







THANKYOU FOR  
LISTENING

Any questions?