

Vietnam Webquest

Answer the following questions **IN YOUR OWN WORDS!! PLEASE, NO QUOTES!!**

1. Read Kennan's telegram from Moscow

http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/coldwar/documents/index.php?documentdate=1946-02-22&documentid=6-6&studycollectionid=&pagenumber=1

Contextualize this document, what is the larger historical picture, when was this document written? What is going on in the world at this point in time? What is his basic message? What does Kennan propose to deal with the threat from Soviet expansion (page 8)?

2. Read the Truman Doctrine speech to Congress, March 1947

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/trudoc.htm>

Contextualize this document, what is the larger historical picture, when was this document written? What is going on in Greece at this time that is concerning the President? What does he suggest? How would this speech be used by later presidents? How does his proposal relate to our actions in Vietnam?

3. Read Eisenhower's letter to Diem

<http://www.seattleu.edu/artsci/history/us1945/docs/esdiem.htm>

Contextualize this document, what is the larger historical picture, when was this document written? What is going on in Asia at this point in time? What was the purpose of Eisenhower's support for Diem? How does Eisenhower's letter relate to the Truman Doctrine?

4. Read Kennedy's letter to Diem

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pentagon2/ps14.htm>

Contextualize this document, what is the larger historical picture, when was this document written? How does Kennedy's letter differ from Eisenhower's letter? How does Kennedy's letter reflect the message from Truman's speech?

5. Read President Johnson's message to Congress.

<http://www.luminet.net/~tgort/johnson.htm>

Contextualize this document, what is the larger historical picture, when was this document written? Why did Johnson believe the U.S. should become more involved in the war? How does Johnson's letter relate to the Truman and Containment Doctrine?

6. Read “The Vietnam war and Vietnam”

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/reflect/chung.html>

Contextualize this document, what is the larger historical picture, when was this document written? Why wasn't Diem an effective leader? It's there. Read, you'll see it. How would this impact the U.S. efforts to contain communism in Vietnam?

Who does the author of the piece, Nguyen Ba Chung, believe the U.S. aligned them selves with during the war? Why did he believe this was problematic?

After you finish responding to these questions, meet with your group and discuss the following questions:

- What do these primary sources tell you about U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the impact of the Containment and Truman Doctrines on U.S. foreign policy, especially in Vietnam?
- What can you say about the involvement of the U.S. in Vietnam from Eisenhower through Johnson?
- How does each president apply the Truman and Containment Doctrines?