

Objectives

- Assess Nixon's new approach to the war, and explain why protests continued.
- Explain what led to the Paris Peace Accords and why South Vietnam eventually fell to the communists.
- Evaluate the impact of the Vietnam War on the United States.



Terms and People

- **Vietnamization** – Nixon's plan for U.S. forces to withdraw and South Vietnam forces to assume more combat duties
- **Kent State University** – site of a confrontation between students and National Guardsmen, during which four students were killed
- **My Lai** – a village in South Vietnam where U.S. soldiers killed unarmed civilians

Terms and People (continued)

- **Pentagon Papers** – classified government history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, published by *The New York Times* in 1971
- **Paris Peace Accords** – a 1973 agreement between the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the Vietcong for a cease-fire and U.S. troop withdrawal from South Vietnam
- **War Powers Act** – passed in 1973, this act restricted the President's war-making powers



How did the Vietnam War end, and what were its lasting effects?

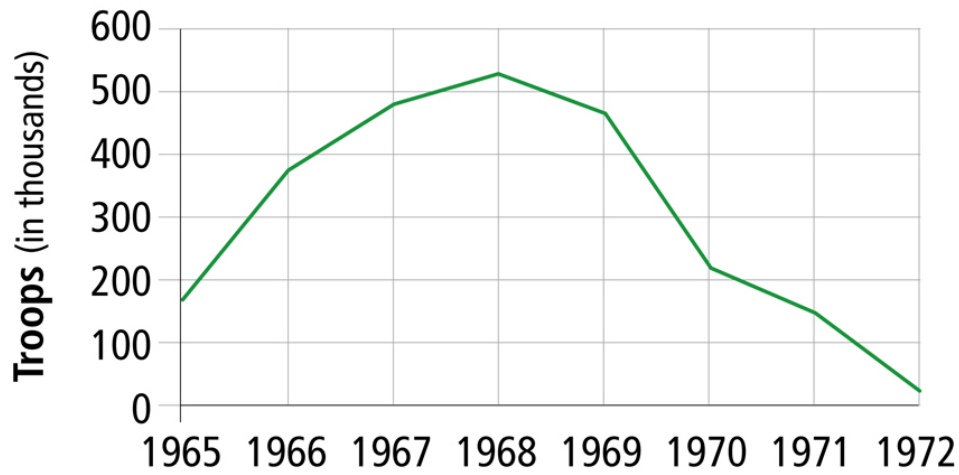
Nixon withdrew American troops from South Vietnam, but the impact of the war endured.

Americans reexamined the power of the presidency, the struggle against communism, and America's overall role in the world.

President Nixon inherited an unpopular war and increasing troubles on the home front.



U.S. Military Personnel in Vietnam



SOURCE: National Archives and Records Administration

Publicly,
Nixon advocated

- the **Vietnamization** of the war, which would transfer front-line fighting to the South Vietnamese
- “peace with honor”: U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam on honorable terms

Secretly, Nixon

- ordered the bombing of the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Cambodia to reduce the flow of supplies to the Vietcong
- **extended the war with a ground attack by U.S. soldiers on North Vietnamese bases in Cambodia**



At home, protests escalated.



- At **Kent State University** in Ohio, four students were shot by National Guardsmen.
- A similar confrontation at Jackson State University in Mississippi left **two students dead**.
- Counterprotests were held by those supporting Nixon and the war efforts.

In 1971, Americans were stunned to learn about the **My Lai** massacre.



Four years earlier, U.S. soldiers searching for Vietcong in the village of My Lai had killed hundreds of unarmed civilians.

The publication of the **Pentagon Papers** further shocked the nation.

The report revealed that American leaders had lied to Congress and failed to inform the public fully about the American involvement in Vietnam.

Nixon tried to stop publication of the Pentagon Papers, but *The New York Times* published the report in 1971.

In January 1973, the war finally ended with the signing of the **Paris Peace Accords.**

- The United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the Vietcong would **stop fighting**.
- **U.S. troops would withdraw** from South Vietnam.
- **North Vietnamese troops would remain** in South Vietnam.
- **South Vietnam's noncommunist government would remain in power.**

For the United States, the war was over, but fighting continued in Vietnam despite the peace agreement.

In the spring of 1975, North Vietnam invaded Saigon and won the war.



The Vietnam War had a lasting effect on American life.

- More than 58,000 Americans died in Vietnam.
- It would be years before Vietnam veterans were acknowledged for their sacrifices.
- The war undermined Americans' trust in their leaders.
- Americans became reluctant to intervene in other nations' affairs.



**Congress passed the
War Powers Act in 1973.**

The act restricted the President's ability to send the nation to war.

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

