

History of International Politics (East Asia focus) – [E]

“Mao’s China, Taiwan, and the Sino-Soviet Split”

**Class Discussion Questions from
“The Vietnam War (1955 to 1975)” Lecture.**

1. What was French Indochina?
2. Describe the situation in Vietnam at the end of World War Two.
3. Who was Ho Chi Minh?
4. What was the First Indochina War (from December 1946 to August 1954)?
5. What was the Battle of Dien Bien Phu (March to May 1954)? Why was it significant?
6. What were the Geneva Accords of 1954?
7. What was the 17th Parallel?
8. What were the US’ main objectives during the Vietnam War?
9. What, in your opinion, were the causes of the Vietnam War?

10. Describe the states of North Vietnam and South Vietnam.
11. Who was Ngo Dinh Diem?
12. What was the Ho Chi Minh Trail?
13. What role did the PRC and the USSR play in the Vietnam War?
14. What was the Tet Offensive in 1968? Why was it significant?
15. What is meant by the terms “guerrilla warfare” and “unconventional warfare”? Provide examples of these during the Vietnam War.
16. Why did the Vietnam War become increasingly unpopular amongst the US public? Provide examples of events and incidents that negatively influenced US public opinion.
17. What were the Paris Peace Accords of 1973?
18. In your opinion, why did the French and then the Americans fail to win their wars in Vietnam?
19. What were some of the central lessons and consequences of the Vietnam War?