



CIE

Sample

STUDY GUIDE



# **International Relations: How Effectively Did the United States Contain the Spread of Communism?**

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# **International Relations: How Effectively Did the United States Contain the Spread of Communism?**

CIE





Published by Clever Lili Limited.

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First published 2020

ISBN 978-1-913887-20-9

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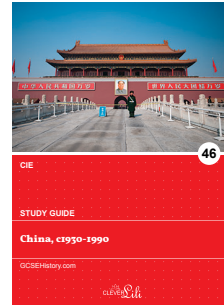
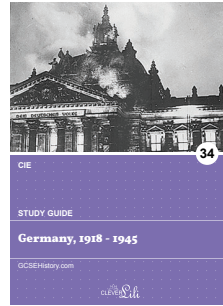
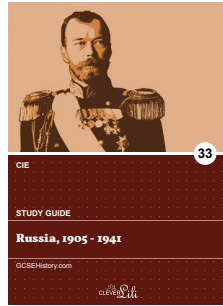
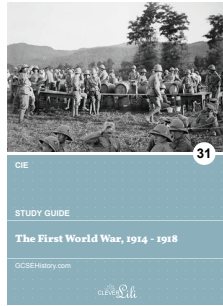
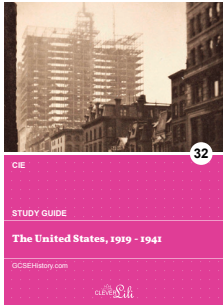
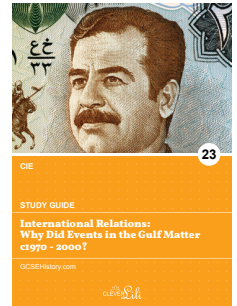
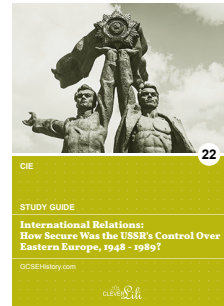
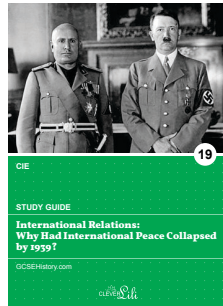
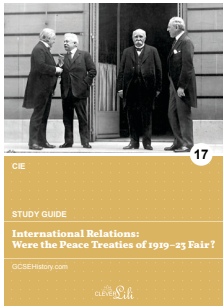
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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

## Icons



**WHAT** questions cover the key events and themes.



**WHO** questions cover the key people involved.



**WHEN** questions cover the timings of key events.



**WHERE** questions cover the locations of key moments.



**WHY** questions cover the reasons behind key events.



**HOW** questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.



**IMPORTANCE** questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.



**DECISIONS** questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

## Highlighted words

**Abdicate** - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on page 16.

## Page references

**Tudor** (p.7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.



## WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?




The title of the fifth unit in the Core Content of Option B in the CiE History iGCSE is 'How effectively did the USA contain the spread of communism?' This unit investigates the American containment policies of the 1950s -1970s.

### Purpose

This unit focuses on international relations and the way in which different nation states interacted, and the change, continuity and significance of their relationships over time. You will study their priorities, agreements, disagreements and the key events that affected them.




### Enquiries

This unit gives you the information you need to understand the following:

-  The United States and events in Korea, 1950 - 53.
-  The United States and events in Cuba, 1959 - 62.
-  American involvement in Vietnam.











### Topics

Topics covered in this course include:

-  American reactions to North Korea's invasion of South Korea, the involvement of the UN and the course of the war to 1953.
-  American reactions to the Cuban revolution, including the missiles crisis and its aftermath.
-  American involvement in Vietnam, the reasons for it, tactics and strategy, and the reasons for the withdrawal.





### Key Individuals

Key individuals studied in this course include:


-  Kim Il-sung.
-  Harry S Truman.
-  General MacArthur.
-  Dwight Eisenhower.
-  Fidel Castro.
-  John F Kennedy.
-  Ho Chi Minh.
-  Ngo Dinh Diem.
-  Lyndon B Johnson.
-  Richard Nixon.

### Assessment

This unit usually appears as one of four possible questions in Option B Core Content International Relations Since 1919 on the Paper 1 exam, of which you must complete two. Therefore, you will answer one question on the success of the League of Nations, if this appears as an option on your exam paper. The question is comprised of 3 sections; a), b), and c). However, check with your teacher to find out whether this unit will appear on the Paper 2 source paper in your exam.

-  On the Paper 1 exam, you may choose to complete a three-part question on this topic, which will be divided into sections a), b) and c).
-  Question a is worth 4 marks. This question will require you to describe key features of the time period. You will be asked to recall 2 relevant points and support them with details or provide at least four relevant points without supporting detail.
-  Question b is worth 6 marks. This question will require you to explain a key event or development. You will need to identify two reasons, support those reasons with relevant factual detail and then explain how the reasons made the event occur.
-  Question c is worth 10 marks. This question will require you to construct an argument to support and challenge an interpretation stated in the question. You will need to have a minimum of three explanations in total and fully evaluate to come to a justified conclusion. The best approach is to discuss two arguments on one side of the debate, and two arguments on the other, before coming to a brief conclusion. You will have the opportunity to show your ability to explain and analyse historical events using 2nd order concepts such as causation, consequence, change, continuity, similarity and difference.

## WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

 If this topic appears on Paper 2, you will answer six questions on a range of source material about this topic. Check with your teacher to find out your Paper 2 topic.

Sample



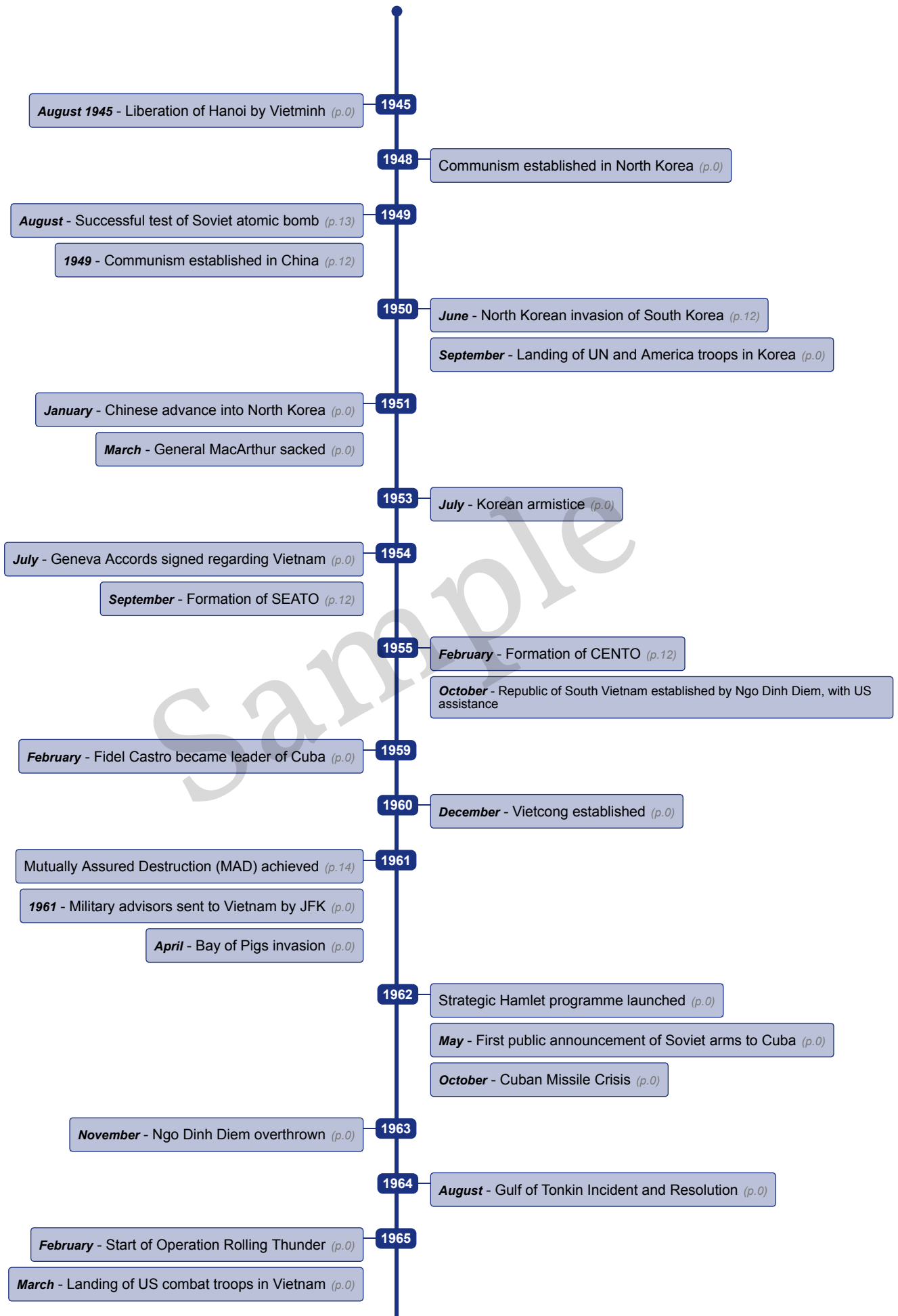


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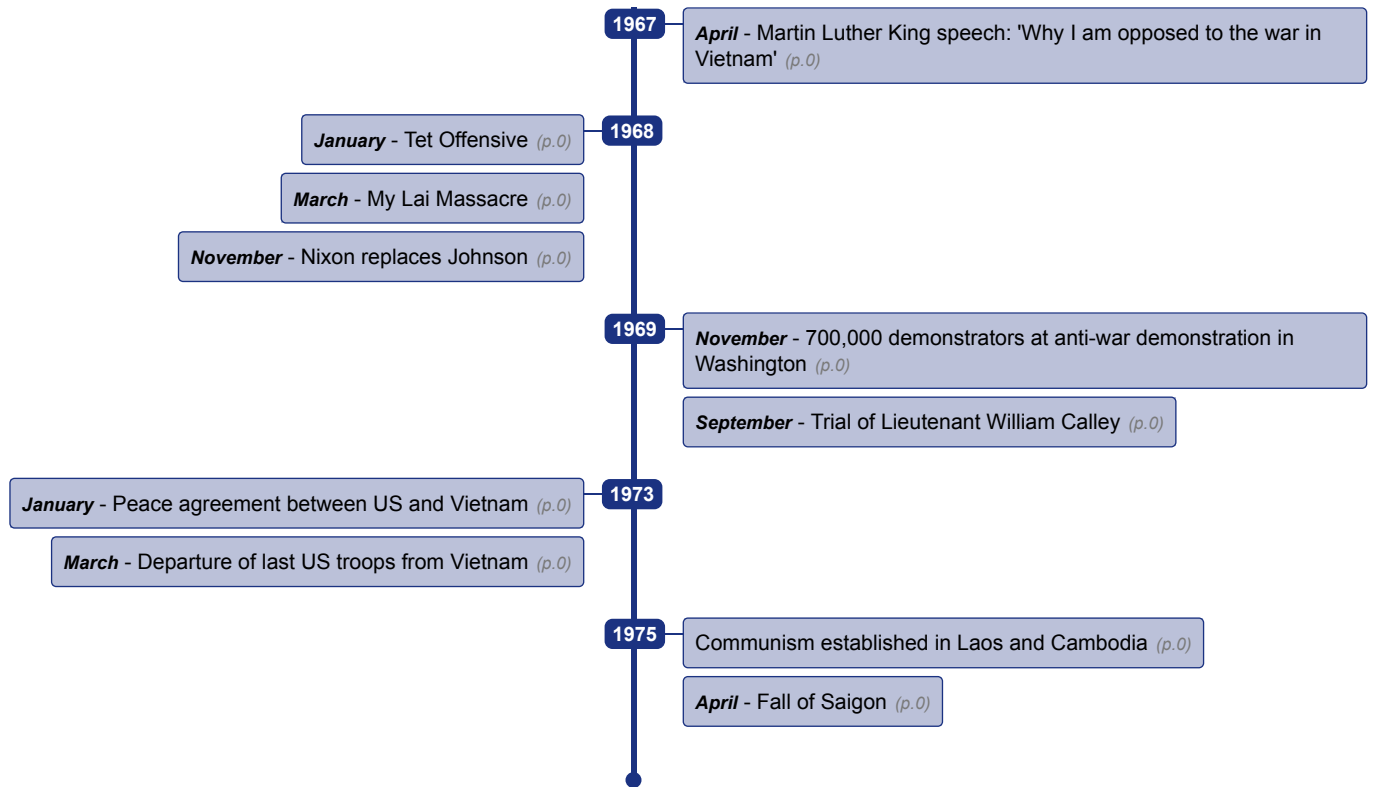
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# HOW EFFECTIVELY DID THE USA CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM?

## TIMELINE



## HOW EFFECTIVELY DID THE USA CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM?



Sample



# THE PRINCIPLE OF CONTAINMENT

*'The main element of any United States policy toward the Soviet Union must be that of a long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment...'*  
George Kennan, 1947



## What was containment?

Containment (p.0) was America's policy on **communism**. It involved **preventing** it from spreading to new countries, rather than attacking existing **communist** nations.



## When was containment introduced?

Containment (p.0) was first introduced in 1947.



## What policy introduced the idea of containment?

Containment (p.0) was first set out in the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan.



## What methods of containment were used?

The USA used 4 main methods of containment (p.0):

- ✓ It aimed to build bigger and better weapons faster than the USSR. This led to both sides becoming embroiled in an arms race.
- ✓ It offered **economic** support for countries threatened by **communism**.
- ✓ It forged **alliances** with other countries.
- ✓ It gave military assistance to countries threatened by **communism**.



## Why was containment needed?

After the Second World War, the apparent need for containment (p.0) was reinforced by 4 main global events:

- ✓ In 1947-48, eastern European countries were taken over by **communist** governments.
- ✓ In 1948, North Korea became **communist**.
- ✓ In August 1949, the USSR successfully tested an atomic bomb.
- ✓ China became a **communist** country in 1949.



## What alliances were formed as part of containment?

The USA formed 4 main **alliances** in response to the threat of **communism**:

- ✓ The most important was the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, or NATO, formed in 1949.
- ✓ The South-East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) was formed in September 1954 between the USA, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, Britain and France.
- ✓ CENTO, or the Central Treaty Organisation, was formed in February 1955 between Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey and the UK.
- ✓ The USSR responded by setting up the Warsaw Pact in May 1955. The USSR, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Albania, Poland and Hungary were members.



## How was military assistance used as part of containment?

The USA was prepared to provide weapons, military advice, training, troops, technical support and personnel to countries threatened by **communism**.



### When was military assistance used as part of containment?

Examples of 3 significant occasions when the USA provided military support for countries threatened by communism were:

- ✓ 1950 - 1953 - in Korea, with UN support.
- ✓ 1961 - The Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba.
- ✓ 1955 - 1975 - Vietnam.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

George Kennan, the author of the 'Long Telegram', later published his original ideas about containment under the pseudonym 'Mr X'.



## THE ARMS RACE

*'If you go on with this nuclear arms race, all you are going to do is make the rubble bounce.'*  
Winston Churchill, 1949



### What was the arms race?

The arms race was a competition between the USA and the USSR to gain military dominance by developing their nuclear capabilities and weapons.



### When was the arms race?

The Soviet Union emerged as a nuclear power in 1949, leading to the arms race with the USA. This lasted until the end of the Cold War in 1990.



### What was the importance of the arms race?

The arms race was important for 2 main reasons:

- ✓ It led to the fear of mutually assured destruction as both sides had enough weapons to destroy the world many times over.
- ✓ The USA and the USSR had to find ways to solve **disputes** that did not result in a nuclear war.



### What were the most important events of the arms race?

There were 6 main military achievements and events during the arms race:

- ✓ 1945 - the USA dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing the Second World War to an end.
- ✓ 1949 - the USSR tested an atomic bomb.
- ✓ 1952 - the USA developed the hydrogen bomb.
- ✓ 1953 - the USSR tested its own hydrogen bomb.
- ✓ 1957 - both the USA and USSR successfully tested **intercontinental ballistic missiles** (ICBMs).
- ✓ 1962 - the Cuban Missile Crisis (*p.0*) was the highest point of tension in the arms race.



### What role did brinkmanship play in the arms race?

**Brinkmanship** was important in the arms race because:

- ✓ An enemy could be forced to back down in a moment of crisis by pushing it to the brink of an unwanted war.



- ✓ To make any threats credible, both sides needed nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The Cuban Missile Crisis (p.0) is an example of **brinkmanship**. The USA and the USSR were very close to a nuclear war, with both sides threatening conflict until the USSR backed down.

### **What was the theory of mutually assured destruction, or MAD in the arms race?**

Mutually assured destruction, or MAD, was the following theory:

- ✓ It had developed by the 1960s.
- ✓ It **stated** that if either the USA or the USSR used their nuclear weapons, both would be destroyed. Each possessed so many, the damage would be unimaginable.
- ✓ It was believed war would be **prevented** because both sides feared it; a nuclear war was, in theory, unwinnable.

### **What was nuclear utilisation target selection in the arms race?**

Nuclear utilisation target selection theory, or NUTs:

- ✓ Developed in the 1980s.
- ✓ Was a theory President Reagan believed in. He thought a limited nuclear war was possible as long as the USA **struck** at the USSR first and wiped out its nuclear weapons.

### **What were intercontinental ballistic missiles in the arms race?**

**Intercontinental ballistic missiles**, called ICBMs, were nuclear-armed ballistic missiles with a range of more than 3,500 miles.

### **What were anti-ballistic missiles in the arms race?**

Anti-ballistic missiles were missiles that would intercept and destroy other ballistic missiles. The USA and the USSR developed ABMs in the 1960s.

### **What were multiple independent reentry vehicles in the arms race?**

Multiple **independent** reentry vehicles (MIRVs) were developed in 1968. These missiles carried multiple warheads which could each be independently targeted.



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Sample



# GLOSSARY

## A

**Aggression** - angry, hostile or violent behaviour displayed without provocation.

**Air strike** - an attack by aircraft, typically a bombing.

**Alliance** - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.

**Allies** - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

**Ambassador** - someone, often a diplomat, who represents their state, country or organisation in a different setting or place.

**Ammunition** - collective term given to bullets and shells.

**Armistice** - an agreement between two or more opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.

**Artillery** - large guns used in warfare.

**Assassinate** - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

**Assassination** - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.

**Attrition** - the act of wearing down an enemy until they collapse through continued attacks.

## B

**Blockade** - a way of blocking or sealing an area to prevent goods, supplies or people from entering or leaving. It often refers to blocking transport routes.

**Booby traps** - seemingly harmless devices concealing something that will kill, harm or surprise. Especially in warfare, booby traps were often set off by a wire and contained explosives.

**Boycott** - a way of protesting or bringing about change by refusing to buy something or use services.

**Bribe, Bribery, Bribes** - to dishonestly persuade someone to do something for you in return for money or other inducements.

**Brinkmanship** - pushing a disagreement to its limits in the hope the other side backs down, especially pertaining to war.

## C

**Campaign** - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

**Capitalism** - the idea of goods and services being exchanged for money, private ownership of property and businesses, and acceptance of a hierarchical society.

**Casualties** - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

**Ceasefire** - when the various sides involved in conflict agree to stop fighting.

**Censorship** - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or

unacceptable is suppressed.

**Civil rights** - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.

**Civilian** - a non-military person.

**Claim** - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.

**Communism** - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each person receives according to need.

**Communist** - a believer in communism.

**Conference** - a formal meeting to discuss common issues of interest or concern.

**Conscription** - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.

**Containment** - meaning to keep something under control or within limits, it often refers to the American idea of stopping the spread of communism.

**Corrupt** - when someone is willing to act dishonestly for their own personal gain.

**Counter-attack** - an attack made in response to one by an opponent.

**Culture** - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

## D

**Deadlock** - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

**Defect** - the act of defection; to leave your country or cause for another.

**Demilitarised** - to remove all military forces from an area and forbid them to be stationed there.

**Democracy** - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.

**Democratic** - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

**Deploy** - to move military troops or equipment into position or a place so they are ready for action.

**Dictator** - a ruler with absolute power over a country, often acquired by force.

**Dictatorship** - a form of government where an individual or small group has total power, ruling without tolerance for other views or opposition.

**Disarmament** - the reduction or removal of weaponry.

**Dispute** - a disagreement or argument; often used to describe conflict between different countries.

## E

**Economic** - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

**Economy** - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

**Electorate** - a group of people who are eligible to vote.

**Embassy** - historically, a deputation sent by one ruler, state or country to another. More recently, it is also the accepted name for the official residence or offices of an ambassador.

**Exile** - to be banned from one's original country, usually as a punishment or for political reasons.

## F

**Fatalities, Fatality** - Deaths.

**Foreign policy** - a government's strategy for dealing with other nations.

**Free elections** - elections in which voters are free to vote without interference.

**Frontier** - a line or border between two areas.

## G

**Guerrilla tactics, Guerrilla warfare** - a way of fighting that typically involves hit-and-run style tactics.

**Guerrillas** - groups of small, independent fighters usually involved in a war against larger, regular military forces.

## H

**Harvest** - the process of gathering and collecting crops.

## I

**Ideology** - a set of ideas and ideals, particularly around political ideas or economic policy, often shared by a group of people.

**Import** - to bring goods or services into a different country to sell.

**Independence, Independent** - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

**Industrial** - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

**Industry** - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

**Intercontinental ballistic missile** - a guided ballistic missile with a minimum range of 5,500km or 3,400 miles.

## L

**Legislation** - a term for laws when they are considered collectively, for example housing legislation.

**Legitimacy, Legitimate** - accepted by law or conforming to the rules; can be defended as valid.

**Limb** - an arm or leg.

## M

**Mandate** - authority to carry out a policy.

**Massacre** - the deliberate and brutal slaughter of many people.

**Mercenary** - someone who takes action in order to earn money, rather than out of principle.

**Middle class** - refers to the socio-economic group which includes people who are educated and have professional jobs, such as teachers or lawyers.

**Military force** - the use of armed forces.

**Militia** - an army created from the general population.

**Mine** - an explosive device usually hidden underground or underwater.

**Minister** - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

**Monk** - a member of a religious community, often living a simple life of poverty, chastity and work.

**Morale** - general mood of a group of people.

**Morals** - a person's set of rules about what they consider right and wrong, used to guide their actions and behaviour.

## N

**Napalm** - a petrol based chemical, used to devastating effect in conflict as it sticks to skin and causes terrible burns.

**Nationalisation** - the transfer of control or ownership of a sector of industry, such as banking or rail, from the private sector to the state.

**Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic** - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

## O

**Offensive** - another way of saying an attack or campaign.

## P

**POW, Prisoner of war, Prisoners of war** - somebody who has been captured and taken prisoner by enemy forces.

**Pacification** - Making something, or someone, peaceful.

**Parliament** - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

**Peasant** - a poor farmer.

**Poll** - a vote or survey.

**Population** - the number of people who live in a specified place.

**Poverty** - the state of being extremely poor.

**Prejudice** - prejudgement - when you assume something about someone based on a feature like their religion or skin colour, rather than knowing it as fact.

**President** - the elected head of state of a republic.

**Prevent, Preventative, Preventive** - steps taken to stop something from happening.

**Propaganda** - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

**Prosecute** - to institute or conduct legal proceedings against a person or organisation.

**Proxy war** - a conflict between two sides acting on behalf of other parties who are not directly involved, but who have usually supplied equipment, arms and/or money.

**Psychological** - referring to a person's mental or emotional state.

**Q**

**Quarantine** - a period of isolation where a person or animal who has or may have a communicable disease is kept away from others.

**R**

**Raid** - a quick surprise attack on the enemy.

**Rational** - when something is based on reason or logic, like science.

**Rebels** - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

**Reconstruction** - a period in the USA from 1865-1877 where the southern states were reintegrated through a series of laws.

**Reform, Reforming** - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

**Refugee, Refugees** - a person who has been forced to leave where they live due to war, disaster or persecution.

**Restoration** - to return something to its former owner, place or condition; this includes returning a monarch to the throne or a head of state to government.

**Revolution** - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

**Rig, Rigged** - politically, to interfere in or fix an election to determine the winner.

**S**

**Sanctions** - actions taken against states who break international laws, such as a refusal to trade with them or supply necessary commodities.

**Search and destroy, Seek and destroy** - a tactic used by the US in Vietnam. Helicopters brought in soldiers who searched out the enemy in a specific area, such as a village, destroyed them, and then left.

**Segregation** - when people are kept separately from each other - often used in the context of race.

**Soviet** - an elected workers' council at local, regional or national level in the former Soviet Union. It can also be a reference to the Soviet Union or the USSR.

**Sphere of influence** - an area or country under the influence of another country.

**Stalemate** - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

**State, States** - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

**Strategy** - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

**Strike** - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

**Submission, Submit** - a formal surrender and acceptance of a new authority.

**Superior** - better or higher in rank, status or quality.

**T**

**Tactic** - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

**Terrain** - a stretch of land and usually used to refer to its physical features, eg mountainous, jungle etc.

**Territories, Territory** - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

**Treaty** - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

**V**

**Veteran, Veterans** - an ex-soldier.

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- Peace negotiations, Vietnam War - 0
- President Diem - 0

## R

- Reasons for USA's failure in Vietnam - 0

## S

- Saigon, Fall of - 0
- Search and destroy - 0
- Strategic Hamlet programme - 0

## T

- TV during Vietnam War - 0
- Tactics, USA - 0
- Tactics, Vietcong - 0
- Tet Offensive - 0
- Tonkin, Gulf of - 00

## U

- UN and the invasion of South Korea - 0
- US tactics
  - Attrition - 0
  - Chemical weapons - 0
  - Helicopters - 0

**Operation Rolling Thunder** - 0

**Search and destroy** - 0

**Vietnam** - 0

**USA and the invasion of South Korea** - 0

## V

**VC** - 0

**Vietcong** - 0

**Booby traps** - 0

**Guerrilla warfare** - 0

**Tactics** - 0

**Tunnels** - 0

**Vietnam**

**French occupation** - 0

**Opposition to war** - 0

**Peace negotiations** - 0

**President Diem** - 0

**Tet Offensive** - 0

**The media war** - 0

**Vietnamisation** - 0

Sample