



**Lisa Kljaich:** After World War Two, Vietnam played an increasing role in US foreign policy. Vietnam is strategically important and has been a geographic region that has had a long history of foreign domination. After the French were defeated in World War Two, the country became divided, north and south, with the north supported by communist interests in Russia and China and the south with the increased support from the United States.

US support was given first in supplies of money and war materials. Later, America sent military advisors and finally, American soldiers were sent to fight with the South Vietnamese army. Young men were drafted to fight in the Vietnam war. The average age of the US soldier in the Vietnam conflict was 19. Domestic support for our nation's policies in Vietnam and the war diminished as the casualty counts grew.

Additionally, the Vietnamese war was the first war to be well reported. The atrocities committed by American soldiers against civilians as well as hostiles shocked many Americans. Eventually, US forces withdrew from Vietnam, which allowed the North Vietnamese to overrun the South creating one country, the Republic of Vietnam, which still stands today.

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