

Name: _____

YEAR 10 HISTORY

AUSTRALIA IN THE VIETNAM WAR ERA





On the map above highlight the following places:

Hanoi, Saigon, Gulf of Tonkin, China, the border between North and South Vietnam

Now colour North and South Vietnam different colours

GLOSSARY

referendum	A vote in which everyone is asked to say yes or no to a change in the law
veteran	A returned soldier
moratorium	To stop something. The Vietnam Moratorium movement tried to stop the war.
conscientious objector	Someone who refuses to obey the conscription law because they object to the war
the draft	The popular name for conscription. Men over 18 were drafted to fight in the Vietnam war.
conscription	A law that says men must serve in the armed forces
communism	A political system based on the idea that everyone shares the wealth and there is no private property. Russia became communist in 1917 and China in 1949. Ho Chi Minh believed communism was the way to gain independence for his country
capitalism	A political system based on the idea of private ownership: that everyone has the right to make money just for themselves.
defection	Changing your loyalty from one idea to another
guerilla warfare	Fighting by small groups of soldiers in areas occupied by their enemy. Guerrilla warfare uses ambush and 'shoot and scoot' raids, instead of large scale battles.
Peasant	A poor farmer
viet cong	The American and Australian term for the Communist Vietnamese soldiers they were fighting – often shortened to VC
Indochina	What the French called the countries of Laos, Cambodia and Indochina after they colonised them
colonisation	Where a more powerful country takes over another country, usually so the more powerful country can get land or resources. France had colonised all of Indochina by the end of the 18 th Century
agent orange	A toxic chemical that was sprayed on the jungles of Vietnam to kill the trees so the enemy could be more easily spotted.. It had long term effects with many veterans and Vietnamese people suffering from cancer and birth defects.

Write the meaning of the following words using your own words

treaty	
alliance	
ideology	
unconstitutional	
political asylum	
U.S.S.R.	

OVERVIEW

Vietnam in the early 19th century was known as Indochina. Indochina was a **colony of France** for around **200 years** just as Australia was an English colony. At the battle of Dien Bien Phu in **1954** the Indochinese people finally **defeated the French**.

However many western countries did not want to hand Vietnam back to the Vietnamese. A meeting of the world's most powerful nations (America, Russia, China and Britain) was held in **1954**. They decided to **divide Vietnam in two**. North Vietnam would be ruled by the Communists headed by Ho Chi Minh and South Vietnam by a president supported by the United States. They also decided that in two years time (**1956**) Vietnam could have a **general election** and decide on its own leader.

However when the time came for elections, president Diem of South Vietnam **refused to hold them** as he knew Ho Chi Minh would win. The USA supported South Vietnam in refusing to hold the election. Ho Chi Minh, the leader of North Vietnam, then turned to China and Russia as allies. China and Russia were both very large, powerful Communist countries. This meant South Vietnam was supported by the capitalist USA and North Vietnam was supported by communist China and Russia.

In **1964**, in the Gulf of Tonkin, an American submarine was fired at within North Vietnamese waters, and **America finally declared war** on Vietnam. America wanted a quick and effective war so it attacked using new technologies such as helicopters, napalm, Agent Orange and mass bombing

Australia became involved in the war in **1962** when **30 military advisers** were sent to help the USA in South Vietnam. We finally withdrew support in **1972**. In the beginning most Australians supported the war. However, by **1972**, soldiers were being welcomed home with signs that read '*babykillers*', and a **welcome home parade** wasn't celebrated until **1986**, some 14 years later.

FILL IN THE GAPS IN THIS TIMELINE

200 YEARS	Vietnam was a colony of France
1954	
1954	Vietnam divided into 2 – North and South Vietnam
1956	
1962	Australia...
1964	War officially declared
1972	

1986	Vietnam veterans welcome home parade
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TIMELINE OF AUSTRALIA IN THE VIETNAM WAR ERA

YEAR	EVENT
1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir Robert Menzies becomes prime Minister of Australia.
1950	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister Menzies tries to pass the Communist Party Dissolution Bill
1951	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANZUS Treaty is made • Referendum to ban the Communist party fails
1954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEATO Alliance is formed • Petrov Affair
1962	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam arrive in Vietnam.
1963	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) becomes president of the USA
1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conscription is introduced for 20-year-old males under the National Service Act (1964). • The Australian Government offers to send ground troops to South Vietnam.
1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first official Australian troops sent to Vietnam • A Poll finds 56% of Australians are in favour of the war in Vietnam.
1966	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Menzies retires and Harold Holt (Liberal) becomes Prime Minister of Australia • Holt visits the United States to discuss the war with US President, Lyndon Baines Johnson. In a speech Holt adopts the slogan '<i>All the way with LBJ</i>'. • He announces the number of Australians in Vietnam will increase • 18 August—Battle of Long Tan, • October—US President Johnson visits Australia.
1967	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Holt drowns • Poll finds 62% of Australians are in favour of continuing the war in Vietnam.
1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Gorton (Liberal) becomes Prime Minister of Australia • Communist forces in South Vietnam launch the Tet Offensive, it makes people doubt whether the USA is going to win the war • Prime Minister, John Gorton, announces that Australia will not increase the number of troops or money it sends to Vietnam. • The National Service Act is changed so draft resisters face a two-year jail term • Massacre of civilians by US soldiers at My Lai village.
1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll finds 55% of Australians want our troops brought home from Vietnam • Ho Chi Minh dies in Hanoi, aged 79. • 25,000 US troops withdrawn from South Vietnam. Prime Minister Gorton advises any further withdrawals will include Australian forces.
1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 May— Anti-Vietnam War protesters stage the first moratorium marches in Australian cities 70,000 in Melbourne, and about 120,000 throughout Australia. • 18 September—Second moratorium: 100,000 march in Australian cities; over 300 people are arrested.
1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William (Billy) McMahon (Liberal) becomes Prime Minister of Australia • 30 June—Third and final large anti-war rally in Australia; 110,000 people demonstrate against the war in Australian cities.
1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gough Whitlam (Labor) voted in as Prime Minister of Australia • USA and North Vietnam sign a peace agreement

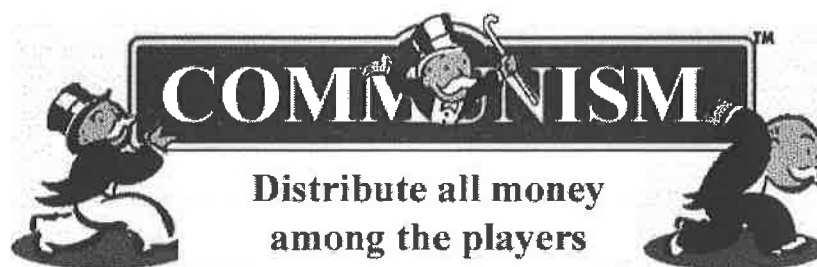
- Australia's military commitment in South Vietnam ends
- Conscription ends, draft resisters are released from jail

To understand the war in Vietnam and the reasons Australia got involved you need to understand what **COMMUNISM**, **CAPITALISM** and **THE COLD WAR** are:

COMMUNISM (sometimes called Socialism) is the belief that worker's revolutions will overthrow the people who own all the wealth. This will give control of ALL wealth and property to all the people to be shared equally between them. The idea behind Communism was that there would be no rich or poor people, that everyone would have equal amounts of wealth and share in the ownership of the government. Communism refers to any system of government in which a single political party holds power and the state controls the economy

The man who created the idea of Communism in 1896, was Karl Marx. His idea was that eventually people would be able to share everything and there would be no need for Governments. In reality this never happened and some Communist governments were ruled by individuals who used the chance to control every aspect of the people's lives. In the 1950s over half of the world's population lived in Communist countries. The main Communist countries were the USSR (United Soviet Socialist Republic) and China. **Russia became the Communist USSR after a revolution in 1917 and China became Communist in 1949.** The USSR was dissolved in 1991.

Communist countries today include China, North Korea, Vietnam, Cuba and Laos.



	Residence Castro	Square of heavenly peace	Red Square	Class Struggle
	Distribute \$1000	Distribute \$1100	Distribute \$1200	

CAPITALISM is an economic system in which wealth is owned and operated by individuals and companies for their own private profit. This is the opposite of Communism where wealth is shared equally between people. In reality, just like Communism, pure Capitalism does not lead to a happy and productive society and countries have found it is essential to make laws about wages and hours of work and also for governments to own and operate some things, like roads, for the benefit of everyone.

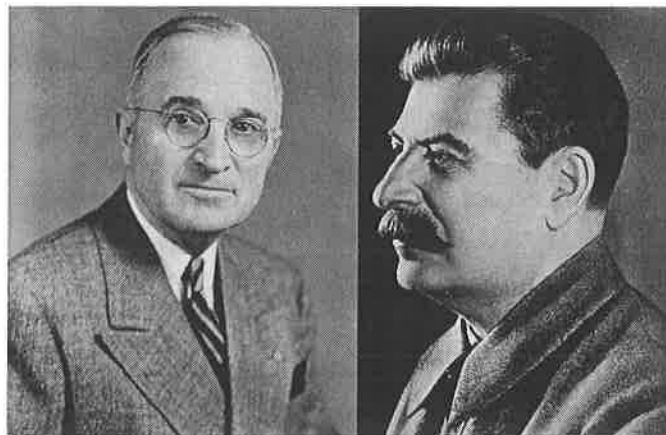
THE COLD WAR

After World War 2 the world became divided into two opposing sides, **CAPITALIST** countries and **COMMUNIST** countries. Even though USSR and America were allies in WW2, the beliefs of their governments were so different that they became the leaders in an ongoing conflict between Communism and Capitalism. This tension between the two countries led to a war of words and actions that always seemed to be on the edge of World War 3. It became known as **THE COLD WAR**. This war of beliefs led to many smaller wars (such as in Korea and Vietnam), some major incidents, (such as the Bay of Pigs and the Berlin Wall) and was characterised by the stockpiling of nuclear missiles and the race to put the first man on the moon. The largest problem of the Cold War was its constant potential to end in a showdown between the 2 superpowers, using nuclear weapons with the capability of world-wide destruction



CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. US TANKS FACE SOVIET TANKS AT THE BERLIN WALL

Because the **United States** was concerned about the spread of communism President Harry Truman put in place a foreign policy based on the containment of communism called the Truman Doctrine (or **CONTAINMENT** policy). America saw it's role in the world as being to **CONTAIN** Communism so it would not spread.

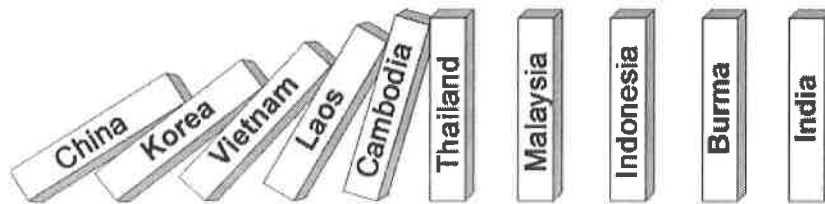


PRESIDENT TRUMAN OF THE U.S. AND JOSEF STALIN OF THE SOVIET UNION

THE DOMINO THEORY

The United States felt it had to contain communism. The U.S. president after Truman, Eisenhower made it clear why when he explained his domino effect theory. This is the idea that if one country becomes communist, then all the countries around it will follow, like a stack of dominos, and eventually the world will become communist.

"Finally, you have broader considerations that might follow what you would call the "falling domino" principle. You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly." **Dwight D, Eisenhower 1954**



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who created the idea of Communism?

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2. What is capitalism?

.....
.....

3. Who or what controls all property and wealth in a communist state?

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4. In your own words explain what the Cold War was?

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.....
.....

5. What was the common name for the Truman Doctrine

.....

6. Why did the U.S think they needed to contain communism?

.....

VIETNAM

At the beginning of this booklet you read that Vietnam had been owned and run by the French until WW2. Japan then took over Vietnam until it was defeated by the Americans at the end of the war. In the meantime the Vietnamese wanted to run their own country and many rebel groups had formed. The most important of these was the Indochinese Communist Party led by Ho Chi Minh. At the end of WW2 France reclaimed Vietnam and the Vietnamese people went to war against them winning a major victory at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954. However the Vietnamese had no money or real power.

Vietnam was then divided into two. The North was run by the Communist Ho Chi Minh and the South was supported by the Americans.

Ho Chi Minh, the leader of North Vietnam, turned to China and Russia as allies. China and Russia were both very large, powerful Communist countries. This meant South Vietnam was supported by the capitalist USA and North Vietnam was supported by communist China and Russia.

America saw the war in Vietnam as a battle between Communism and Capitalism. The Vietnamese people saw it as a war of independence.

“...If we withdrew from Vietnam, the Communists would control Vietnam. Pretty soon Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Malaya would go.” U.S. President John F. Kennedy, September 2, 1963

“...If this little nation goes down the drain...., ask yourself, what’s going to happen to all the other little nations?” US President Lyndon Johnson, August 2, 1965



HO CHI MINH

Ho Chi Minh was the Communist leader of the North Vietnamese. He is still honoured as a great hero in Vietnam today. Ho spent his early life trying to get rid of the French, Japanese and Chinese from his country and then led the North Vietnamese people against the USA. Ho Chi Minh adopted Communism because he saw it as the way for the Vietnamese people to have a share of the wealth that foreign invaders had taken from them. He also used his Communism to form alliances with China and the USSR. Ho died in 1969 while his country was still at war.

AUSTRALIA

WHAT DID AUSTRALIA DO BECAUSE OF THE FEAR OF COMMUNISM?

The Australian Government's defence policy has always been based on the fear of invasion and the assumption that we need a more powerful friend (ally) to help protect us.

Before WW2 we feared invasion from Asia. This led to the White Australia Policy. After the war we followed the politics of the Cold War and became very concerned about the threat of Communism or the "Red Menace".

Until World War 2 we had relied on Britain as a powerful friend, however Britain's defeat in Singapore in WW2 and its declining world power after the war meant we turned to America as our protector. The Australian Government tried to manoeuvre the U.S.A. into an alliance and invited them to set up bases in Australia.

FORWARD DEFENCE

The Australian Government followed American policy making very closely and was heavily influenced by the Domino theory. Just as America adopted the policy of containing Communism (CONTAINMENT), Australia adopted the policy of **FORWARD DEFENCE**. Forward Defence, is basically the aim to "fight them over there so we don't have to fight them here". The Australian Government argued that, if they helped their allies to fight Communism overseas, it would never get to Australia's shores.

Sir Rober Menzies wrote in 1970 *"My Government's defence policy was one of forward defence: to keep any war as far away as possible from our own shores"*



Cartoon by William G. Rushton, 1966. Fighting against communism well beyond Australian borders was called 'forward defence'. It was a policy that many Australians became critical of as the anti-war movement gained support.

THE ANZUS TREATY 1951

- In September 1951 the United States, Australia and New Zealand signed the ANZUS treaty (the name is made up of the letters from the countries names).
- The treaty meant that each country would assist the other in the event of an attack.
- The ANZUS Treaty still exists and was used by some to justify Australia's involvement in the 2003 Iraq War

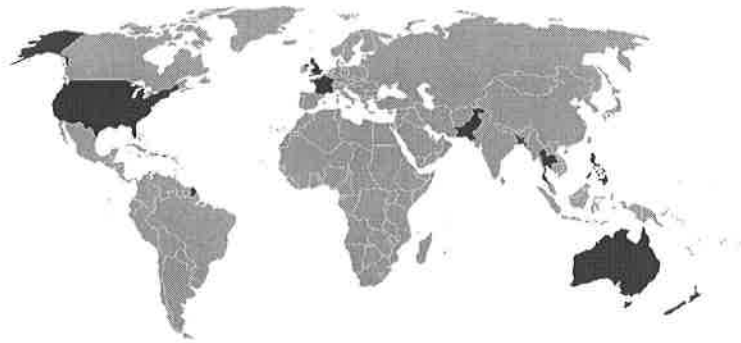


1951 NZ, Australia and US conclude Anzus Pact, agreeing to unite against any common security danger

SEATO 1954

South East Asian Treaty Organisation

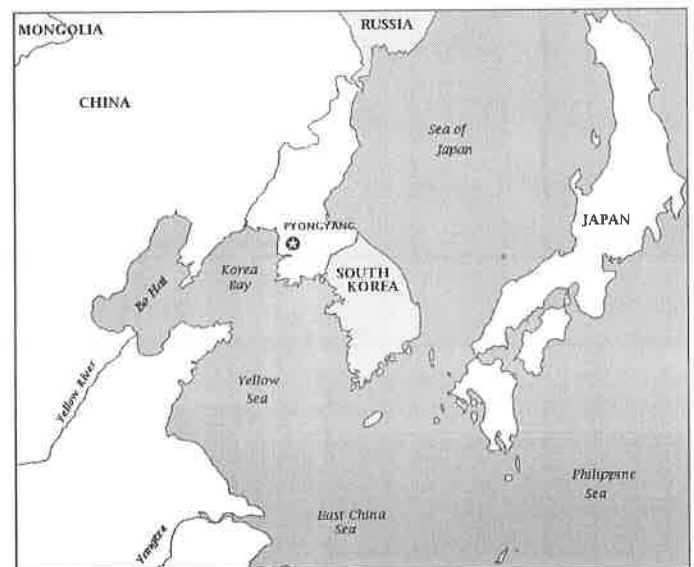
Signed by the USA, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Pakistan. This treaty agreed to place South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia under their protection. They agreed to meet together if there was an armed attack on any one of them and, if all the countries agreed, to take action 'at the invitation' of the country under attack



SEATO Countries (dark)

THE KOREAN WAR 1950 - 1953

After Japan was defeated at the end of WW2 the U.S.S.R. occupied North Korea and the U.S. occupied the South. Due to this the North became Communist and the South became Capitalist. In 1949 China, which borders North Korea, had a revolution and became Communist. Then in 1950 North Korean forces invaded South Korea. This meant the U.S. was bound to get involved because it's containment policy meant it had to stop Communism from spreading



The U.S. sought United Nations support to fight the invading communists and the UN voted to send a multinational task force to support South Korea. 15 other nations joined the U.S. in this fight, including Australia. Australia voted to support the U.S. because it wanted the U.S. to support Australia in return.

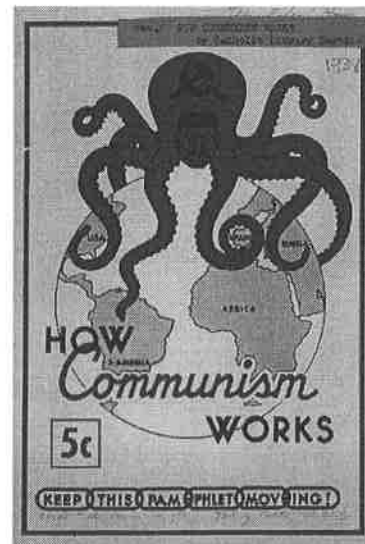
Australia sent an aircraft carrier, two destroyers a squadron of the RAAF and two army battalions. The war ended in 1953 leaving Korea divided at the same place as when the war began. Over 300 Australians were killed in the Korean War.

The Korean War further convinced Australia that the fear of Communism was real and that they needed a strong ally to help protect Australia.



Australians in the Korean War

THE RED MENACE



In 1949 **CHINA** had become Communist. Australia also believed that **Indonesia** was likely to become Communist and there were strong Communist movements in **Laos, Malaysia** and **Thailand**.

By 1963, British, Malaysian, Australian and New Zealand forces were engaged in a low-level conflict with Indonesia which was led by a pro Communist President. In the same year the United Nations handed control of **Western New Guinea (now Irian Jaya)** to **Indonesia**. It looked like there could be a Communist power on the borders of Australian territory.

The **Malayan Emergency** was declared on 18 June 1948, after three estate managers were murdered by guerrillas of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP). The situation deteriorated further with the assassination of the British High Commissioner in October 1951.

Australia's involvement began in 1950 and lasted until 1963. Australian forces served in Malaya at the request of the British Government and because of our commitment to fight Communism in South-East Asia. Lasting 13 years, the Malayan Emergency was the longest continuous military commitment in Australia's history. Thirty-nine Australian servicemen were killed in Malaya, and 27 were wounded.

Australian troops in Indonesia and Malaysia gained a lot of experience in jungle warfare that was excellent preparation for the type of warfare they met in Vietnam

Complete the following table:

PLACE	DATE	WHAT HAPPENED TO ADD TO AUSTRALIA'S FEAR OF COMMUNISM
CHINA		
KOREA		
INDONESIA		
MALAYSIA		

TOPIC TEST NO. 1

TOPIC: Australia's response to the threat of Communism in Asia post WWII

QUESTION

1. ANZUS stands for:
 - A.....
 - N.....
 - Z.....
 - U.....
 - S.....
2. SEATO was signed in:
 - i. 1950
 - ii. 1951
 - iii. 1953
 - iv. 1954
3. Which two major powers were Communist by 1950?
 - i.
 - ii.
4. Name 3 wars Australians were involved in against communism in the 1950's?
 - i. Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia
 - ii. Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia
 - iii. Russia, Vietnam, Korea
 - iv. Russia, North Vietnam, Korea

5. Between which years was Australia involved in the Vietnam War?
- i. 1945-1955
 - ii. 1955-1966
 - iii. 1962-1972
 - iv. 1952-1962
6. What was the purpose of the treaties signed by Australia during this period?

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7. What was the Australian policy towards communism in the 1950-60's?
- i. Containment Theory
 - ii. Domino Theory
 - iii. Forward Defense
 - iv. Capitalist Theory

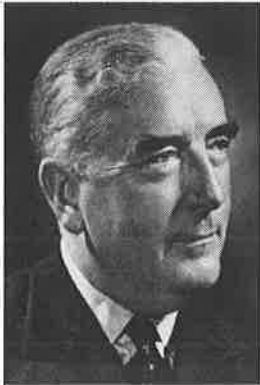
WHAT HAPPENED INSIDE AUSTRALIA BECAUSE OF THE FEAR OF COMMUNISM?

ATTEMPT TO BAN THE COMMUNIST PARTY 1950 – 51

In 1949 Sir Robert (Bob) Menzies was voted into power as the leader of the newly created conservative Liberal Party. Many people voted for Menzies because of his strong opposition to Communism.

In April 1950 Menzies tried to introduce a law into parliament that would ban the Communist Party. Under the proposed law:

- The Communist Party would become illegal
- Anyone who was a Communist would not be able to work in Government jobs or on the wharves
- Once a person was accused of being Communist they had to prove they were innocent



Robert Menzies



The proposed law outraged many people who saw it as undemocratic. Australia's justice system was based on the principle of 'innocent until proven guilty'. This law meant people were guilty until they could prove themselves innocent. The Communist Party challenged the bill in the High Court. The court declared the proposed law unconstitutional (it could not be passed because it was against the constitution).

Menzies responded to the court ruling by calling a REFERENDUM to try to change the constitution. This caused a lot of argument and divisions in Australian society. Groups opposing the ban included the Communist Party, the Labor Party and Civil Rights groups. Groups for banning the Communist Party were the Liberal Party, most of the media and the Catholic Church.

The referendum was held on 22 September 1951. The proposed law was narrowly rejected with 2,317,927 votes for and 2,370,009 votes against.

Because the vote was so close the arguments it created continued to cause divisions in Australian society

THE PETROV AFFAIR 1954

Having failed to win the referendum, Menzies stepped up the hunt for 'reds under the beds'. The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) was taking advantage of its powers and watching people and politicians, tapping phones and confiscating passports from suspected communists. The Liberal Party, under Robert Menzies, continued to do all it could to heighten those fears, as it was an effective way of keeping power. In 1954, there was a federal election ahead and Menzies needed a ploy to help him keep his party in government.

In 1951 Herbert (Bert) Evatt, , became leader of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) and the Opposition. In the election called for 1954, Evatt's Labor Party appeared likely to win. Then, in April 1954, just before the election, Menzies produced a communist spy, Vladimir Petrov, a Russian diplomat who had asked for **POLITICAL ASYLUM** in Australia.

Petrov had worked for the Soviet spy organisation, since 1933. When he **defected**, Petrov brought with him allegations of spying by Soviet agents in Australia. Ten days later, Menzies made the announcement that a Soviet spy had defected to Australia and the country went into uproar. The story made even bigger headlines when Petrov was allowed to stay, but Soviet officials tried to take his wife back to the USSR. They forced her on board a plane, but when it made a fuel stop in Darwin Federal Police boarded the plane, arrested the two Soviets and rescued Mrs Petrov. It was huge news at the time. The newspapers were full of pictures of a frightened, crying Mrs Petrov being led onto the plane in Sydney - it was sensational!



Robert Menzies also announced there would be a royal commission investigation into 'espionage activities' in Australia. Only ten days before the election, the royal commission began to hear evidence about the supposed spy ring in Australia and allegations of Labor support for Communism. The Liberals won the election by a narrow majority. Eventually not one criminal charge resulted from the royal commission and there was no evidence found of Labor's association with Communism.

Whether or not the defection and the evidence of a spy ring were real, it had a huge impact on Australian society.

After the election was over, the Labor Party began to fall apart under the strain of the continuing rumours. The ALP was split internally into two parties. The Democratic Labor Party (DLP) was very anti-communist while the existing ALP was so weakened it was kept out of power for the next 18 year.

IMPACT: The Communist Party Dissolution Bill and the Petrov affair heightened fears about Communism in Australia. They also meant the Labor Party split in two and did not get voted into power until 1972

AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM: ALL THE WAY WITH LBJ

In 1954 the French had lost control of Vietnam. A ceasefire agreement was signed, and Vietnam was divided. The communist Viet Minh controlled the North and a government friendly to the Americans controlled the South. In 1956 the South Vietnamese Government backed by the U.S. refused to hold the promised general elections and the situation deteriorated from then on



Australia had already sent a handful of advisers in 1962, but in 1965 the government decided to send a battalion of combat troops and the HMAS Sydney to Vietnam. There is no evidence that South Vietnam asked Australia to join the war, a 'request' from South Vietnam was manufactured so the government could become involved. This 'request' was sent after the decision was made to send troops. One of the reasons given by Prime Minister Menzies in committing Australian combat troops to Vietnam was that we would be fulfilling a commitment not to Vietnam, but to the United States, which needed support for its involvement in the war

The Labor Opposition condemned the move, although there was support at this stage from a majority of Australians.

'Our objective should be ... to achieve such an habitual closeness of relations with the United States and sense of mutual alliance that in our time and need, after we have shown all reasonable restraint and good sense, the United States would have little option but to respond as we would want.' 'The problem of Vietnam is one, it seems, where we could ... pick up a lot of credit with the United States, for this problem is one to which the United States is deeply committed and in which it genuinely feels it is

carrying too much of the load, not so much the physical load the bulk of which the United States is prepared to bear, as the moral load.'

Australian Ambassador to the U.S.A.

'We do not think it is a wise decision. We do not think it is a timely decision. We do not think it will help the fight against Communism. On the contrary, we believe it will harm that fight in the long term. We do not believe it will promote the welfare of the people of Vietnam. On the contrary, we believe it will prolong and deepen the suffering of that unhappy people so that Australia's very name may become a term of reproach among them. We do not believe that it represents a wise or even intelligent response to the challenge of Chinese power Our men will be fighting the largely indigenous Viet Cong in their own home territory. They will be fighting in the midst of a largely indifferent, if not resentful, and frightened population. They will be fighting at the request of, and in support, and, presumably, under the direction of an unstable, inefficient, partially corrupt military regime which lacks even the semblance of being, or becoming, democratically based.'

Arthur Calwell. Leader of the Opposition (Labor)

In 1966 the Liberal government was re-elected after a very close election. Harold Holt was the leader of this party as he replaced the retired Prime Minister Menzies.



When US president Lyndon Baines Johnson visited Australia in 1966 he met with Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt and was greeted with wildly cheering crowds carrying signs saying "All the Way With LBJ".

President Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) arrived in Australia in October 1966. He was the first American Head of State to arrive in Australia and so he was given a welcome usually reserved for royalty. Prime Minister Holt declared to LBJ "you have an admiring friend, a staunch friend that will be all the way with LBJ". Thousands welcomed him, but thousands opposed to the war were also out in the streets with banners demanding an end to the war in Vietnam.

Harold Holt was famous for his quote 'All the way with LBJ' This statement sums up the attitude of most Australians at the time and it was the basis of Australia's defence policy. As the war progressed, Australia supplied more forces. We sent support units like artillery to back up the infantry. NZ also sent artillery units to Vietnam. At the war's height Australia had 3800 soldiers, sailors and airmen in Vietnam. We suffered 424 dead and almost 3000 wounded, mostly by land mines and small arms fire



AUSTRALIAN TROOPS ARRIVING IN VIETNAM

TOPIC TEST NO. 2

TOPIC: Australia's response to the threat of Communism in Australia

QUESTION

1. The Communist Party Dissolution Bill was introduced which year?
 - i.
2. The Communist Party Dissolution Bill was introduced by Prime Minister:
 - i. Robert Menzies
 - ii. Harold Holt
 - iii. Lyndon B Johnson
 - iv. Arthur Calwell

3. What was the purpose of The Communist Party Dissolution Bill?

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4. Which political party in Australia was accused of being communist sympathizers?

i.

5. What is a Referendum?

.....

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6. What was the outcome of The Communist Party Dissolution Bill Referendum?

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7. What were Vladimir and Evdokia Petrov seeking in Australia in 1954?

- i. Refugee Status
 - ii. Political Asylum
 - iii. Media Coverage
 - iv. Communist Sympathy
8. Read the following statements concerning the Petrov Affair:
- Statement X:** *The Petrov Affair increased fear of the threat of communism in Australia in the 1950's and served to enhance fears for Australia's security*
- Statement Y:** *The Petrov Affair resulted in a Royal Inquiry into the presence of a soviet spy ring operating in Australia but no such spy ring was found*
- i. Statement X is true and Y is false
 - ii. Statement Y is true and X is false
 - iii. Statement X and Y are true
 - iv. Statement X and Y are false
9. What was the impact of The Communist Party Dissolution Bill and the Petrov Affair in Australian politics in the 1950's?
-
-

DIFFERENT VIEWS ON AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE VIETNAM WAR

In the beginning most Australians supported the war. Support for the war came from:

- Business and the media,
- Older Australians who believed young people should support their country as they had in WW2,
- The RSL
- Conservative political parties (Country, Liberal and DLP parties)
- The Catholic Church

Groups opposing the war included:

- The Labor Party
- Religious groups
- Trade unionists
- Academics
- Young men affected by conscription.

From within these groups began to form and organise, some became prominent and formed branches across Australia. Two key groups were the **Youth Campaign Against Conscription (YCAC)** formed in late 1964 and closely linked to the **Australian Labor Party (ALP)**, and **Save Our Sons (SOS)** founded in Sydney in 1965 by "mothers joining together to voice their opposition to the conscription of their sons for slaughter in Vietnam".



The protest movement built slowly as anti-war groups began working together. The introduction of conscription was a key issue that turned many people against the war. By 1969 those who opposed

the war had increased in number and become sufficiently well organised to coordinate Australia-wide mass protests, known as the Moratorium Marches of 1970–71

Opposition to the war had 4 main causes:

- 1) **people saw the war as none of our business – there was a view that it should remain a civil war between North and South Vietnam**
- 2) **From 1968 onwards it became obvious that winning the war would be almost impossible. Why let Australian troops die for nothing was the attitude of many people**
- 3) **The media – Vietnam has been called the first television war and every night people were able to watch the horror unfold on their TV screens. We were supposed to be the ‘good guys’**
- 4) **The issue of conscription. The idea of a birthday lottery seemed very unfair to many people**

The first protests against the Vietnam War were usually peaceful affairs:

- On Hiroshima Day on 1964 20,000 people marched against the war in Sydney
- In November 1964 a ‘Youth campaign Against Conscription’ was started
- In June 1965 a group of mothers started the ‘Save Our Sons’ campaign against conscription
- In 1965 to 1966 some groups conducted all night vigils, vocal demonstrations and burning of draft cards



By the mid 1960s protest had become more outspoken and radical. Violence was a feature of some of them. When U.S President Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) visited Australia in 1966 most people supported him however there were some protestors who threw missiles at his car and lay on the road in front of it. NSW Premier Askin’s comment about these protestors was ‘run the bastards over’.

The police reaction to increased protests was often violent and this led to more violence from the protestors. There were sit ins and American company office windows were smashed. Some radical university students even began collecting money to send to North Vietnam.

However by 1969 there were many people who opposed the war. The Tet offensive in 1968 had convinced many people the war was unwinnable and the constant media coverage turned people away from the horror of war. These people wanted protest peacefully, the **Moratorium Movement** began and the call went out for large, peaceful rallies.

The Moratorium Movement demanded

- 1) the withdrawal of all Australian troops from Vietnam**
- 2) An immediate end to conscription**

Large rallies were held throughout Australia. The largest, on May 8th 1970, was held to coincide with protests in the USA, just days after the killings of four students protesting against the war by the National Guard at Kent State University. The demonstration in Melbourne, led by Labor member of Parliament Jim Cairns, had over 100,000 people taking to the streets in Melbourne alone. Across Australia, it was estimated that 200,000 people were involved. A second Moratorium, attracting smaller crowds, was held in September 1970, and a third in June 1971.

Despite the eventual strength and widespread nature of the anti-war movement, its effectiveness in Australia is open to question. The Australian Government had followed the United States lead in Vietnam since the early 1960s and continued to do so until the last Australian troops were withdrawn in 1972. When the United States began removing troops from Vietnam, Australia followed suit, irrespective of the well attended protests of 1970 and 1971

CONSCRIPTION

Conscription was a controversial issue and it continued to arouse passions during the Vietnam War. Prime Minister Menzies reintroduced conscription in 1964. When they reached their 20th birthday, all males had to register for National Service. Men were then chosen by a birth date lottery to serve for 2 years; there was a 1 in 10 chance of being selected.

In 1966, new Prime Minister Harold Holt announced that conscripts would be sent to fight in Vietnam. In May 1966, the first conscripted soldier was killed in action. Early protests against conscription had come from religious groups and members of the Australian Communist party.

Conscription soon became a focus of the anti-war movement, with protest organisations urging men not to register and to resist the call-up or 'draft'. Exemption from National Service could be granted if a person could prove that he was a pacifist (a person who opposes in principle all war or violence) then he could lodge a conscientious objection to service. The consequence for others was a two year jail sentence.

As the war hotted up in the next few years more Australians died, half of them conscripts or 'Nashos' (short for National Service), opposition to the war grew to the point where, in the Vietnam Moratoriums of 1970 and 1971, the streets of the major cities were closed as over 200 000 people demonstrated against the war.



Support for the War

Support came mainly from the older generation. The men and women who had lived through the Second World War saw America as the big brother who had saved us from the Japanese when the British could not. They expected that the new generation would 'do its bit' as they had done. The Returned Services League (RSL) became outspoken about the anti war movement, calling them 'long-haired layabouts' and 'the great unwashed'. Besides the RSL, both the Liberal and the Country Party (today called the National Party) were supportive of the war. They saw foreign policy as very much tied to the United States, and they thought Australia needed to pay its insurance policy and help the United States in case one day we needed help.

HOW PUBLIC OPINION CHANGED

Public opinion polls on attitudes to the war in Vietnam (rounded numbers)

POLL DATE	WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT %	BRING BACK THE TROOPS%	UNDECIDED %
Sept 1965	56	28	16
Sept 1966	61	27	12
May 1967	62	24	14
Oct 1968	54	38	8
Dec 1968	49	37	14
Apr 1969	48	40	12
Aug 1969	40	55	5
Oct 1969	39	51	10
Oct 1970	42	50	8

Using the source above, describe how public attitudes towards the war changed over time.

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List the key reasons for the change in public attitudes to the war

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TOPIC TEST 3

1. Consider the following statements about the 1950 Communist Dissolution Act.

I Prime Minister Menzies introduced the Bill to parliament.

II The High Court overturned the Act because it was unconstitutional.

- (A) Both statements are true.
- (B) Both statements are false.
- (C) Statement I is true and Statement II is false.
- (D) Statement I is false and Statement II is true.

2. Which Australian Prime Ministers supported Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War?

- (A) Ben Chifley and Robert Menzies
- (B) Robert Menzies and Harold Holt
- (C) Harold Holt and Gough Whitlam
- (D) Gough Whitlam and John Gorton

3. During the Vietnam War, a small number of young men refused to fight because of their moral or religious beliefs. These people were known as:

- (A) combatants
- (B) communists.
- (C) national servicemen.
- (D) conscientious objectors.

4. Which Prime Minister attempted to ban the Australian Communist Party?

- (A) Harold Holt
- (B) Bob Hawke
- (C) John Howard
- (D) Robert Menzies

5. Who overturned the Communist Party Dissolution Bill?

- (A) The Senate
- (B) The High Court
- (C) The Governor-General
- (D) The House of Representatives

6. What was the main outcome of the Petrov Affair?

- (A) The Petrovs were deported.
- (B) The Soviet Union admitted to spying.
- (C) The Prime Minister lost the 1954 election.
- (D) The Australian Labor Party split into two parties.

7. Which political group supported the referendum to ban the Communist Party?

- (A) The Australian Labor Party
- (B) The Democratic Labor Party
- (C) The Socialist Party of Australia
- (D) The Liberal Country Party coalition

8. Why did the government introduce conscription in 1964?

- (A) To reduce the number of unemployed people
- (B) To form part of the government's defence policy
- (C) To reduce the number of soldiers dying in overseas conflicts
- (D) To counter protests against involvement in overseas conflicts

9. Which of the following best describes a conscientious objector?

- (A) Someone who marches in a moratorium
- (B) Someone who joins the army but objects to the war
- (C) Someone who is too scared to fight for their country
- (D) Someone who refuses military call-up on moral grounds

Question 10 (5 marks)

Why is the Petrov Affair considered an important event in Australia's response to the threat of communism?

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11. What is the chronological order of the events in Australia's response to the threat of communism?

- (A) The Vietnam War, the referendum to ban the Communist Party, the Korean War begins, the Petrov Affair
- (B) The Petrov Affair, the Korean War begins, the Vietnam War, the referendum to ban the Communist Party
- (C) The referendum to ban the Communist Party, the Petrov Affair, the Korean War begins, the Vietnam War
- (D) The Korean War begins, the referendum to ban the Communist Party, the Petrov Affair, the Vietnam War

12. Why did Australia sign the ANZUS treaty?

- (A) To secure the assistance of member nations in the event of an attack
- (B) To link Australia to Asian countries opposed to communist activity
- (C) To declare the Communist Party of Australia an illegal organisation
- (D) To provide aid to South East Asian countries in the form of technical assistance

Source A shows the results of public opinion polls on whether Australian soldiers should remain in Vietnam

Month/Year	9/65	9/66	5/67	10/68	12/68	4/69	8/69	10/69	10/70
Continue	56%	60%	62%	54%	49%	48%	40%	39%	43%
Bring back	28%	27%	24%	38%	37%	40%	55%	51%	45%
Undecided	16%	13%	14%	8%	14%	12%	5%	10%	12%

13. According to Source A which statement best describes the attitudes of Australians to the war in Vietnam from 1965 to 1970?

- (A) Australians were divided over the issue.
- (B) The majority of Australians were undecided about the issue.
- (C) The majority of Australians were in favour of continuing our involvement
- (D) There had been a consistent decrease in those favouring troop withdrawal.

14. In a referendum, which group votes to change the constitution?

- (A) State Parliament
- (B) Federal Parliament
- (C) The Australian public
- (D) The High Court of Australia

15. Which of the following best explains why Australia was involved in the Korean War?

- (A) To stop the spread of communism
- (B) Fear of South Korea threatening Australia
- (C) As part of Australia's commitment to APEC
- (D) As part of Australia's commitment to UNESCO

16. Why did Australia join SEATO?

- (A) As a defensive alliance to ensure Australia's security
- (B) As a way to improve living standards in South East Asia
- (C) As a military alliance between Australia and the United States
- (D) As an overseas aid program providing assistance to South East Asia

17. What is the correct sequence for these events?

- (A) Referendum to ban the Communist Party is defeated, World War II ends, the Petrov Affair, the High Court rejects the Communist Party Dissolution Bill.
- (B) The Petrov Affair, referendum to ban the Communist Party is defeated, the High Court rejects the Communist Party Dissolution Bill, World War II ends.
- (C) World War II ends, the High Court rejects the Communist Party Dissolution Bill, referendum to ban the Communist Party is defeated, the Petrov Affair.
- (D) The High Court rejects the Communist Party Dissolution Bill, the Petrov Affair, World War II ends, referendum to ban the Communist Party is defeated.

ANSWERS (don't cheat try to answer them first)

1A, 2B, 3D, 4D, 5B, 6D, 7D, 8B, 9D, 10 (check with your teacher) 11 D, 12A, 13A, 14C, 15A, 16A, 17C

EXTENDED RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Use the scaffold on the next few pages to practice your extended response answers. Use your notes and text to find information. When you are finished hand it to your teacher for feedback

Question 18 (15 marks)

Explain the change in attitudes to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War during the 1960s and 1970s.

In your answer, you should refer to:

- attitudes at the beginning of the war
- differing views about Australia's involvement
- How and why these views changed over time.

The following is an essay *format*. It gives you a structure that you can use in any essay. Structure is an **ESSENTIAL** part of writing an essay. It means your work will always be logical and relevant. These are always key assessment criteria. When structuring each paragraph make sure you use the following plan:

PEEL

P = POINT

This is your key topic sentence. It is the subject of your paragraph.

E = EXPLAIN

This means explain your point more clearly. A few more sentences to explain what you mean in your key point

E = EXAMPLE or EVIDENCE

This is where you put in an example or some facts and figures to support what you said in your key point

L = LINK

A brief sentence to link this paragraph to the next. For example *“However there were other reasons Australian’s attitude to the war in Vietnam changed”*

QUESTION: *make sure you understand exactly what it is asking!!*

INTRODUCTION:

The subject of the question. Reword the question and give your opinion on the topic if it is asked for:

Brief summary of the main points you will be making in your paragraphs to support and explain your subject. These will become your topic sentences for each paragraph.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

PARAGRAPH ONE:

POINT: *Topic sentence. Main point 1 from your introduction.*

EXPLAIN: *Explain what you mean by your key point in more detail:*

EXAMPLE or EVIDENCE: *support your point with an example or some facts and figures*

LINK: *a brief sentence that links this paragraph to the next*

PARAGRAPH TWO:

POINT: *Topic sentence. Main point 2 from your introduction.*

EXPLAIN: *Explain what you mean by your key point in more detail:*

EXAMPLE or EVIDENCE: *support your point with an example or some facts and figures*

LINK: *a brief sentence that links this paragraph to the next*

PARAGRAPH THREE:

POINT: *Topic sentence. Main point 3 from your introduction.*

EXPLAIN: *Explain what you mean by your key point in more detail:*

EXAMPLE or EVIDENCE: *support your point with an example or some facts and figures*

LINK: *a brief sentence that links this paragraph to the next*

PARAGRAPH FOUR:

POINT: *Topic sentence. Main point 4 from your introduction.*

EXPLAIN: *Explain what you mean by your key point in more detail:*

EXAMPLE or EVIDENCE: *support your point with an example or some facts and figures*

LINK: *a brief sentence that links this paragraph to the next*

PARAGRAPH FIVE:

POINT: *Topic sentence. Main point 5 from your introduction.*

EXPLAIN: *Explain what you mean by your key point in more detail:*

EXAMPLE or EVIDENCE: *support your point with an example or some facts and figures*

LINK: *a brief sentence that links this paragraph to the next (if this is your last paragraph this step may not be necessary)*

CONCLUSION: *simply restate the subject of the essay and your position or argument (if the question called for it). You can give a VERY BRIEF summary of some of your key points as well.*