

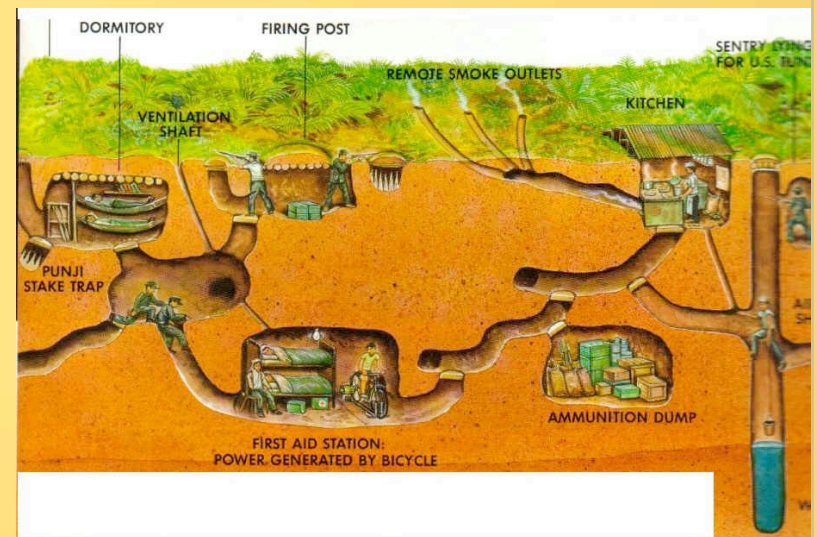
# EVENTS LEADING TO WAR

- Vietnam under foreign control since 1850's (French, then Japanese)
- Viet Minh (nationalist group) gained support during WWII (JAP occupation)
- 1945: Ho Chi Minh (Viet Minh officer) takes over north part of Vietnam
- 1946: FR attempted to take back Vietnam
  - USSR, China train/support Viet Minh
  - US sends aid to France ("containment" – stop communism!)



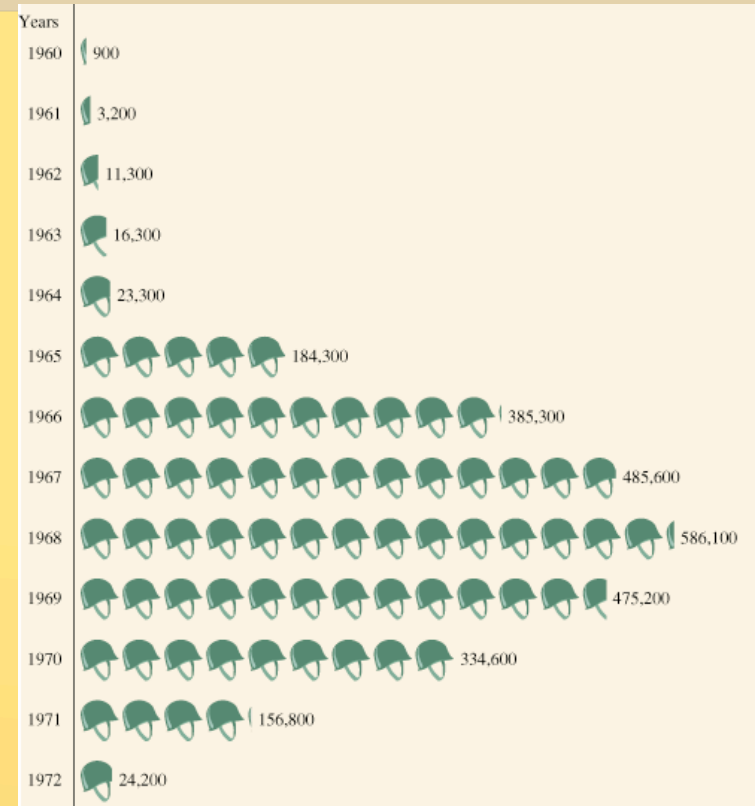
# VIETNAM WAR BEGINS

- FR surrender → Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia granted independence
- Vietnam divided at 17<sup>th</sup> parallel
  - North: Comm., Leader: Ho Chi Minh
  - South: Anti-Comm., Leader: Ngo Dinh Diem
- 1954: Viet Cong (comm. in SV) rose up against gov.
  - Called for freedom of Vietnam from “US imperialism”



# US GETS INVOLVED

- 1954 – 1963: SV fights NV with little US support
  - SV is losing!!! Diem overthrown by US-supported coup
- 1964: NV “attacks” US destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin
  - Leads to US increasing troops
- US, SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) allies = main force against NV, Viet Cong



Source: U.S. Department of Defense

Figure 29.1 U.S. Troop Levels in Vietnam, 1960–1972

# US LOSES SUPPORT AT HOME

- 1968: US tells American people war is going well, US is winning!
- 1968: Tet Offensive
  - NV HUGE attack on SV, US
  - US people lose trust in govt.
- 1968: My Lai Massacre exposed
  - US soldiers rape, murder Vietnamese civilians
  - US people now REALLY hate the war



# US LEAVES & WAR ENDS

- 1970: President Nixon plans to withdraw US troops
- 1973: Paris Peace Accords signed
  - Cease-fire, US troops leave, “peace” for Vietnam
- 1975: NV attacks SV
  - SV loses
  - Vietnam now Communist

