- I The Cold War and Vietnam
 - A. President Eisenhower fears the growth of defense spending, unlike President Kennedy who increases spending by more than 6 billion dollars.
 - B. Kennedy adopts the "flexible response" defense policy so the US military would be prepared to fight any type of conflict.
 - C. "Third World" countries are ones that are not aligned with the US or the USSR.
 - D. Soviet propaganda blamed Western capitalism for the poverty and inequality in Third World countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
 - E. The Peace Corp emphasis was on public service and volunteering.
 - F. The Alliance for Progress stressed purely economic development.
 - G. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, when discussing the Cuban Missile Crises, emphasize that the Soviets "blinked first" to bolster Kennedy's reputation as a strong leader.
 - H. The Soviet Union builds the Berlin Wall to keep East Berliners from escaping to West Berlin.
 - I. The US chooses to back the French instead of Ho Chi Minh to stop the spread of Communism in Asia. This was a departure from US foreign policy which did not support colonization of any country.
 - J. The French are defeated at Dien Bien Phu, which shows they will not be able to hold on to Vietnam.
 - K. The Domino Theory was used to explain the rapid spread of Communism.
 - L. The Bay of Tonkin Incident triggers an escalation in US military involvement in Vietnam. Unfortunately The Bay of Tonkin Incident is exposed as flawed, manipulated, and misunderstood intelligence.
- II America's Role Escalates
 - A. The Presidents military advisors, General Westmoreland and Robert McNamara recommend "Americanization" committing more troops and taking a more active role in combat activities.
 - B. US pilots dropped over 6 million tons of bombs on North Vietnam, believing that the strikes would lower enemy moral and drive the North Vietnamese to negotiate a peace treaty.
 - C. The US is reluctant to start a full scale ground war because North Vietnam is so close to China.
 - D. Ho Chi Minh's strategy was to ware down the US forces, and they will eventually leave.
 - E. Troops in Vietnam before 1965 were volunteers, after 1965 most troops were drafted into service.
 - F. To pay for the expenses of the war, the income tax rate is raised 10%.
 - G. Senator Fulbright holds public hearing on Vietnam providing a platform for critics. These hearing showed how television can shape public opinion.
- III The Antiwar Movement
 - A. In 1966 the majority of Americans polled approved of the war. By 1968 Americans polled were split, about half opposed and half in favor. Public opinion was turning against the war.
 - B. The Selective Service System was criticized for drafting mainly people from poor or the working class.
 - C. During Vietnam African Americans soldiers made up a disproportionately high number of casualties.
 - D. College students show up to the Pentagon and protest the draft by burning their draft cards.
 - E. To silence the critics, the Selective Service begins to use a lottery system to select for military draft.
 - F. The 26th Amendment is passed. This Amendment lowers the voting age to 18 for all elections. Because the individual states had to ratify, there was a delay before it went into effect.
 - G. The Tet Offensive was a coordinated series of attacks on US military out post. It showed that the North Vietnamese could have some success against US forces.
 - H. Clark Clifford the new Defense Secretary, had a different outlook on the war than Robert McNamara. Clifford believed the war was unwinnable and sought to bring peace.

Topic 9: The Vietnam War Era

- III The Antiwar Movement (Continued)
 - I. By 1968 President Johnson had difficulty maintaining the support of his own party.
 - J. Because of the failure of the Vietnam war, President Johnson decides not to run for re-election 1968.
 - K. Violent protest at the Democratic National Convention made people think the nation was in a state of disorder, and the Democrats had lost control.
 - L. Hubert Humphrey would not defy President Johnson, so the failure of Vietnam was a factor in his losing the Presidential election.
 - M. Humphrey was also hurt by a the Democrat George Wallace starting a third party. This took votes away from Humphrey.
- IV The War's End and Effects.
 - A. Nixon's strategy early in his Presidency was "Vietnamization" which had the Vietnamese doing the majority of the military combat.
 - B. Nixon would use promises to end the war, to get voters support.
 - C. After the Communist took over all of Vietnam, it became most difficult to find MIA's.
 - D. The War Powers Act forces the President to consult with Congress before taking military action.
 - E. The War Powers Act was an attempt by Congress to undue the Bay of Tonkin Resolution.
 - F. The "Domino Theory" is discredited after the Vietnam war. As Communism did not continue to spread.
 - G. The US was spending huge amounts on the war, but spending for education also went up drastically.
 - H. Defense Spending during the Vietnam War caused high inflation and a weaker dollar.