

Name _____

Date _____



The Vietnam War

AMERICAN POLITICIAN:

Yes, Vietnam is split, the south is pro-West,
So that's the side we Americans love best.
The North is communist with Ho Chi Minh,
Supported by China, and they hope he'll win.
Yeah, the Cold War is real, and it's really cold,
If we don't contain communism, we could lose control,
If one nation flips communist, that won't be all,
One goes down, it helps the next to fall.
That's the domino theory, we better fight in 'Nam or
Later we'll be fighting commies in Alabama.
But we need a stronger reason,
Something to get people fired up and believing.
Oh hey, there's an incident in the Gulf of Tonkin,
North Vietnamese torpedo boats are up to something.
Let's turn this small event into something big,
So Americans will be ready to ship off their kids.

VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN:

They're shooting at us with the napalm,
And they don't care where we came from.
Every day it's the same bombs,
And I don't know if I can stay strong.
(x2)

AMERICAN SOLDIER:

I'm Private *beep*, repping Company C,

Stationed deep in the jungle where you don't want to be.
See, we have advanced weapons that cause more pain,
But they have more patience, and they know the terrain.
There are fighters in the South that support the North,
Those are Viet Cong, and they hurt the most.
I was expecting battle lines like World War II,
There's no battle lines, your enemies might pop up right behind you.
It's enough to drive a sane man crazy,
The fog of war got my mind hazy.
They use jungle as a weapon, that's important,
So we drop toxic herbicides like Agent Orange,
Burning forests to slow their guerrilla tactics.
It's a war of attrition, who will outlast this?
My platoon is scared of the Vietnamese they see,
Can't seem to tell our friends from our enemies.
And they use racial slurs, I admit it,
The massacre at My Lai, American troops did it.
500 innocent people gunned down,
Killed in cold blood, will this ever slow down?

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PEACE ACTIVIST:

All we are saying is to give peace a chance,
That's the anthem, can you hear the chants?
I know this war is wrong,
We should never have been fighting over there in Vietnam.

Wage peace! Wage peace! Young people, rise up! It's the '60s,
Time for big changes, c'mon, who is with me?
They say, dirty hippies, peacenik commies, get a job!
We on the right side of history, they're really not.
500,000 US troops, that's nuts,
Of course they need a military draft to keep the numbers up,
And if you're like me, and you're black,
You might die for a country that doesn't have your back.
No Viet Cong ever called me the n-word,
White Americans have called me that more than I remember.
Finally, the tides start to change, right?
America gets sick of so much loss of life.
The US pulls out in the early '70s,
And North Vietnam wins the war eventually,
Capturing the capital, then reunification,
With a socialist government running the nation.
Wars are planned by the old and fought by the young,
The only war the US never won.
Wars are scams, and I won't hold my tongue,
Peace is what we need, what I'm asking is one love.

VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN:

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(x2)