

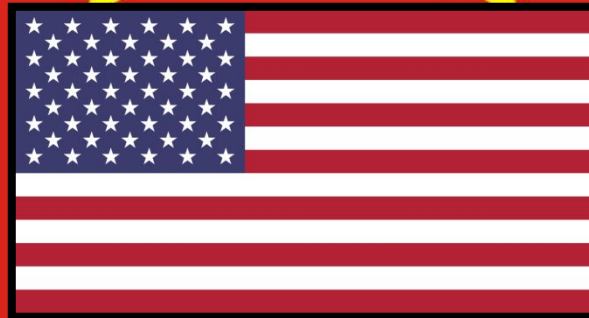
The Vietnam War

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The war in Vietnam - one of the largest military conflicts of the second half of the XX century , has left an imprint on the culture and occupies a significant place in the recent history of Vietnam , as well as the United States and the Soviet Union , which played in it important role.



The war began as a civilian in southern Vietnam . Later in the war he was involved in North Vietnam , and later received the support of China and the Soviet Union, as well as the US and its allies (military bloc SEATO), on the side of the South Vietnamese regime friendly to them. As events unfold, the war was intertwined with the marching parallel civil wars in Laos and Cambodia . All combat operations in Southeast Asia, which took place from the late 1950s until 1975, known as the Second Indochina War .



The war can be divided into several periods:

The guerrilla war in South Vietnam (1957 - March 1965).

A full-scale US military intervention (March 1965 - 1973).

The final phase of the war (1973 - 1975).

History of War

Since the second half of the XIX century, Vietnam was part of the colonial empire of France . After the First World War, the growth of national consciousness began in the country, began to appear underground circles, who spoke for the independence of Vietnam, there have been several armed uprisings. In 1941 in China was created League for Independence of Vietnam (Viet Minh) - the military-political organization, uniting first of all opponents of the French colonial administration. In the future, the main role in it played supporters communist views, led by Ho Chi Minh .



- During World War II, the French administration has agreed with Japan that the Japanese people have access to the strategic resources of Vietnam, while maintaining the colonial administrative apparatus in France. This agreement is valid until 1944, when Japan by force of arms to establish full control over the French possessions (this was due to the deterioration of Japan's strategic environment in the Pacific theater of operations). In September 1945, Japan surrendered . The Viet Minh took advantage of a temporary lack of power to using already formed the armed forces led by Vo Nguyen Zypom take Hanoi and other key cities in the country. September 2, 1945, Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the establishment of the independent Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) in the whole territory of Vietnam.

deployed an expeditionary force that autumn of 1945 regained control of the colonial administration in the southern part of Vietnam. This was followed by talks that both parties (and the Viet Minh and France) was used mainly to build its military forces. In spite of the agreement reached about the mechanism of Vietnamese independence in December 1946, France began the colonial war in Vietnam . However, to cope with the guerrilla movement, the French army could not. Since 1950, the US began to provide military assistance to the French troops in Vietnam. Over the next four years (1950-1954) US military aid was \$ 3 billion [1] . However, in the same 1950, the Vietminh began to receive military aid from China. By 1954, the situation for the French forces was practically hopeless. The war against Vietnam was extremely unpopular in France. By this time the United States had already paid 80% of the cost of this war [1] . The final blow to France's colonial ambitions in Indochina was a heavy defeat at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu . In July 1954, it was signed the Geneva agreement completed an eight-year war.



Characteristics of War

- The Vietnam War was the first war in which the mass applied anti-aircraft missiles and supersonic combat aircraft . US aircraft conducted operations in North Vietnam and South Vietnam as well as Laos and Cambodia. In North and South Vietnam were two completely different air war, differing in the objectives, means and methods of their implementation.
- The Vietnam War was fought with typical of many civil wars fierce. During the fighting, officials on both sides have committed numerous acts that could be classified as war crimes.

Participation of other countries

- The first South Korean troops arrived in Vietnam in 1964, and the first major military units - in the autumn of 1965. Total in South Vietnam were transferred two divisions and one brigade, which formed the largest foreign military contingent in the country after the US - more than 300 000 people of personnel for the entire period of stay. South Korean soldiers have proven themselves in combat, but got a grim reputation among Vietnamese because of violence against the civilian population.
- The Soviet leadership in early 1965 decided to provide the Democratic Republic of Vietnam a large-scale military-technical assistance. Direct participation in hostilities took calculations anti-aircraft missile systems .
- China has a large North Vietnam military and economic assistance. Mao Zedong favoring the emergence of another communist regime in the region of Southeast Asia helped the DRV more with 50s. On the territory of the DRV stationed Chinese Army, which is composed of several parts and connections anti-aircraft (receiver) artillery which covered the Vietnamese sky.
- DPRK sent to Vietnam a Fighter Squadron, participated in the battles with the US air force and air defenses.

Americans remain in the country). In carrying out the agreement, on March 29 the same year, the United States completed the withdrawal of its troops from South Vietnam.

After the signing of the armistice agreement South Vietnamese troops had a population of over a million people, the armed forces of North Vietnam, stationed in the South, more than two hundred thousand soldiers.

The Ceasefire Agreement in the territory of South Vietnam were not met. Like the Communists, and the South Vietnamese government troops during the fighting, shared-controlled territory. North Vietnam continued to throw reinforcements his forces in the south on the "Ho Chi Minh Trail", which was facilitated by the cessation of US bombing. The crisis in the economy of South Vietnam, as well as a decrease in US military aid volumes under pressure of the US Congress in 1974 contributed to the downfall fighting qualities of South Vietnamese troops . An increasing number of South Vietnamese territory de facto withdrew under the authority of the North Vietnamese. Government troops in South Vietnam suffered losses. In December 1974 - January 1975 North Vietnamese army launched a trial operation to capture Fuoklong province to test the reaction of the United States . Making sure that the US does not intend to renew its participation in the war , at the beginning of March 1975, North Vietnamese forces launched a major offensive . South Vietnamese army was disorganized and in most areas are not able to provide adequate resistance. As a result, the two-month campaign of North Vietnamese troops occupied most of South Vietnam and came to Saigon. At 11:30 am, April 30, 1975 the Communists raised the flag over the Palace of Independence in Saigon - the war ended in complete victory for North Vietnamese troops.