

The Vietnam War

The Vietnam War is sometimes called the first war that America lost, but much of the western world believed in the Domino Theory at that time. This theory said that the Vietnam War was necessary to stop the spread of Communism in Southeast Asia.

The war was largely successful in that regard. Communism never spread beyond Laos and Cambodia and it only survived in those two countries from 1975 to the mid-1980's.

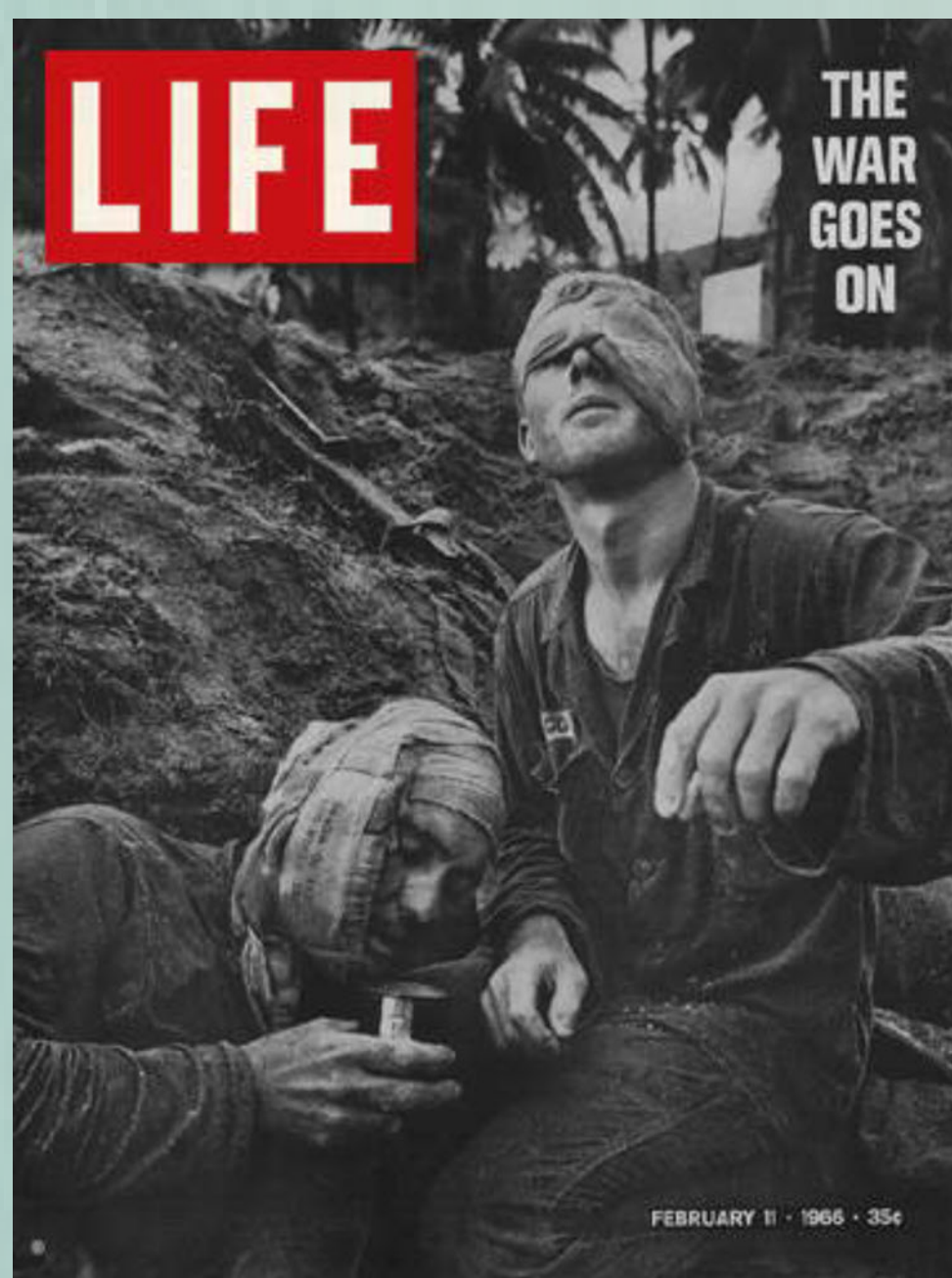


Map of Vietnam



Robert McNamara, architect of the Vietnam War with President Kennedy. McNamara oversaw the massive buildup of U.S. Forces in Vietnam between 1964 and 1969.

The Cold War lasted 46 years and the 16 years of the Vietnam war made up 35% of that time period. A total of 2,594,000 Americans served in Vietnam and as of 2010 there were American 58,267 names of those Killed In Action on the War Memorial.



Life Magazine in 1965



Fighting in South Vietnam



Bombing run in Vietnam



Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Washington



March through April 1975 the North Vietnamese army obtains control of all of Vietnam. The South Vietnamese government collapses. All Americans are evacuated by helicopter in a state of emergency.

In years after the Korean Conflict ended, the United States started suffering casualties in Vietnam. On July 8, 1959 Major Dale R. Buis and Master Sergeant Charles Ovnand were killed by sniper fire. They are the first and second names listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Sixteen years later on May 15, 1975, eighteen servicemen were killed in the Mayaquez incident. They were the last servicemen killed whose names appear on the Memorial.