

# Lead up to the Vietnam War

# Cold War

- U.S. involvement in Vietnam in the early part of the Cold War
- Cold War policies were based on Harry Truman's containment policies
- In 1954 Eisenhower coined the term Domino Theory.
- Domino Theory- the fear that if one Southeast Asian country fell to communism , others would also follow.

# French Involvement in Vietnam

- Vietnamese history of nationalism.
- Prior to the 1800s, Vietnam spent their time fighting off China's attempt to swallow them whole.
- In the 1800s, France asserted itself as a colonial power.
- Ho Chi Minh was the head of the Vietminh, the League for the Independence of Vietnam.

# Vietnam Divided

- April 1954, after the French defeat by Ho Chi Minh and the Vietminh, representatives from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, France, U.S., Soviet Union, China, and Great Britain met in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The group arranged a peaceful settlement known as the Geneva Accords.
- Vietnam was divided near the 17<sup>th</sup> Parallel creating two separate nations.

# U.S. Involvement

- The U.S. began providing economic aid to the French in the 1950s.
- After the French defeat, support was given to South Vietnam in the way of military leaders.

# Exit Quiz

- 1. Define the Domino Theory
- 2. What European country established itself as a colonial power in Vietnam?
- 3. What agreement established the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel?
- 4. What did the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel do?
- 5. What was the U.S. involvement consist of following the French defeat?