

A person in a military uniform, possibly a pilot, is shown from the chest up. They are wearing a dark flight suit with a gold rank insignia on the collar. Their right hand is raised, palm facing forward, in a gesture of surrender or a salute. The background is dark and out of focus.

The End of the War

Provide an interpretation of President Nixon's "silent majority speech"

- In this speech Nixon identifies two options that the U.S. had with respect to the war in Vietnam:
 - One :we could withdraw immediately without regard for the consequences
 - Two :we could continue the attempts for a just peace – a negotiated settlement or through continued implementation of Vietnamization.
 - In the end he said that he had chosen the second course – the "right course"
 - He called upon the silent majority to support his decision.

Define Vietnamization. Discuss any parallels that exist with the current administration's plan in Iraq

- **Plan announced in June of 1969.**
- **It would involve removing American troops and making South Vietnamese troops responsible for the defense of South Vietnam**
- **As Nixon reduced U.S. troop strength in Vietnam he was secretly ordering bombing raids in Laos and Cambodia**

In 1970 President Nixon decided to expand the war into the neighboring country of Cambodia. Explain his rationale for this move.

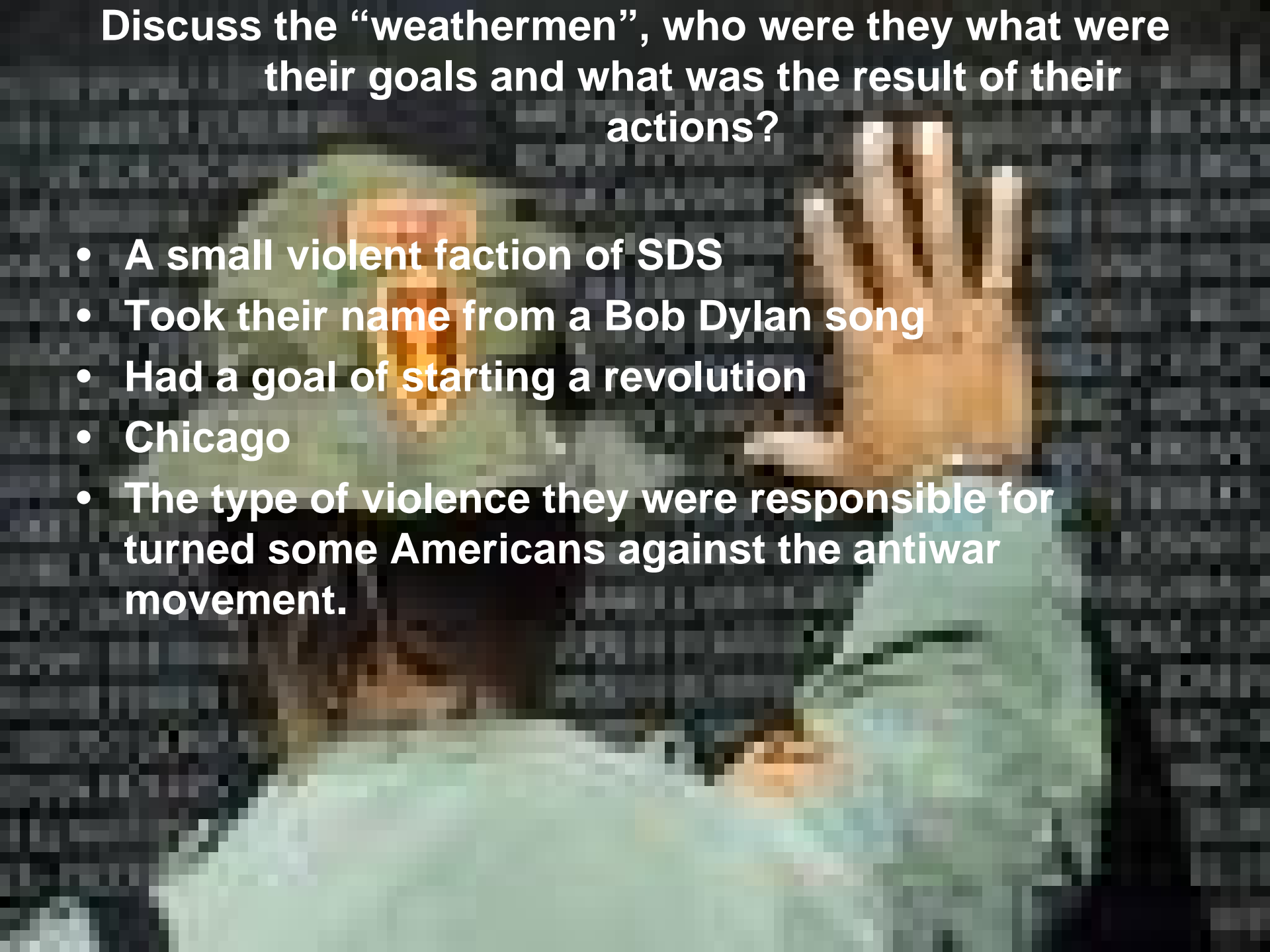
- **To clear out Communist camps.**
- **Nixon believed the Communists were mounting attacks from Cambodia**
- **He believed the enemy would attack in South Vietnam and then take refuge in Cambodia.**
- **These actions generated chaos and civil war in Cambodia.**

What were the “Pentagon Papers”? What did they reveal and what influence did they have?

- They were a classified (secret) government study of American involvement in the war.
- The study came to be called the “Pentagon Papers”
- Revealed that the government had lied to the American people and Congress about the war in Vietnam.
- When the material appeared in the NY Times it led to growing distrust by the American people of the government.

Discuss the “weathermen”, who were they what were their goals and what was the result of their actions?

- **A small violent faction of SDS**
- **Took their name from a Bob Dylan song**
- **Had a goal of starting a revolution**
- **Chicago**
- **The type of violence they were responsible for turned some Americans against the antiwar movement.**



Define the “silent majority”. Who were they?

- Students who did not agree with the antiwar protesters
- Adults who held antiwar protesters responsible for many problems
- “My Country, Right or Wrong”, “Love It or Leave It”
- He warned of the threats posed by protestors against free society.

Describe the reactions by students to news that the President had widened the war by invading Cambodia. Be sure to include specific incidents.

- **When antiwar protesters learned of the attacks in Cambodia the protest movement on College campuses intensified.**
- **Kent State – Students rioted in town and attacked the Colleges ROTC building. Gov called in the National Guard. Guardsmen fired on students killing four and wounding nine.**
- **Jackson State – two students dead and 11 wounded**

Explain the American assumption with respect to Vietnam that proved to be wrong.

- **Americans believed they could defend the world from Communism anywhere, anytime.**
- **Americans believed that our technology and money would always deliver victory**

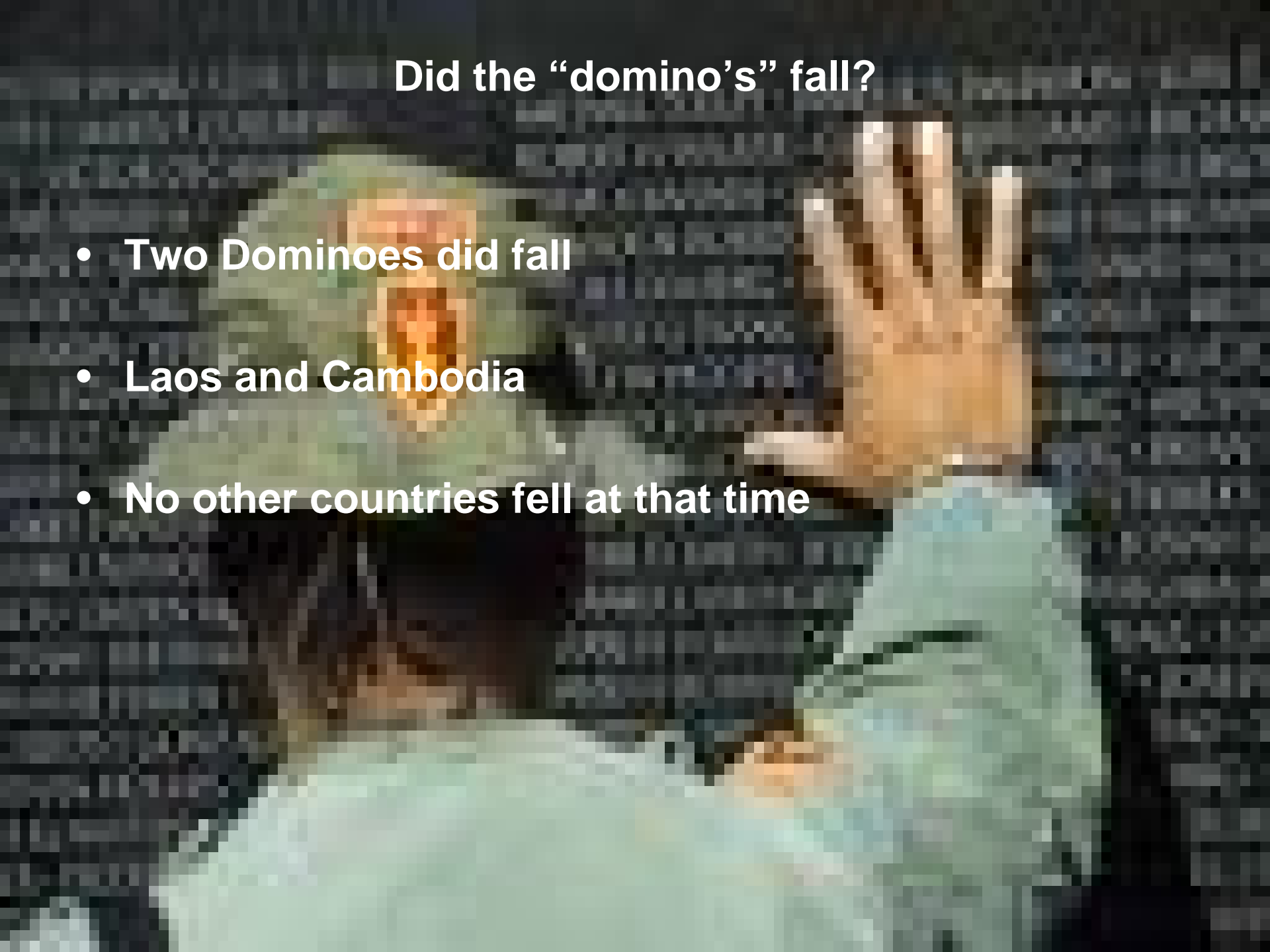
Describe the events of April 29 and 30 of 1975.

Historically what are these days referred to as?

- **This event is referred to as “The Fall Saigon”**
- **Communist forces surrounded Saigon and Americans carried out a last minute evacuation from the U.S. Embassy to aircraft carriers waiting off shore.**
- **The North completed its takeover of the South. The Saigon government surrendered. Vietnam became a single nation under Communist control.**

Did the “domino’s” fall?

- Two Dominoes did fall
- Laos and Cambodia
- No other countries fell at that time



Describe the tragedy to befall upon Cambodia as the war came to a close.

- **Cambodia fell to the Khmer Rouge (Communists) led by Pol Pot**
- **In 5 years Cambodia suffered 500,000 civilian casualties due to American bombs**
- **Anyone tainted with Western ways was targeted by the Khmer Rouge who killed as many as 1.5 million Cambodians**

What were re-education camps?

- South Vietnamese soldiers, civil servants and other professionals
- Places where these groups would be instructed regarding the virtues of Communism before being permitted to live on their own.
- 1.5 million Vietnamese left the country and hundreds of thousands of Laotians and Cambodians fled to America as well.

Provide an accounting of American losses in Vietnam (physical and monetary)

- **58,000 Americans died**
- **300,000 were wounded**
- **2,500 were Prisoners of War or Missing in Action at the end of the war**
- **We spent at least \$150 billion on the longest and least successful war in U.S. history.**