

# THE UNITED STATES IN VIETNAM: THE LINE-UP

## NORTH VIETNAM (COMMUNIST)

Official Name: Democratic Republic of Vietnam (Pro-Communist)

Leader: **Ho Chi Minh** (“He Who has been enlightened”)

Organizations:

**1941-54: Viet Minh** (“League for the Independence of Vietnam”): Carried on a political and military campaign against France for Vietnamese independence from 1940s until 1954

**1954-76: Viet Cong (VC)** (“Vietnamese communist”)/National Liberation Front: Political/military/guerilla organization in South Vietnam opposed to the governments of South Vietnam and the USA

**North Vietnamese Army (NVA)**/Peoples Army of Vietnam: Conventional army in North Vietnam that threatened to invade (and by 1965 actually did invade) South Vietnam

Support:

**Soviet Union**

**People’s Republic of China**

## SOUTH VIETNAM (PRO-AMERICAN)

Official Name: Republic of Vietnam

Leaders:

**Ngô Đình Diệm / Ngo Dinh Diem** (pronounced roughly (“No Dean Jim”), 1954-1963

Various US-backed puppet governments, 1963-75

Organization:

**Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)**: Trained and supported heavily by USA; used by Diem indiscriminately against domestic political opponents on the pretext that they were communists

Support:

**USA**