

REMEMBERING VIETNAM QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

The conflict in Vietnam involves a mind-boggling mass of acronyms, a lengthy cast of characters, and a multiplicity of terms. Use this guide to help you keep track of the architects, fighting forces, and battle sites of the Vietnam War.

COMBATANTS

Official Name | American Name

People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN)

North Vietnamese Army (NVA)

Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)

South Vietnamese Army (SVA)

U.S. Armed Forces

U.S. Armed Forces

People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF)

Viet Cong



LEADERS

Democratic Republic of Vietnam



Ho Chi Minh
Prime Minister (1945-55) and President (1955-69)



Vo Nguyen Giap
Principal Commander First Indochina War (1946-54) and Vietnam War (1960-75)



Le Duan
General Secretary Communist Party Vietnam (1960-86)

LEADERS

Republic of Vietnam



Ngo Dinh Diem
President (1955-63)



Ngo Dinh Nhu
Brother and chief Political Adviser to President Diem



Nguyen Van Thieu
Head of State (1965-67) and President (1967-75)

United States



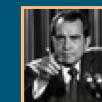
Harry Truman
President (1945-53)



Lyndon Johnson
President (1963-69)



Dwight Eisenhower
President (1953-61)



Richard Nixon
President (1969-74)



John F. Kennedy
President (1961-63)



Gerald Ford
President (1974-77)



Robert McNamara
U.S. Secretary of Defense (1961-68)



McGeorge Bundy
National Security Adviser (1961-66)



Henry Kissinger
National Security Adviser (1969-75)



William Westmoreland
Commander U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) (1961-68)

ABOUT THE TERM "VIET CONG"

Americans and their South Vietnamese allies referred to the South Vietnamese insurgents as "Viet Cong," a derogatory term that roughly translates to "Vietnamese traitor" or "Vietnamese communist." The insurgents called themselves liberators. Officially, the "Viet Cong" were known as the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and the People's Liberation Armed Forces.