

Photographs that changed US opinion about the Vietnam War





<http://history.sandiego.edu/gen/USPics2/71756.jpg>

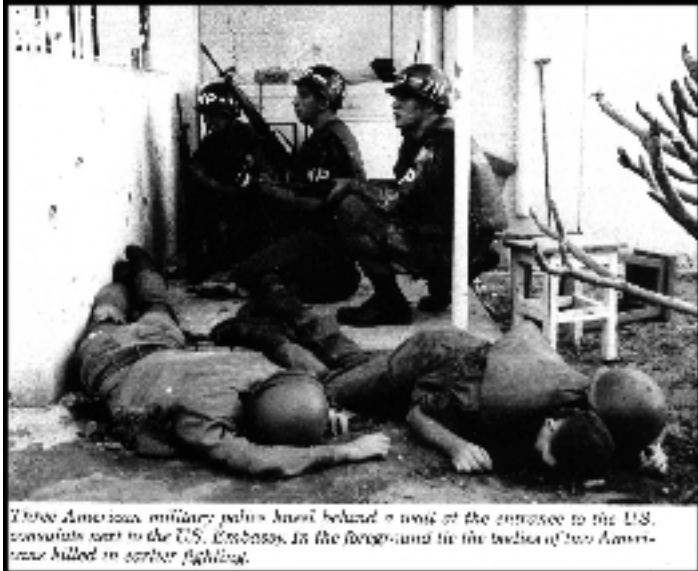
1963- Buddhist Monk burns himself in protest



- A buddhist monk burned himself as a protest against the corrupt Diem regime
- The US had backed the unpopular Diem Regime
- In Nov. 1963 South Vietnamese military officers seized control of the government, killing Diem.



1968- US embassy attacked



- During the Tet New Year communists forces swept into South Vietnam attacking 100's of cities and towns
- The Viet Cong even boldly attacked the US embassy in Saigon
- The Tet offensive shook the US public's confidence about a quick US victory and US policy in Vietnam



<http://history.acusd.edu/gen/recording/television-viet.html>

1968- Execution of Prisoner



- Also during the Tet Offensive, the Saigon police chief executed this Viet Cong prisoner
- The photo showed the brutality of the war
- It also led some Americans to question our South Vietnamese allies, and how they were conducting the war

<http://www.nam-vet.net/photocangedwar.html>



1968- My Lai Massacre



- American soldiers came into village of My Lai and massacred as many as 500 unarmed civilians
- The orders were given by Lt. Calley. He was put on trial in 1970 and convicted. However he was paroled by Nixon.
- My Lai made many anti-war Americans feel that this was an immoral war.



<http://www.timbuk3.com/Kent%20state.jpg>

1970- Protesters shot at Kent State



- By 1968 Americans were divided in half over the war.
- Doves organized powerful anti-war demonstrations
- At Kent State protesters surrounded the ROTC building and burnt it to the ground
- Several National Guardsmen opened fire on protesters, killing 4 students, wounding 11



http://www.gallerym.com/pixs/photogs/pulitzer/pages/vietnam_napalm.htm

1972- Napalm dropped on Girl



- Kim Phuc, nine years old, is shown fleeing her village after being bombed with napalm
- The photo showed the destruction of innocent civilians by US napalm
- By 1972 American policy makers were preparing to withdraw US troops from Vietnam, and replace them with South Vietnamese troops



http://balrog.sdsu.edu/~putman/536/saigon-pix_5-last-helicopter.jpg

1975- Saigon Falls to Communists



- In 1975 communist forces swept into Saigon, as the South Vietnamese army collapsed.
- The photo showed US embassy employees evacuated from an apartment rooftop in Saigon
- Over 10 years after the US entered the war, Vietnam fell to the communists.
- Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh city.