

# Vietnam War



# Domino Theory

- The 1950's and 60's belief that if one country in a region became communist, the rest would follow.



# VIETNAM



MYANMAR

CHINA

LAOS

THAILAND

VIETNAM

CAMBODIA



0 300 km  
0 160 miles

# Map of East Asia

## East Asia



**Ho Chi Minh**

**- Communist  
Leader of North  
Vietnam**



# Dien Bien Phu

- May 7, 1954, France loses war to retake Vietnam.



# Dien Bien Phu



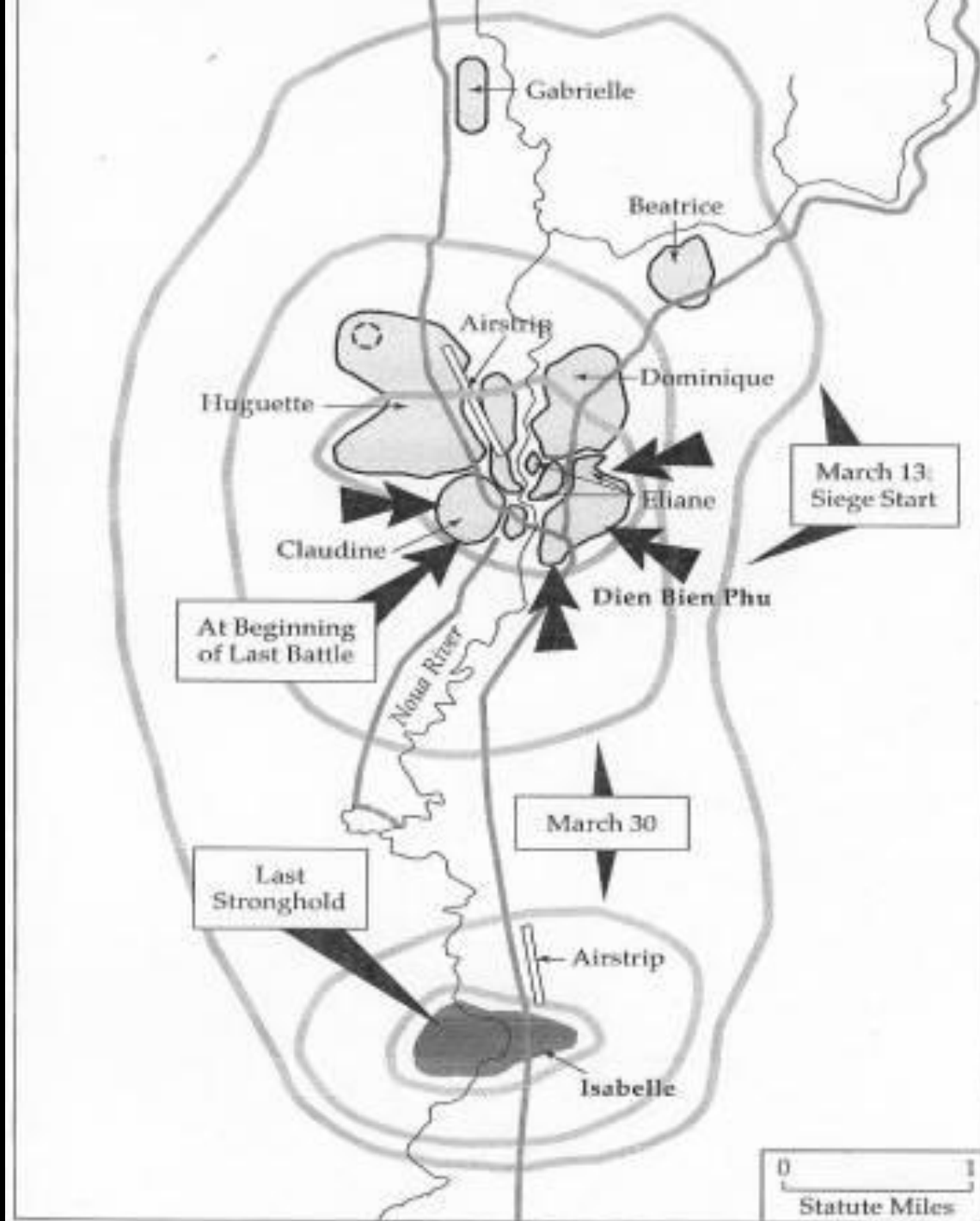
# Dien Bien Phu

March 13 – May 7, 1954





# Dien Bien Phu



# Geneva Accords

- Split of Vietnam into North and South in 1954
- Elections would be held in 1956 to reunify the country



The Vietnam War

# Ngo Dinh Diem

- President Diem's  
anti-Buddhist  
policies led to his  
overthrow in  
1963



# Thic Quang Duc in Protest of Diem - 1963



# Gulf of Tonkin Incident

- On August 2, 1964, the destroyer USS Maddox was fired upon in international water in the Gulf of Tonkin by a group of North Vietnamese Navy torpedo boats.
- A battle took place, with one U.S. aircraft damaged, three North Vietnamese boats damaged, and four North Vietnamese sailors killed.

# Gulf of Tonkin Incident

- Two days later, on August 4, 1964 a second alleged attack was said to have taken place.
- However, it was a very stormy day, and it is believed now that the weather played with the ships radar, and made it appear as if they had been fired upon.

# Gulf of Tonkin Incident

Photo # USN 711524 North Vietnamese motor torpedo boat attacking USS Maddox, 2 Aug. 1964



# Vietcong – Communist guerilla army in South Vietnam.





# Hoc Chi Minh Trail

- Trail from North Vietnam through Laos and Cambodia used to resupply the Vietcong.



The Vietnam War

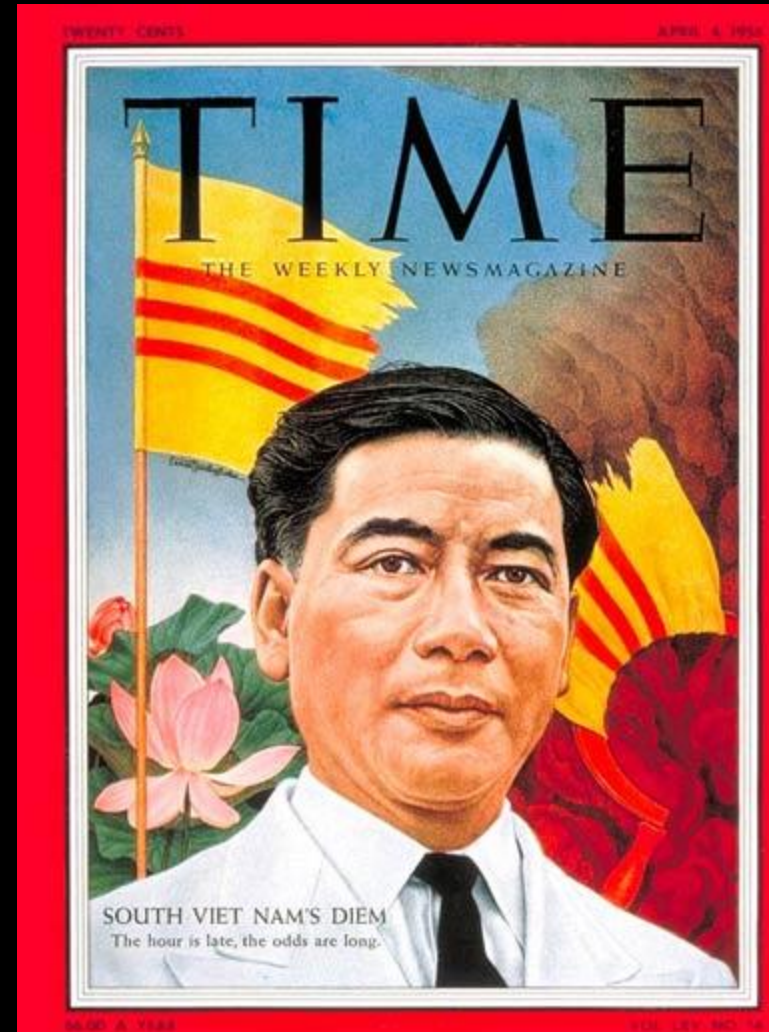
# Search and Destroy Mission

- The main U.S. fighting tactic in Vietnam to go into the jungle, find the enemy, and kill them.
- Body count became the measure of victory in Vietnam, not land.



# Ngo Dinh Diem

- **What was Diem's reign in South Vietnam like?**
  - What things did he do?
  - How did he treat non-Catholics?
  - How did his reign end?
  - When he finished, did the Vietcong have more or less influence and support in Vietnam?
- **Who was Thich Quang Duc?**
  - What was he protesting/what did he do?



# Gulf of Tonkin

- What was the Gulf of Tonkin Incident?
- What was the controversy over the incident?