**The Vietnam War: Early Years**

Part I: Terms/People:

**Domino Theory:** An extension of the Containment Policy. The idea that if one nation fell to communism, then the next neighboring country would also fall and so on…like dominoes

**Vietminh:** The communist forces/political party of N. Vietnam led by Ho Chi Minh

**Dien Bien Phu:** Vietnam had previously been a colony of France. In 1954, the Vietnamese defeated France at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu. Due to this victory, the French withdrew from Vietnam thus making Vietnam an independent country.

**Geneva Accords:** The Geneva Accords are a set of documents that were produced at the Geneva Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland. According to the Geneva Accords, the decision was made to divide Vietnam in half until decisions on a new government could be made. This led to Vietnam being divided into a communist N. Vietnam, and a pro-American government in S. Vietnam

**Viet Cong/National Liberation Front:** Resistance group in S. Vietnam that was sympathetic to the government of N. Vietnam. The VC worked with the Vietminh to fight against S. Vietnamese and eventually American forces.

**Ho Chi Minh:** Leader of N. Vietnam

**Ngo Dinh Diem:** Leader of S. Vietnam

**Hanoi:** Capital of N. Vietnam

**Saigon:** Capital of S. Vietnam