

Study Guide



Chapter 30, Section 4

For use with textbook pages 910–914

THE WAR WINDS DOWN

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

- Henry Kissinger** special assistant for national security affairs under President Nixon (*page 910*)
- linkage** the policy of improving relations with the Soviet Union and China to persuade them to reduce their assistance to North Vietnam (*page 910*)
- Vietnamization** a plan for a gradual withdrawal of American troops and for the South Vietnamese army to take over more of the fighting in Vietnam (*page 911*)
- Pentagon Papers** documents that revealed that various administrations had deceived Congress and the people about the situation in Vietnam (*page 912*)
- War Powers Act** a law that required the president to inform Congress of any troop commitment within 48 hours and to withdraw the troops in 60 days unless Congress approved the troop commitment (*page 914*)

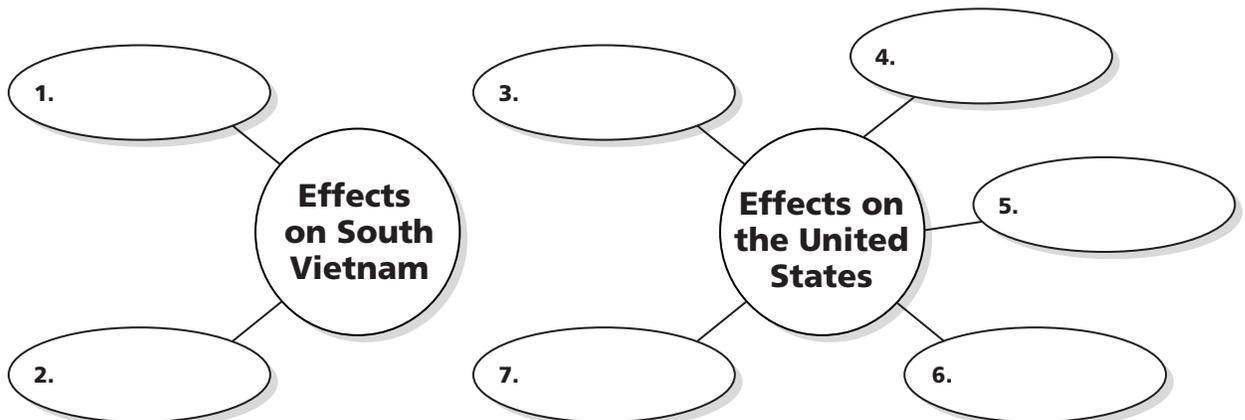
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What memories do your parents or grandparents have of the Vietnam War? How do they think the war affected the country?

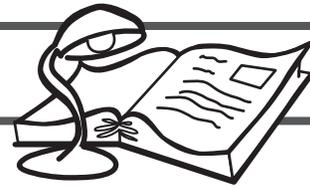
The last section described the division in the United States over the Vietnam War. This section discusses the events that led to the withdrawal of the United States from Vietnam.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. List the effects of the war on South Vietnam and on the United States in the diagram.



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READ TO LEARN

- **Nixon Moves to End the War** (page 910)

President Nixon appointed **Henry Kissinger** as special assistant for national security affairs. Kissinger was given authority to use diplomacy to end U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Kissinger started a policy called **linkage**, which meant improving relations with the Soviet Union and China to persuade them to cut back their assistance to North Vietnam. Kissinger also resumed negotiations with North Vietnam. In August 1969, he started secret talks with Le Duc Tho, a North Vietnamese negotiator. The talks went on for four years. In the meantime, President Nixon began cutting back on the number of troops in Vietnam. He set up a plan called **Vietnamization**. It called for a gradual withdrawal of American troops and for the South Vietnamese army to take over more of the fighting. Nixon did not view the troop withdrawal as surrender. He wanted to keep America's strength in Vietnam during negotiations. To do this, Nixon increased air strikes against North Vietnam. He also ordered the bombing of the Vietcong in Cambodia.

8. Why did Henry Kissinger set up the policy of linkage?

- **Turmoil at Home Continues** (page 911)

Protests and violence continued in the United States after Nixon became president. In November 1969, the American media reported that in the spring of 1968, an American platoon under the command of Lieutenant William Calley had massacred more than 200 unarmed South Vietnamese civilians in My Lai. Most of the victims were old men, women, and children. Calley went to prison for his role. The My Lai massacre increased the feelings among many Americans that the war was brutal and senseless.

In April 1970, Nixon announced that American troops had invaded Cambodia to destroy Vietcong military bases there. Many Americans viewed this action as enlarging the war. More protests occurred. At Kent State University in May 1970, Ohio National Guard soldiers fired on students without an order to do so. They killed four students. Two African American students were killed ten days later at a demonstration at Jackson State College in Mississippi.

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Members of Congress were upset with the president for not notifying them of his plan to invade Cambodia. In December 1970, Congress repealed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Then in 1971, Daniel Ellsberg, a former Defense Department worker, leaked the **Pentagon Papers** to the *New York Times*. The documents showed that many government officials during the Johnson administration had privately questioned the war while publicly defending it. The documents also showed how various administrations deceived Congress, the media, and the public about the situation in Vietnam. They showed that the government had not been honest with the American people.

9. How did Congress respond to Nixon's invasion of Cambodia?

• The United States Pulls Out of Vietnam (page 912)

By 1971 a majority of Americans wanted to end the Vietnam War. In October 1972, Henry Kissinger announced that peace was near. In the 1972 presidential election, the Democrats nominated Senator George McGovern, a critic of the war. However, many Americans were tired of protesters and elected Nixon in a landslide.

Soon after the presidential election, on December 16, 1972, peace talks broke down. South Vietnam refused to agree to any plan in which North Vietnamese troops were left in South Vietnam. The next day Nixon began massive bombing raids to force North Vietnam to return to negotiations. They finally agreed. South Vietnam gave in to U.S. pressure and allowed North Vietnamese troops to remain in the South. On January 27, 1973, an agreement was signed to end the war. The United States agreed to withdraw its troops. Both sides agreed to an exchange of prisoners of war. The United States's direct involvement in Vietnam had ended.

In March 1975, shortly after the United States pulled out the last of its troops, North Vietnam started a full-scale invasion of South Vietnam. South Vietnam asked the United States for help. President Nixon had promised such help during the negotiations. However, he had resigned following the Watergate scandal. President Ford asked Congress for funds to help South Vietnam, but Congress refused to do so. On April 30, 1975, North Vietnam captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam. It united Vietnam under Communist rule and renamed Saigon Ho Chi Minh City.

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10. What happened after the United States troops left Vietnam?

• **The Legacy of Vietnam** (page 913)

The Vietnam War left lasting effects on the United States. It had cost more than \$170 billion. It resulted in the deaths of about 58,000 Americans and in the injuries of more than 300,000. In Vietnam, about one million North and South Vietnamese had died. The war had a psychological impact on many American soldiers. Many Americans considered the war a defeat. As a result, the sacrifices made by many veterans were left unrecognized. There were few welcome-home parades for American soldiers. The war continued for many American families whose relatives were prisoners of war or missing in action.

In 1973 Congress passed the **War Powers Act**. This was an attempt to set limits on the power of the president. The law required the president to inform Congress of any commitment of troops within 48 hours. It also required the president to withdraw troops in 60 to 90 days unless Congress approved the troop commitment.

After the Vietnam War, many Americans became more reluctant to involve the United States in the affairs of other nations. The Vietnam War also increased Americans' cynicism about their government. Many believed that the government had misled them.

11. How were the veterans of the Vietnam War often treated on their return home?
