

CHAPTER
16
SECTION 2

Section Summary

U.S. INVOLVEMENT GROWS

READING CHECK

Which group in Congress opposed the war in Vietnam?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *doctrine* mean in the underlined sentence? Circle the words in the underlined sentence that could help you learn what *doctrine* means.

READING SKILL

Identify Supporting Details Why did President Johnson raise taxes?

In February 1965, the war in Vietnam became more intense. After the Vietcong attacked American troops, President Johnson ordered a large bombing campaign called Operation Rolling Thunder. However, communist forces continued to fight. President Johnson then ordered more troops to fight on the ground. One of the President's most important advisers was the American commander in South Vietnam, General **William Westmoreland**, who believed in more active fighting.

The American military dropped millions of tons of bombs on Vietnam. They also dropped **napalm**, a jellied gasoline. Napalm covered large areas in flames.

American troops fought mostly in small battles. The enemy fought with guerrilla tactics in the jungle. They followed Ho Chi Minh's doctrine, which stated that fighting should never be on the opponents' terms. The communists knew that they could not win a traditional war against the United States. Instead, they used hit-and-run attacks, nighttime ambushes, and booby traps, hoping to wear down the United States.

By 1967, neither side was winning. Johnson asserted again and again that victory was near. However, there was little progress. By 1968, more than 30,000 U.S. troops had been killed. Troop morale began to fall.

The costs of the war were growing. President Johnson was forced to raise taxes to pay for the war and for his Great Society domestic programs. Social programs had to be cut.

Members of Congress had questions about the war. In 1967, Congress was divided into two camps: hawks and doves. **Hawks** supported the war. **Doves** questioned whether it was right to fight the war. They also were not convinced that Vietnam was a vital Cold War battleground.

Review Questions

1. Why did Johnson send more American troops to fight on the ground in Vietnam?

2. What tactics did the Communist forces use against U.S. troops in Vietnam?
