

CHAPTER
16
SECTION 4

Section Summary

THE WAR'S END AND IMPACT

President Nixon believed that he could make a peace deal with North Vietnam. At first, he did not succeed, and he began to pull U.S. troops out of Vietnam. The South Vietnamese Army, he said, should fight the war on its own. The United States would continue to send supplies to the South Vietnamese Army to help them—a plan called **Vietnamization**.

In 1970, Nixon ordered an American ground attack on communists in Cambodia, angering antiwar activists at home. They claimed that Nixon was not ending the war, but widening it. Protests erupted on many college campuses. At **Kent State University**, members of the National Guard fired into a group of protesters, killing four youths. This led to protests on other campuses across the country.

Other events also outraged the public. American troops killed over four hundred unarmed Vietnamese in the village of **My Lai**. The **Pentagon Papers** showed that the government had been dishonest with the public and with Congress about the Vietnam War.

American bombing finally induced the North Vietnamese to resume negotiations. In January 1973, the warring parties signed the **Paris Peace Accords**. American troops left Vietnam. The war was over for the United States. North Vietnamese troops, however, remained in South Vietnam, and fighting continued. The communists, supplied by the Soviet Union, defeated the South Vietnamese Army. Vietnam was then united under a communist regime.

More than 58,000 American troops and over 2 million Vietnamese had been killed in the Vietnam War. Southeast Asia suffered turmoil for many years afterward. Americans became less willing to intervene in the affairs of other countries. Americans had less trust in their leaders, as well. In 1973, Congress passed the **War Powers Act**, which restricted the President's authority to commit American troops to foreign conflicts. The effects of the war lasted for many years.

Review Questions

1. What was Vietnamization?

2. Why did the Pentagon Papers outrage Americans?

READING CHECK

How many American troops were killed in Vietnam?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

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

READING SKILL

Recognize Effects What was one effect of the Vietnam War on American foreign policy?
