Unit 10 Glossary (The Vietnam War)

**26th Amendment**- The 26th Amendment, ratified in 1971, lowered the official voting age to 18, thereby allowing a greater percentage of U.S. citizens to participate in the process of government.

**Agent Orange**- A powerful herbicide and defoliant containing trace amounts of dioxin, a toxic impurity suspected of causing serious health problems. These include cancer and genetic damage, in some persons exposed to it and birth defects in their offspring. Exposure to Agent Orange has been blamed for high numbers of miscarriages, skin diseases, birth defects, and malformations among the Vietnamese and U.S., Australian, and New Zealand servicemen and their families. About 13 million gallons were sprayed by U.S. military forced to defoliate jungles of Vietnam and to destroy their crops (food sources).

**American Indian Citizenship Act of 1924**- With Congress' passage of the Indian Citizenship Act, the government of the United States confers citizenship on all Native Americans born within the territorial limits of the country. Before the Civil War, citizenship was often limited to Native Americans of one-half or less Indian blood. In the Reconstruction period, progressive Republicans in Congress sought to accelerate the granting of citizenship to friendly tribes, though state support for these measures was often limited. In 1888, most Native American women married to U.S. citizens were conferred with citizenship, and in 1919 Native American veterans of World War I were offered citizenship. In 1924, the Indian Citizenship Act, an all-inclusive act, was passed by Congress. The privileges of citizenship, however, were largely governed by state law, and the right to vote was often denied to Native Americans in the early 20th century.

**Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)**- Sometimes referred to as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA) was the official military of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) which existed from 1955 until the Fall of Saigon in 1975. It is estimated to have suffered 1,394,000 casualties (killed and wounded) during the Vietnam War. After the Fall of Saigon to the invading North Vietnamese, the ARVN was dissolved. While some high-ranking officers had fled the country to the United States or elsewhere, thousands of former ARVN officers were sent to reeducation camps by the Communist government of the new Social Republic of Vietnam.

**Roy Benavidez**- (1935-1998) He was presented with the Distinguished Service Cross for saving the lives of eight soldiers at extreme risk to his own safety by General William C. Westmoreland at the Fort Sam Houston Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, for his intrepid actions in Cambodia during the Vietnam War in 1968. Benavidez was finally awarded the Medal of Honor in 1981.

**Counterculture**- A counterculture is a group of people whose values, norms, and behavior clash with those of the prevalent culture. A counterculture is a kind of subculture, a culture within a culture; however, not all subcultures are countercultures. Sociologists use the concept of counterculture to identify cultures that are antagonistic to a dominant culture. A classic example of a counterculture is the youth counterculture in the United States in the 1960s–1970s, exemplified by the hippie movement; members of this counterculture advocated greater sexual freedom, racial desegregation, and more rights for women.

**Credibility Gap**- A political term that came into wide use during the 1960s and 1970s. At the time, it was most frequently used to describe public skepticism about President Lyndon B. Johnson and his administration's statements and policies on the Vietnam War. Today, it is used more generally to describe almost any "gap" between the reality of a situation and what politicians and government agencies say about it.

**Domino Theory**- Doctrine of U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War, according to which the fall of a noncommunist state to communism would precipitate the fall of other neighboring noncommunist states. The theory was first enunciated by President Harry S. Truman, who used it to justify sending U.S. military aid to Greece and Turkey in the late 1940s. Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson invoked it to justify U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia, especially the prosecution of the Vietnam War.

**Doves/Hawks**- Are terms applied to people based upon their views about a military conflict. A dove is someone who opposes the use of military pressure to resolve a dispute. A hawk favors entry into war. The terms came into widespread use during the Vietnam War.

**Draft**- On December 1, 1969, the Selective Service System of the United States conducted two lotteries to determine the order of call to military service in the Vietnam War for men born from 1944 to 1950. "The draft" occurred during a period of conscription, controlled by the President, from just before World War II to 1973. Some men illegally evaded the draft, burned draft registration cards, risked imprisonment, and fled to other countries such as Canada. There were some men who were granted official, legal exemption from military duty. During the later part of the Vietnam War President Nixon enacted the Lottery Draft System.

**Barry Goldwater**- (1909-1998) U.S. senator for Arizona from 1953–1965 and 1969–1987) In the U.S. Senate, Goldwater advocated state right-to-work laws, a reduction of public ownership of utilities, and decreases in welfare and foreign aid appropriations. He attacked subversive activities and opposed the senatorial censure of Joseph McCarthy. Goldwater became the acknowledged leader of the extreme conservative wing of the Republican party. In 1964, he was the Republican presidential nominee, he was decisively defeated by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Many believe that Goldwater initiated a conservative revolution in Republican politics and American public opinion that ultimately led to the election in 1980 of President Ronald Reagan. Goldwater was again elected to the Senate in 1968, 1974, and 1980. In his later years, Goldwater, basically a libertarian, often clashed with cultural conservatives. He wrote *The Conscience of a Conservative* (1960), *Why Not Victory?* (1962), *The Conscience of a Majority* (1970), and *Goldwater* (1988) with Jack Casserly.

**Gulf of Tonkin Resolution**- Prompted by reports of North Vietnamese aggression toward the American destroyer, the U.S.S. Maddox in August 1964, Congress authorized President Lyndon Johnson to increase American military involvement in Vietnam. The resolution was not an official declaration of war against North Vietnam, but it gave the president the freedom to send troops into combat.

**Eugene McCarthy**- (1916-2005) U.S. Senator; In 1958 McCarthy was elected to the Senate, where he remained a relatively unknown figure nationally until November 30, 1967. On that day, he announced his intention to challenge President Lyndon B. Johnson in the Democratic presidential primaries. Although in 1964 he had supported the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, by 1967 McCarthy had become an outspoken critic of the war. At first McCarthy’s challenge was not taken seriously, but his candidacy soon attracted the growing numbers of Democrats who opposed further American involvement in the Vietnam War. McCarthy captured 42 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary in March 1968; Johnson made the dramatic announcement of his withdrawal from the race. McCarthy went on to sweep three primaries but then lost four of the next five to Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Following Kennedy’s assassination, McCarthy lost the nomination at the convention in Chicago to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, who had declined to run in the primaries.

**Barry McGuire**- (b.1935) An American singer-songwriter best known for the hit song “Eve of Destruction” a Vietnam protest song, and later as a pioneering singer and songwriter of Contemporary Christian music.

**Dean Rusk**- (1909-1994) U.S. secretary of state during the John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson administrations who became a target of antiwar hostility as he consistently defended the United States’ participation in the Vietnam War.

**Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)**- In 1965, John Tinker, his sister Mary Beth, and a friend were sent home from school for wearing black armbands to protest the Vietnam War. The school established a policy permitting students to wear several political symbols, but had excluded the wearing of armbands protesting the Vietnam War. Their fathers sued, but the District Court ruled that the school had not violated the Constitution. The Court of Appeals agreed with the lower court, and the Tinkers appealed to the Supreme Court. *Tinker* was the first Supreme Court ruling that specifically provided protection for students’ First Amendment rights. The key: “Material and substantial disruption of school activities or invasion of the rights of other students” must be proved if student expression is to be controlled. School officials could censor only when they could show that the expression would disrupt the school environment or invade the rights of other students.

**Vietnam**- Vietnam is a long, narrow country in south-east Asia with a spine of hills and a large river delta, the Mekong, one of the richest areas of rice production in the world. The Vietnamese sought to maintain their independence despite centuries of Chinese and French occupation. During World War II, Japan seized the country from the French but in 1941, Communist leader Ho Chi Minh organized the independence movement. The United States supported Ho Chi Minh’s opposition to Japan and he, in turn, expected support in independence. Instead, the United States, concerned about the communist threat in Vietnam, agreed to support Vietnam’s return to France. The French Indochina War lasted from 1946-1954. Vietnam was divided at the 17th parallel with Ho Chi Minh designated as leader of North Vietnam with Hanoi as its capital. Saigon was capital of non-Communist South Vietnam. The south was led by Ngo Donh Diem, a corrupt politician who manipulated voting and repressed nonconformists to retain power. President Dwight D. Eisenhower supported Diem from 1954 to 1960. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy increased aid to South Vietnam in opposition to the Vietcong, Communists who opposed Diem. In August 1964 U.S. Navy ships, cooperating with South Vietnamese gunboats, ex-changed fire with North Vietnamese in the Tonkin Gulf. Particulars remain unclear, but Congress passed the Tonkin Gulf Resolution which empowered President Lyndon B. Johnson to direct military support to Southeast Asia. He first ordered American troops to land in 1965 following a Viet Cong raid on an American air base. By the end of 1965, 184,000 Americans troops were involved. Throughout the conflict, foreign policy officials presented the issue as an effort to protect the non-Communist south from the communist north. In reality, most problems arose from confrontations between the Viet Cong and Diem supporters in South Vietnam. As more American tax dollars and troops were expended on the military offensive, and as the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese countered every escalation with more manpower and guerrilla tactics, public support waned. The Vietnam War continued through January 1973. It was the longest military engagement in U.S. history and the United States’ first defeat.

**George Wallace**- (1919-1998) One of America's most outspoken supporters of racial segregation in the 1960s. As governor of Alabama (1963-1967, 1971-1979, and 1983-1987) he fought integration, once even standing symbolically in the doorway of the University of Alabama to block two black students from enrolling there. The National Guard eventually forced him to back down.

He ran as a third party candidate for president in 1968 and in 1972, he ran for president again, but was shot and paralyzed by a would-be assassin during the campaign. He was paralyzed below the waist. In the 1980’s he recanted his earlier racial views and sought reconciliation with black leaders.

**War Powers Act**- Sparked by the negative sentiment on the part of the American public toward the Vietnam War, Congress passed the War Powers Act on November 7, 1973, following the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. It required the President to inform Congress within two days of any use of American troops in a foreign country and to withdraw the troops within 60 days if Congress did not support their deployment.

**Earl Warren**- (1891–1974) Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1953-1969. He was a strong supporter of the civil rights movement and his court decided against segregation in public schools in the famous Brown v. Board of Education case in 1954. Warren led the Warren Commission, a committee formed to investigate the murder of President John F. Kennedy. It published the Warren Report in 1964 which stated that Kennedy had been killed by Lee Harvey Oswald and that he acted alone.