



**This photograph shows the last helicopter leaving the roof of the US embassy in Vietnam. The queue of people are Americans and Vietnamese who are desperate to get on the helicopter so that they don't get caught by the North Vietnamese soldiers, who will likely kill them.**

## **Brains in Gear:**

**Answer at least one of these questions:**

- A. Why do you think America lost the war?
- B. Why is this photograph so powerful?
- C. What do you think happened just before this photograph was taken?



## Fundamental British Values: Respect and Tolerance

09/12/2020

Today's Title:

# Why did America lose the Vietnam War?

Previous lesson:

Popular Protest

This lesson:

Why did America lose?

Next lesson:

New Topic: Assassinations

Why is it  
important  
that people  
support  
government  
action?

Learning Outcomes:

- **List** four reasons why America lost the war
- **Analyse** why America lost the Vietnam War
- **Make a judgment** on which reason was the most significant.

Key Words:

**"Hearts and Minds"** – A phrase that describes winning local people's support.

**Morale** – How positive people feel about something.

# Honourable withdrawal or humiliating retreat?

In 1973 President Nixon agreed that US troops would begin to leave Vietnam.

He described it as an “**honourable withdrawal**” but other people called it a **humiliating retreat**. They should have easily beat the Vietcong years ago but instead were leaving in shame.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2016/05/23/asia/america-vietnam-view-vietnam-war/index.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BVRhsqHE5M>

# Reasons for the defeat

There are four main reasons why the US lost the war in Vietnam.

American  
Military  
Failures

Vietcong  
Military  
Strengths

Hearts and  
Minds of  
South  
Vietnamese

Public  
Opinion in  
America

Use the information sheet to make notes on these reasons

**CHALLENGE: Which was the biggest reason America lost?  
Explain why.**

# Was the American defeat in the Vietnam War their fault?

Copy this table into your books and try to think of 3 bullet points for each side.

It was the American army's fault they lost the war	America lost the war because of factors they couldn't control

# GCSE Focus – Do you agree?

**“It was not American’s fault for losing in Vietnam” How far do you agree with this statement? (16 marks)**

Write an **agree or disagree** paragraph that answers this question. Include 2-3 pieces of evidence and remember to explain your points.

**Key words:**

Consequently, as a result, therefore, this caused, significant, this led to...

- TARGET 7

- "Statement". How far do you agree? Explain your answer?

- You may use the following in your answer:

- Point 1
- Point 2

- You must also use information of your own.

Use **PEEL**.

- Paragraph 1

- P- I **slightly/partially/mostly agree** with this statement because [point 1/2]...
- **E**- I know that....
- **E**- This led to/this meant that...
- **L**- Therefore I agree with this statement because...

- Paragraph 2

- P- I **slightly/partially/mostly disagree** with this statement because [point 1/2]...
- **E**- I know that....
- **E**- This led to/this meant that...
- **L**- Therefore I disagree with this statement because...

- Paragraph 3

- P- I **slightly/partially/mostly agree/disagree** with this statement because [own knowledge]...
- **E**- From my own knowledge I know that....
- **E**- This led to/this meant that...
- **L**- Therefore I agree with this statement because...

- Conclusion

- -In conclusion, I **slightly/partially/mostly agree/disagree** with this statement because...
- -The most important reason for this is...