

## Reflections Of The Vietnam Strategy On Resistance To French And Us Occupation

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### Abstract

*The Vietnam War against France began with the French colonization of Vietnam for nearly a century. France initially controlled South Vietnam in 1858 and expanded its influence throughout the country after the Sino-French War in 1885. This colonial rule sparked resistance from Vietnamese nationalists. The movement for Vietnamese independence gained momentum after World War II when the French tried to reclaim Vietnam. This research aims to evaluate the strategies employed by Vietnam against French and US colonialism, drawing parallels with Indonesia's fight against Dutch colonialism. Historical research methods are used to collect, analyze, and interpret past data. Various aspects, including ideology, politics, economics, and culture, influenced the relationships between the involved countries during their respective colonial periods and wars. Strengthening guerrilla warfare capabilities can provide tactical advantages for Indonesia's defense, but a balanced defense doctrine that adapts to emerging threats is essential. This approach ensures the maintenance of state security and sovereignty.*

**Keywords:** Strategy, Occupation, Vietnam War, France, United States

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## INTRODUCTION

The Vietnam War against France began with the French colonialization and occupation of Vietnam for almost 100 years. Initially, France took control of South Vietnam in 1858, and then expanded its influence throughout Vietnam after the Sino-French War in 1885. French colonialism caused much discontent and resistance from the Vietnamese people, especially from Vietnamese nationalists who wanted to liberate their country from foreign colonialism. The Vietnamese independence movement grew stronger after World War II, when the French tried to restore their control of Vietnam.

In 1946, France and Vietnam reached an agreement at Fontainebleau, which formally recognized Vietnam as an independent state within the French Union, but in fact, France continued to control Vietnam and refused to grant the country full independence. In 1949, France created the internationally recognized state of South Vietnam, while North Vietnam was controlled by nationalist groups led by Ho Chi Minh and the Vietnamese Communist Party. In 1954, the Indochina War (1950-1954) between France and the Vietnamese independence movement ended with France's defeat at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu. Finally, France agreed to withdraw its troops from Vietnam, and Vietnam was divided into two separate countries, namely North Vietnam led by the Vietnamese Communist Party and South Vietnam supported by the US and Western countries.

This later became the backdrop for the Vietnam War (1955-1975), in which North Vietnam struggled to reunite their country under communist rule, while South Vietnam was supported by the United States in their efforts to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.

The military conflict between the communist government of North Vietnam, supported by the Soviet Union and China, and the non-communist government of South Vietnam, supported by the United States and several of its allies, occurred from 1955 to 1975. This war began with South Vietnam's rejection of the results of a referendum on unification with North

Vietnam in 1954, held after France's defeat in the Indochina War. The communist-leaning North Vietnam decided to take over South Vietnam by force and started supporting the Communist rebellion in the South. The United States decided to intervene in this conflict to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. During the war, United States and allied forces conducted military campaigns involving heavy bombing, search and destroy operations, and incursions into North Vietnam. However, United States troops experienced difficulties in fighting the Viet Cong troops and North Vietnamese troops who used guerrilla warfare tactics and close combat.

The Vietnam War ended in 1975 with the victory of North Vietnam, which controlled all of Vietnam and unified North and South Vietnam to form the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This war became one of the deadliest conflicts in United States history, with approximately 58,000 United States troops killed and hundreds of thousands injured. While the number of victims from both sides of Vietnam is estimated at millions of people.

The purpose of the study "Reflections on the Strategy of Struggle Implemented by the Vietnamese Nation When Against French and United States Colonization" is to examine and analyze the strategies used by the Vietnamese people against French and United States colonialism during that period. In this research, an evaluation will be carried out on the strategies, tactics, and doctrines used by Vietnam in the war against the two countries.

Indonesia has a history similar to Vietnam in resisting colonialism, especially Dutch colonialism. Therefore, Vietnam's strategy of struggle can provide lessons and inspiration for Indonesia in developing a more effective and efficient national defense strategy.

In addition, this research can also provide insight into the importance of building unity and togetherness in fighting colonialism. This can be a lesson for Indonesia in developing a national defense strategy that promotes collaboration between various elements of society and the government. By studying Vietnam's struggle strategy, Indonesia can also develop the ability to adapt and face new challenges in national defense, as well as build a more resilient and independent force in facing threats from within and outside the country. The purpose of the study "Reflections on the Strategy of Struggle Implemented by the Vietnamese Nation When Against French and United States Colonization" is to study and analyze the strategies used by the Vietnamese people against French and United States colonialism during that period.

In addition, the purpose of this research is to provide a better understanding of Vietnam's struggle strategy, as well as lessons that can be drawn for countries facing similar challenges in fighting colonialism. This research will also evaluate the impact of Vietnam's struggle strategy on international relations and the character of the Vietnamese nation, so as to provide a broader view of the Vietnam war and its influence on global and regional history.

In the Indonesian context, the purpose of this research is to provide lessons and inspiration in developing a more effective and efficient national defense strategy. This research can also provide insight into the importance of building unity and togetherness in fighting colonialism, as well as helping Indonesia develop the ability to adapt and face new challenges in national defense.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

In carrying out the research process, especially in history, it uses historical research methods which are the process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data from the past to understand and explain historical events. The general method used in this research is literature review. This method involves reading and analyzing literary sources, such as books, articles, and

academic papers on the research topic. This can help researchers understand the theories, concepts, and context of the historical event being studied.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

In terms of management, France had problems managing the war in Vietnam due to a lack of understanding of the geographical and cultural conditions in Vietnam. They also paid little attention to the needs and aspirations of the Vietnamese people, making their attempts to control the region even more difficult. In addition, tough war tactics and the use of lethal weapons were not successful in controlling Vietnam's territory, because the Viet Minh had good adaptability and took advantage of their advantages on the battlefield.

America got involved in the Vietnam War as part of efforts to defend the country of South Vietnam from communist influence supported by North Vietnam. America tried to build a pro-Western government and institutions in South Vietnam and destroy the Vietcong movement in North Vietnam. They trained South Vietnamese troops and strengthened their defense infrastructure, including building military bases throughout South Vietnam. However, this policy was not effective in overcoming the desire of the Vietnamese people for national unification and independence and preventing the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.

**Management:** The Americans used a project management approach in the Vietnam War, which involved close monitoring of budgets and schedules. However, inconsistent policies and strategies and changes in leadership often result in instability. One of America's main strategies and tactics was to use high-tech power in the war by launching massive air strikes against North Vietnam and targeting critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges and weapons factories. However, this tactic often causes heavy civilian casualties and damages the environment.

**Doctrine:** America implements a modern warfare doctrine based on air power and high technology. The doctrine used by America in the Vietnam War was "domino theory", namely the belief that if North Vietnam was allowed to take over South Vietnam, other countries in Southeast Asia would follow suit and eventually fall into communist hands. This doctrine became the basis for America's involvement in this war and demonstrated the important role of ideology and political views in military strategic decision-making. However, this doctrine did not take into account the conditions in which the war took place and the Vietcong guerrillas constantly changed their tactics to avoid American airstrikes.

During the French colonial period in Vietnam, there were several aspects in the field of Ipolectsocol that influenced relations between the two countries. Here are some of those aspects:

1. **Ideology:** France brought the ideology of European colonialism to Vietnam and considered it a colony. This ideology influenced France's treatment of the Vietnamese people, who were considered a nation that was lower than European nations.
2. **Politics:** France led the colonial administration in Vietnam and controlled all aspects of government in the country. This colonial administration was often run in an authoritarian and repressive manner towards the Vietnamese people.
3. **Economy:** The French control most of Vietnam's natural resources and wealth and manage the country's economy for their own interests. This causes the Vietnamese people to become poor and experience economic difficulties.
4. **Social:** The French introduced Western lifestyles to Vietnam and formed a social class divided between the ruling French and non-equal rights Vietnamese. This causes social injustice and jealousy among the Vietnamese people.
5. **Culture:** France brought Western culture to Vietnam and tried to introduce it to the Vietnamese people. This caused cultural changes in Vietnam and left a strong impact on art,

architecture, fashion and language. However, this influence also threatens the existence of indigenous Vietnamese culture.

All of the above aspects influenced relations between France and Vietnam during the colonial period. These aspects became the main cause of the resistance and struggle for independence by the Vietnamese people.

During the Vietnam war, the United States (US) influenced several aspects of Ipolecosocul in Vietnam. Here are some of those aspects:

1. **Ideology:** The US brought the ideology of capitalism and democracy to South Vietnam, while North Vietnam adopted the communist ideology. The US played an active role in fighting communist influence around the world, including in South Vietnam. This affected the relationship between the two countries and sparked a deadly conflict.
2. **Politics:** The US supported the pro-Western and anti-communist government of South Vietnam and helped develop government institutions in the country. However, the South Vietnamese government was often seen as corrupt and ineffective by its people.
3. **Economy:** The US exploited natural resources in South Vietnam, especially oil and gas. In addition, the US also provided economic and military assistance to the South Vietnamese government. However, this assistance is often ineffective and wasted.
4. **Social:** The US tried to introduce Western lifestyles to South Vietnam and form a social class divided between rich Westerners and poor Vietnamese. This fueled social injustice and tension among the people of South Vietnam.
5. **Culture:** The US tried to introduce Western culture to South Vietnam and often saw Vietnamese culture as old and not modern. This sparked a cultural shift and left a powerful impact on music, film and fashion. However, this influence also sparked discontent and protests from the South Vietnamese people.

All of the above aspects influenced the relationship between the US and Vietnam during wartime. US influence in the field of Ipolecosocul is one of the reasons for the resistance and struggle for independence by the Vietnamese people.

During being colonized by France and America, Vietnam experienced changes in the aspects of Ipolecosocul (Ideology, Politics, Economy, Social, Culture). The following is a brief explanation of aspects of Vietnam's Ipolecosocul during colonization:

1. **Ideology:** Vietnamese ideology changed from classical Confucianism to Marxism-Leninism during the Cold War. Under Ho Chi Minh's leadership, Vietnam fought for its independence on the basis of this ideology.
2. **Politics:** Vietnam's political system changes along with changes in ideology. After declaring its independence in 1945, Vietnam became a communist state led by Ho Chi Minh. South Vietnam, supported by the United States, adheres to a capitalist political system.
3. **Economy:** Vietnam was an agricultural country before the French colonization. After French colonization, Vietnam was made an economic colony to obtain natural resources such as rubber, tin ore and palm oil. The United States supported South Vietnam by providing economic and military aid.
4. **Social:** Social change in Vietnam occurred due to the influence of the ideology and political system adopted. During the war period, there was a migration of people from conflict-affected areas. Many people become refugees and live in difficult conditions.
5. **Culture:** Cultural changes in Vietnam occurred due to the influence of colonialism and war. Vietnamese culture has experienced pressure from the French and the United States to strengthen their influence in the country. At the same time, Vietnam has also maintained its own culture and strengthened its national identity.

Overall, Vietnam experienced many changes in the aspects of Ipolecocol during colonization by France and the United States. These changes shaped Vietnam's character and had an impact on its historical development.

Aspects of Ipolecocol (ideology, politics, economy, social and culture) played an important role in the Vietnam War against France and America. Following are some aspects of Ipolecocol that were relevant in the war:

1. **Politics:** The Vietnam War against France and America was a political struggle for Vietnam in achieving national independence and sovereignty. On the other hand, France and America saw the war as part of their struggle against communism.
2. **Economy:** The Vietnam War against France and America caused great economic damage in Vietnam. Agriculture and infrastructure were damaged by air raids and bombing. In addition, the war also caused an increase in inflation and shortages of food and medicine.
3. **Social:** The Vietnam War against France and America caused significant social damage in Vietnam. Many civilians were victims of airstrikes and bombings, and violence and human rights violations occurred on both sides. In addition, war also causes damage to the environment and public health.
4. **Culture:** The Vietnam War against France and America influenced Vietnamese culture in significant ways. The war sparked a resurgence of nationalism and independence movements in Vietnam, and produced works of art and literature depicting the struggle. However, the war also caused damage to Vietnam's cultural heritage, such as historical buildings and archaeological sites.

In both wars, the political aspect was the main factor influencing the dynamics of the war. However, the social, economic, and cultural impact of the war was also significant, and shaped Vietnam's history and culture as a whole.

Vietnam used various management techniques, strategies, tactics, and doctrines in the war against France and America. Here are some examples:

1. **Management process:** Vietnam uses a strict management process in its military organization. They have a centralized command structure and a clear hierarchy. They also use effective logistical processing to ensure the supply of weapons and ammunition is maintained.
2. **Strategy:** Vietnam's war strategy against France and America focused on guerrilla warfare and psychological warfare. The Vietnamese used guerrilla tactics to weaken enemy forces by striking and disappearing, and taking advantage of difficult terrain. Vietnam also used psychological warfare to influence international public opinion and gain support.
3. **Tactics:** Vietnam used various tactics, such as guerrilla warfare, underground warfare, and popular resistance wars. They also use tactics of sabotage and attacks on enemy troops that are carried out suddenly and quickly.
4. **Doctrine:** Vietnam has a war doctrine that prioritizes speed, mobility, and accuracy. The doctrine also emphasizes the importance of coordination between the military forces and the people, as well as the use of hard-to-reach terrain.

By using various management processes, strategies, tactics and doctrines, Vietnam managed to gain victory in the war against France and America. Although the Vietnamese forces were often smaller and less equipped than the enemy's, they were able to take advantage of the terrain and gain popular support, thereby successfully defeating the enemy.

## CONCLUSION

the Vietnam war with France and America provided many lessons that could be drawn for Indonesia in developing a defense strategy. In carrying out its defense program, Indonesia needs to apply strategies and tactics that are adaptive and flexible, utilize existing resources, and strengthen inter-agency cooperation and community participation. As the Vietnam War proved, guerrilla warfare can be a very effective tactic against a stronger and better trained adversary. Therefore, Indonesia needs to improve its guerrilla warfare capabilities and prepare troops to fight in a difficult and complex environment. increasing the ability of guerrilla warfare can be an important strategy to strengthen the defense of the Indonesian state. Guerrilla forces can provide a tactical advantage in combat, especially if they can operate in difficult environments and are out of reach of larger enemy forces. By strengthening its guerrilla warfare capabilities, Indonesia can gain a tactical advantage in combat and enhance the country's overall defense capabilities. However, it is also important to remember that the country's defense strategy does not only depend on the capability of guerrilla warfare, but also builds a defense doctrine that is adaptive, effective, and can deal with various emerging threats by establishing a balance with conventional military capabilities and other resources. By paying attention to these aspects, Indonesia can improve its national defense capabilities and prepare itself for emerging threats. This is important to ensure that state security and sovereignty are well maintained.

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