

**The U.S. Excursion into “Star Trek” Diplomacy:
Policymaking in the Rearview Mirror in China, Korea, and Southeast Asia**

I. Captain Kirk and the Starship *Enterprise* as Metaphor for American Foreign Policy

II. China

- A. Civil War 1945–1949
- B. Two Chinas, 1949–Present
 - 1. Republic of China (Nationalist China) (ROC)
 - a. expelled to Taiwan (Chiang Kai-shek = President until 1975)
 - b. recognized by U.S. as “China” until 1979
 - c. issue of Quemoy and Matsu in 1960 U.S. presidential election
 - 2. People’s Republic of China (PRC)
- C. United Nations Security Council seat
 - 1. ROC held UN China seat until 1971
 - 2. Resolution 2758 replaced ROC with PRC in UN

III. Korea

- A. Two Koreas, 1945–Present
 - 1. North Korea
 - a. Kim Il-Sung (1912–1994) – General Secretary of Workers Party (1949–1994)
– Premier (1948–1972) – succeeded by Kim Jong-Il
 - b. 4th largest army in world
 - c. 20%–25% of GNP goes to military
 - d. 20% of males between 17 and 54 in regular army
 - e. famines in the 1990s
 - 2. South Korea
 - a. 1950–1960: Syngman Rhee presided over corrupt and autocratic regime
 - b. 1960: student riots
 - c. 1961–1979: Major Gen. Park Chung-Hee — dictatorship

IV. War in Vietnam (1945–1973)

- A. Ho Chi Minh Declares Vietnam’s Independence, 1945
- B. French Reoccupation (1945–1954)
 - 1. Battle of Dien Bien Phu (1954)
 - a. General Henri Navarre
 - b. General Vo Nguyen Giap (1911–)
 - 2. Geneva Treaty (1954)
 - a. Temporary demarcation line at 17th parallel
 - b. Elections of a united Vietnam to be held within two years
 - 3. Ho Chi Minh (1890?–1969), President of N. Vietnam , 1954–1969
 - 4. Ngo Dinh Diem (1901–1963), Prime Minister of S. Vietnam, 1954–1955; President, 1955–1963
- C. American Involvement
 - 1. U.S. opposes elections, 1956
 - 2. Domino Theory
 - 3. Lack of information concerning Vietnam among policy-makers
 - a. Did not know Vietnam was traditional enemy of China
 - b. Thought Vietnam was like Korea
 - c. Extrapolation of Cold War thinking to Southeast Asia

4. Actions determined by what “they” (whoever “they” are) might think
– “sending a message”

D. Major Events in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia

- 1955 (October 23): Ngo Dinh Diem defeats Bao Dai in referendum in S. Vietnam
(December): Massive land reforms begun in N. Vietnam
- 1956 (January): Diem begins crackdown on Vietminh
- 1957 (October): Communist insurgent activity begun in S. Vietnam
- 1958 (July 22): Pro-American, anti-Communist gov’t in Laos comes to power in Laos
- 1959 (May): N. Vietnam begins infiltrating cadres and weapons into S. Vietnam
- 1960 (August) Coup in Laos hands government back to Souvanna Phouma
(November 11): Attempt to overthrow Diem by S. Vietnam army units
(December): National Liberation Front (Vietcong) formed; USSR supports neutral government of Souvanna Phouma against U.S.-supported coup attempt
- 1961 (May): LBJ visits S. Vietnam and proposes U.S. aid to Diem
(October): JFK gives Diem more equipment and advisers
- 1962 (early): “strategic hamlet” program
(June): American advisers now at 12,000 (up from 685)
- 1963 (January 2): Battle of Ap Bac: Vietcong defeat S. Vietnamese army units
(June): First Buddhist monk to commit suicide via self-immolation
(August 22): Henry Cabot Lodge becomes U.S. Ambassador
(November 1) Coup led by Duong Van Minh overthrows Diem
(December): 16,000 U.S. advisers
- 1964 (July): Covert S. Vietnamese maritime operations against North begin
(August): U.S. destroyer *Maddox* attacked in Tonkin Gulf; U.S. bombs N. Vietnam
(August 7): Tonkin Gulf Resolution passed
- 1965 (February 7): Vietcong attack American installations; LBJ authorizes Flaming Dart
(February 24): Operation Rolling Thunder begins
(March 8): 2 marine battalions land to defend Danang airfield (1st U.S. troops)
(December): U.S. troop strength at 200,000
- 1966 (December): U.S. troop strength at nearly 400,000
- 1967 (December): U.S. troop strength at nearly 500,000
- 1968 (January): Hot pursuit by U.S. forces of Vietcong into Cambodia acknowledged
(January 31): Tet offensive begins
(December): U.S. troop strength at 540,000
- 1969 (March 18): Nixon begins secret bombing of Cambodia
- 1970 (February 20): Kissinger begins secret talks in Paris with Le Duc Tho
- 1972 (March 30): N. Vietnam launches offensive across DMZ
(April 15): Nixon authorizes bombing near Hanoi and Haiphong
- 1973 (January 27): Cease-fire agreements signed in Paris
(March 29): Last U.S. troops leave
- 1975 (April 29): Evacuation of Americans from Saigon begins
(April 30): Communist forces capture Saigon

V. Genocide in Cambodia

A. Khmer Rouge

1. Pol Pot (1925–1998), Prime Minister of Cambodia, 1976–1979
2. Estimated 2 million Cambodians killed during Khmer Rouge regime
3. Overthrown by Vietnamese army, 1979