President Johnson and The Vietnam War

Part A: Important Terms: Instructions: In at least one sentence, explain the historical significance of the terms below as they relate to the Vietnam War and the era of the conflict.

1. French-Indo China:
2. Domino Theory:
3. Vietcong:
4. The Selective Service System Draft:
5. Doves:
6. Hawks:
7. President Johnson:
8. Robert Kennedy:

Part B: Short Answer: Instructions: In at least one paragraph, answer the questions below.

1. How did Ho Chi Minh and Ngo Dinh Diem impact the Vietnam War?

2. Why was the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed? What was the purpose of the resolution?

3. What reasons did many give for protesting against the Vietnam War?
Answers: President Johnson and The Vietnam War

Part A: Important Terms: Instructions: In at least one sentence, explain the historical significance of the terms below as they relate to the Vietnam War and the era of the conflict

1. French-Indo China: This was the colonial area that France abandoned. When France left, the USA feared Communism would spread to the area.

2. Domino Theory: This was President Eisenhower's theory that Communism was spreading in Asia and would continue to do so if the pattern was not stopped.

3. Vietcong: This was a group who attacked American soldiers and they were supported by Ho Chi Minh.

4. The Selective Service System Draft: This was a draft of men ages 18-26 during the Vietnam War.

5. Doves: This was the name for those who supported ending the Vietnam War.

6. Hawks: This was the name for those who wanted to continue the Vietnam War.

7. President Johnson: While he was President, the war in Vietnam escalated greatly.

8. Robert Kennedy: In 1968, as he was running for the president, he was assassinated by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

Part B: Short Answer: Instructions: In at least one paragraph, answer the questions below.

1. How did Ho Chi Minh and Ngo Dinh Diem impact the Vietnam War?
   When France left their former colonial area, North Vietnam fell to Communism. Ho Chi Minh led in this area. In South Vietnam, the leader was Ngo Dinh Diem. Diem claimed to be anti-communist; yet, he was very corrupt and persecuted Buddhists. However, the USA supported Diem, since he stood against Communism.

2. Why was the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed? What was the purpose of the resolution?
   In 1964, an American ship, the USS Maddox, was attacked by North Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin. President Lyndon Baines Johnson then started bombing North Vietnam. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution gave LBJ increased military powers to attack North Vietnam. Operation Rolling Thunder was the first sustained bombing of North Vietnam. The resolution was a direct response to the attack on the USS Maddox.

3. What reasons did many give for protesting against the Vietnam War?
   The Selective Service System Draft was implemented to provide more soldiers in the Vietnam War, ages 18 to 26. By 1967, there were over 500,000 Americans at war. Going to college also got one out of the draft. Therefore, lower class minorities constituted a large portion of the soldiers who were sent to war. Many viewed this as discriminatory. Many protested due to the discrimination. Students for a Democratic Society organized many protest demonstrations and encouraged others to dodge the draft and flee to Canada. People began burning their draft cards and refused to participate in the war. The use of napalm also caused many to protest, since civilians were being killed by the napalm bombings as well.