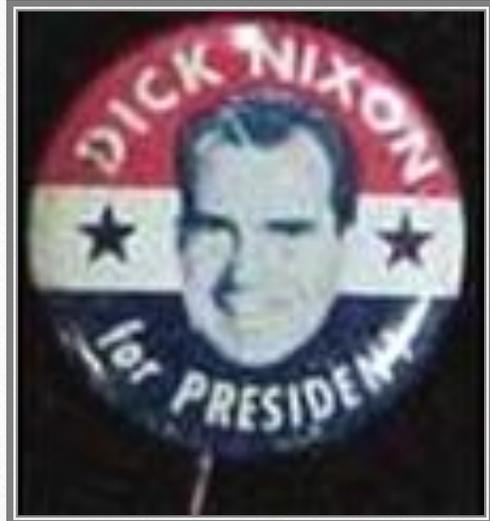


The Vietnam War

Vietnamization

Nixon and Vietnam



- Nixon's 1968 Campaign promised an end to the war: *Peace with Honor*
 - Relied on Henry Kissinger to help advise
 - Agreed that war was not winnable but...
 - We could not just cut and run
 - **Carrot and the Stick** approach
 - Rewards and punishments meant to persuade NVA to accept negotiations

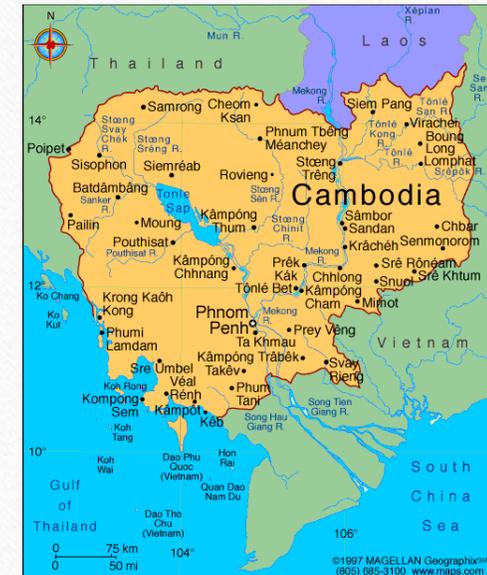
The Carrot

- Ending the bombing of North Vietnam
- Troop reduction
 - **Vietnamization**
 - Slowly **handed control of the war back to South Vietnam** and withdrew U.S. troops
 - Included setting up **elections**, helping in **rural development**, and **strengthening the ARVN**
 - Training schools, better soldier pay/living conditions, military equipment provided

The Stick

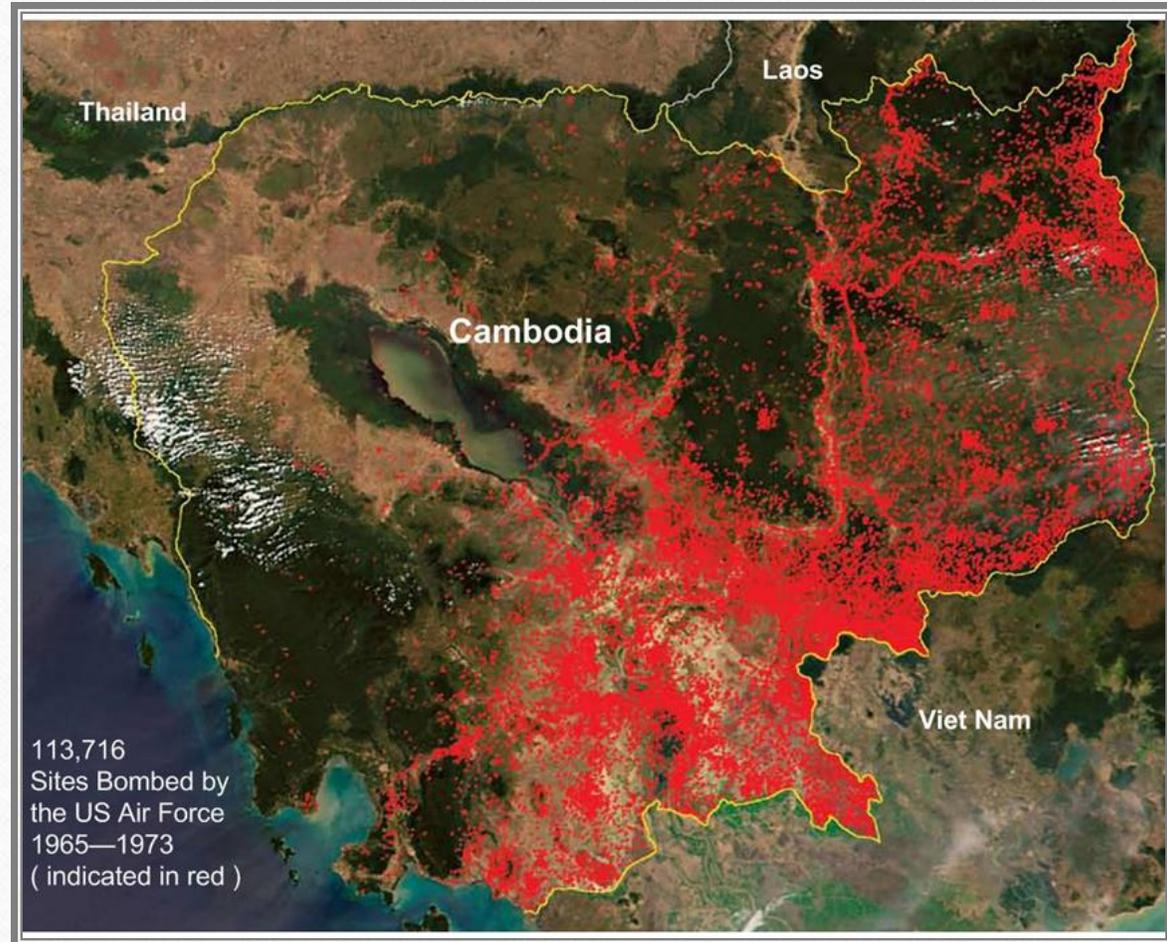
- **“The Secret War”**

- Begun in 1969
- **U.S. bombing of Cambodia** that lasted 4 years
- Bombing of Cambodia kills as many as 500,000 through dropping of 2.7 millions tons of bombs
- Meant to destroy communist base camps and supply lines
- Halted in 1973 after public found out



The Stick

- **Invasion of Cambodia 1970**
 - **Military goal:** destroy enemy “safe havens”
 - **Political goal:** show them we’re serious
 - **Backfires:** Communists boycott peace talks until U.S. withdraws
 - Also invade Laos one year later as part of Ho Chi Minh trail coverage



Opposition to the War: 1971

- U.S. troops had been reduced to 175,000 by February (from a 1969 high of 543,000)
- **Vietnamization not going well as ARVN troops continually beat back.**
- **The Pentagon Papers**
 - Leaked by **Daniel Ellsberg** to NYT
 - He was facing 115 years in prison for "violations" of the Espionage Act (Saved because of Watergate)
 - **Revealed how government lied to Congress and the public about Vietnam**



1971

- Congress had already repealed Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1970
- After invasion of Cambodia is revealed, Congress passes the **War Powers Resolution (Act)**
 - President **must notify of action within 48 hrs**
 - Can only **commit forces for 90 days** (including 30 days of withdrawal) **without Congressional approval or declaration of war**

The War Ends

- U.S. resumes bombing of NV after NVA threatens to overwhelm ARVN during invasion
- Kissinger declares “peace is at hand” as NVA agrees to peace
 - SV freaks out and demands changes causing NV to withdraw
- Bombing of NV resumes
- Both sides agree to **cease-fire 1973**
- **Paris Peace Accords**
 - 17th parallel remains
 - US troops withdraw and US POWs returned

The Fall of Saigon

- Final U.S. troops out by March of 1973
- Fighting between NVA and ARVN quickly resumes
 - U.S. refuses call for military aid and Saigon is surrounded
- U.S. orders evacuation of all U.S. personnel 1975
- **1975: NVA invades Saigon, Saigon surrenders and South Vietnam is no more**
 - Saigon later renamed Ho Chi Minh City



South Vietnamese Attempt to Flee the Country

The Fall of Saigon (April 30, 1975)



America Abandons its Embassy

**The Fall of
Saigon**



**North
Vietnamese
at the
Presidential
Palace**