Unit 3: DBQ - - Afghanistan and Iraq, Repeats of Vietnam?

Instructions: Using the documents provided, Compare and Contrast Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. Answers to questions are not required, but are there to guide your reading. You should however be filling out a graphic organizer to help you compare these conflicts to one another.

Document Set 1: Polls of Public Opinion:

**Vietnam 1965-1973: Was Sending Troops "a Mistake"?**

![Graph showing public opinion trends from 1965 to 1973](graph)

*Source: Gallup Organization*

**All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war in Afghanistan has been worth fighting, or not?**

*Worth Fighting* vs *Not Worth Fighting*

![Graph showing public opinion trends from 2002 to 2007](graph)

**Iraq 2002-2007: Was Military Action "the Wrong Decision"?**

![Graph showing public opinion trends from 2002 to 2007](graph)

*Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*

**Document 1 Set Question:**
Based on the polls, what trends do you notice about public opinion from Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq wars?
Document Set 2: Reasons and Goals

"You see, the reason we're in Indochina is to protect us boys in Indochina"
Despite Richard Nixon's election campaign promises to end the Vietnam War, each new step widened rather than reduced American involvement.

May 5, 1970
Ink, graphite, and opaque white over graphite underdrawing on layered paper
Published in the Washington Post
(70)
LC-USZ62-126931

Document 2 Set Question: What similarities and differences between Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq can see based on these cartoons?
Document Set 3 Question: Based on these cartoons, what problems do Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq all have? Provide evidence from each cartoon supporting this.
Document Set 4: Training of Troops

"The Slow U.S. Withdrawal," issues of our Times in Cartoons (Highsmith Inc. 1995.)

The Slow U.S. Withdrawal
In the 1970s, the US turned more of the war over to South Vietnam's army. This plan was called "Vietnamization." But as this cartoon suggests, the South Vietnamese army was unable to frighten or stop the North Vietnamese. North Vietnam took over South Vietnam in 1975.

Document Set 4 Question: Based on the cartoon did Vietnamization work...How is the United States following similar policies in Afghanistan and Iraq?
Document Set 5: Air War

Vietnam War: Rolling Thunder Air Campaign

Video: http://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/operation-rolling-thunder

The War on Terror (Afghanistan and Iraq): Drone Strikes

DEATH FROM ABOVE
Estimates on U.S. drone strikes during the war on terrorism, based on media reports, official statements and witness interviews:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total killed</th>
<th>Civilians killed</th>
<th>Injured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>2,534 – 2,657</td>
<td>416 – 949</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>269 – 389</td>
<td>21 – 56</td>
<td>87 – 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>7 – 27</td>
<td>0 – 15</td>
<td>2 – 34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Escalation
Starting in 1965, the US began to bomb parts of Vietnam. The steady escalation of these bombing raids was supposed to force the North Vietnamese communists to begin talking peace. But the gradual escalation of the bombing never seemed to work. North Vietnam was usually willing to take the punishment and just keep on fighting.

“Onward and Upward and Onward and —” Issues of our Times in Cartoons (Highsmith Inc. 1995.).

Document Set 5 Questions:

1) According to documents for the War on Terror, what is an apparent impact of increased drone strikes on U.S. enemies?

2) Compare the Rolling Thunder campaign in Vietnam to U.S. Drone Strikes today, what similarities and differences exist between these tactics?
Document Set 6: Troop Surges

**U.S. troops in Afghanistan**

The White House says that the prospect of a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan by next year opened up, after the strife-torn nation’s President Hamid Karzai refused to sign a security deal.

**TOTAL U.S. TROOPS**
Numbers of troops are estimates as numbers change daily.

- **2002-2006** Low levels of violence
- **2007-2008** Growing violence
- **2007-2013** U.S. mission limited to Kabul
- **2002-2004** U.S. mission expands

Nov. 2006: 68,000
First troop increase under President Obama
Sept. 2010: 98,000
Second Obama increase

Sources: Congressional Research Service, Tomahawks Institute media reports.

© Reuters

**U.S. troops in Iraq**

President Barack Obama has ordered all U.S. troops out of Iraq by Dec. 31. Troop levels and deaths by month since the U.S. invasion in March

**Troop levels**
In thousands, as of Sept. 22

- March: 137 deaths
- April: 170,300
- Troop surge
- Troops leave cities
- March: 2 deaths
- April: 40,000 troops

**Total deaths**
4,479

Deaths
As of Oct. 17

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**Document set 6**

**Question:** Based on the graphs, what trend do you notice in the amount of troops throughout the conflicts of Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq?
Document Set 7: Hearts and Minds


Many American soldiers and support personnel made efforts to win over the South Vietnamese people. They supplied medical aid, agriculture expertise, engineering knowledge, and other forms of assistance. It was hoped that these efforts would help to show these people the benefits of democracy. American soldiers were taught that they were the guests of these people. The soldiers were taught that they were in Vietnam to help them.

“They were the most patient people... You’d get there about eight in the morning and there would be half a dozen people sitting there with their babies, or injured children, or sitting beside somebody on a stretcher, just waiting for somebody to come... I remember on cute little bright-eyed... kid... who’d been shot through the lung. I operated on him and the dressings were painful. I had nothing for the pain, so I would talk to him... I knew I’d hurt him, I could see the tears in his eyes, by he would not call out... this kid grabbed me around the neck and gave me a big hug and the biggest smile I've ever seen.”

— Beale Rogers, volunteer doctor.

Document 7.2 - Vietnam Hearts and Minds Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zq3kgHAI-3U

Document 7.3 - Iraq Hearts and Minds: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=if7r9dm61b4

Document 7.4 - Pictures of American Soldiers in Afghanistan

Document Set 7 – Based on these resources, what is the goal of winning the hearts and minds? What problems does the U.S. tend to have with winning the hearts and minds of the people in the countries they occupy?
8.1 For the North Vietnamese, the nation of Laos to the west provided an excellent way to transport materials and troops, allowing for them to gain access to the whole nation of Vietnam. Because Laos had declared that they were neutral, the Vietnamese could easily retreat to Laos with little fear of attack from U.S. Troops. It was not until later on in the war when the U.S. became more involved in these countries.

8.2 – Many of the engagements between insurgents and U.S. Troops happen along the Afghanistan, Pakistan border. Terrorist groups and guerillas use the national border as protection, since U.S. troops are limited when they cross into Pakistan an allied country.

**Document Set 8 Question:** What parallels can be drawn between NVA use of Laos and Terrorist use of Pakistan?
Document Set 9: Guerilla Wars

Document 9.1 - The Only Vietnamese I Ever Got Close to

I met this girl in a village store. She was about 17 or 18, sort of pretty and very shy. I guess she was the only Vietnamese I ever got close to. By then I spoke a little of their language and I found she was studying English and math. I said I could help her in both subjects and twice we took a short walk to the end of the village. She was afraid of me at the beginning, but later she got over it, and I started to look forward to being with her.

One day we were on this patrol. It was raining, and suddenly, we were caught in an ambush. Our guns returned the fire. We hit them hard and then called in the gunships for support.

Then, maybe thirty minutes after, the firing stopped and we moved out to look for the wounded and to take a body count. There was a bunch of bodies around, all V.C., and all women. One of them was my little girlfriend, now dead, bullets through her head and chest. She had an automatic near her. I was shocked. She was a V.C.

Document 9.2 - They Said I Was Doing My Duty

We were outside Bac Lier, out on an eighteen-man patrol with fifteen ARVNs. Our orders were to move ahead and seek out, and not hesitate to shoot at anything suspicious. We were about ten kilometers from town when there was some shooting. It lasted about ten minutes.

My God, how I remember that damned day. Hot and sticky — the mosquitoes were driving’ me crazy. And there was this little boy, about eight or nine. He was climbing out of a tree. I grabbed him and blurted out in Vietnamese — what little I knew — ‘Who are you and what are you doing here?’

He was afraid of me and pulled away. He had his hand opened behind his back, like he was hiding something. 'Grab him,' someone screamed, 'he's got something.' I made a move for him and his hand moved again. 'Shoot'.

Because of my training, because I was afraid and this was the first enemy I had come across, I fired at him. again, and again until I emptied my whole M-2 carbine at him. It was out- and-out murder; I can never forgive myself and I can never forget it. They're the enemy, but they're fighting for their country. Then I told the psychiatrist and the Catholic chaplain, they said I was only doing my duty.

Document 9.3 – Guerilla War in Afghanistan and Iraq

Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute – The military adviser at the White House coordinating efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq:

- "We have never been beaten tactically in a fire fight in Afghanistan,"

Col. Harry Summers A military historian speaking to NVA Officer

Summers- "You never defeated us in the field."

Resources 9.4 & 9.5 – Guerilla Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq


Iraq Guerilla War: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3072899.stm

Document Set 9 Question: Assess the challenges that are faced by the U.S. troops in these Guerilla Wars:
Question: What differences exist between the amount of deaths in Vietnam compared to the amount in Iraq and Afghanistan?
THE NATURE OF THE CONFLICT . . .

The world as it is in Asia is not a serene or peaceful place. The first reality is that North Viet-Nam has attacked the independent nation of South Viet-Nam. Its object is total conquest. Of course, some of the people of South Viet-Nam are participating in attack on their own government. But trained men and supplies, orders and arms, flow in a constant stream from north to south. This support is the heartbeat of the war. . . .

WHY ARE WE IN VIET-NAM?

Why are these realities our concern? Why are we in South Viet-Nam? We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence. And I intend to keep that promise. . . .

Document 11.2 - The President's Ultimatum to Iraq and Opposition to It, Speech by President George W. Bush

On March 17, 2003, President George W. Bush issued an ultimatum to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Following is an excerpt of the speech Bush made explaining the ultimatum.

Unlike Saddam Hussein, we believe the Iraqi people are deserving and capable of human liberty. And when the dictator has departed, they can set an example to all the Middle East of a vital and peace ful and self-governing nation....The power and appeal of human liberty is felt in every life and every land. And the greatest power of freedom is to overcome hatred and violence, and turn the creative gifts of men and women to the pursuits of peace. That is the future we choose. Free nations have a duty to defend our people by uniting against the violent. And tonight, as we have done before, America and our allies accept that responsibility.

Document 11.3 – Pictures of Afghanistan’s first democratic voting for both Men and Women

Document Set 11 Question: What is a key reason that the U.S. uses for becoming involved in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq?
Document Set 12: Results of the Wars

Document 12.1 – South Vietnamese, Scramble to get onboard evacuation choppers in Saigon South Vietnam as the NVA army draws closer to capturing the city.

[Images of evacuation scene]

Video: Vietnam: Evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AiyFF9qOIs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AiyFF9qOIs)

Document 12.2 -Political Cartoons depicting U.S. exit strategies in Afghanistan and Iraq”

[Images of political cartoons]

Document Set 12 Question:
Overall how did the wars in Vietnam and Iraq end up?
...How does it seem Afghanistan will end?