



GUIDED READING *1968: A Tumultuous Year*

Section 4

A. As you read this section, note some of the causes and effects of the events of 1968. Leave the shaded box blank.

Causes	Events of 1968	Effects
	1. Tet Offensive	
	2. Johnson's poor showing in the New Hampshire primary	
	3. Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	
	4. Assassination of Robert Kennedy	
	5. Disorder at the Democratic National Convention	
	6. Richard M. Nixon's presidential election victory	

B. On the back of this paper, note the political party of each of the following and describe the position that each held or sought in 1968: **Clark Clifford, Eugene McCarthy, Hubert Humphrey, and George Wallace.**



RETEACHING ACTIVITY *1968: A Tumultuous Year*

Section 4

Sequencing

A. Put the events below in the correct chronological order.

- _____ 1. President Johnson announces he will not seek a second term.
- _____ 2. Robert Kennedy is assassinated.
- _____ 3. The Tet Offensive shocks America.
- _____ 4. Richard Nixon is elected as president.
- _____ 5. President Johnson narrowly wins the New Hampshire primary.
- _____ 6. Riots mar the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Completion

B. Select the term or name that best completes the sentence.

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| domino theory | Israel | Walter Cronkite |
| doves | Kent State | Yippies |
| law and order | Clark Clifford | Columbia University |

- 1. After the Tet Offensive, the renowned journalist _____ declared that the Vietnam War seemed destined “to end in a stalemate.”
- 2. Robert Kennedy was assassinated by a Palestinian immigrant who said he was angered by Kennedy’s support of _____.
- 3. In April 1968, the students at _____ held a massive protest over the school’s community policies.
- 4. Richard Nixon won support during the presidential race by vowing to restore _____ to the country.
- 5. The group of antiwar protesters who many believe had come to the Democratic National Convention to provoke violence and chaos were called the _____.

CHAPTER
22

Section 4

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: LOCATION

The Ho Chi Minh Trail

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

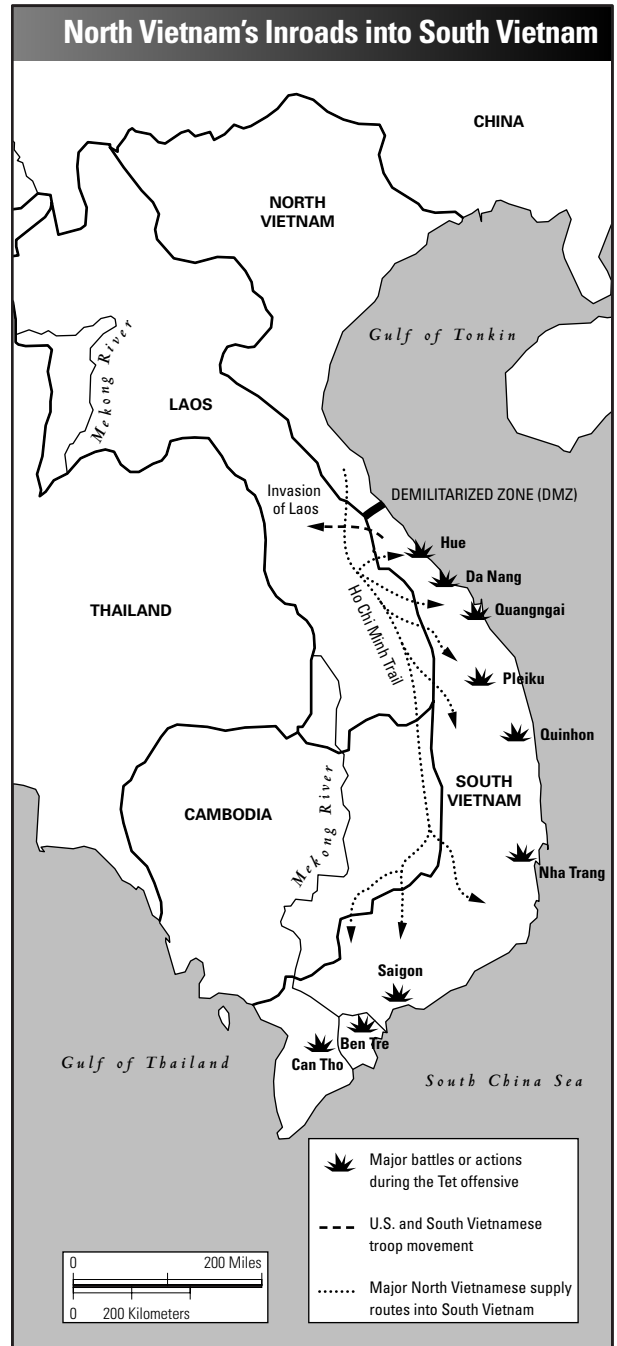
The Ho Chi Minh Trail developed from a network of existing hidden jungle paths. During the 1960s, it became the main route used by North Vietnam to get troops and supplies into South Vietnam in support of the Vietcong's fight against South Vietnamese troops and their U.S. allies. The trail was named for Ho Chi Minh, the leader of North Vietnam at the time. When North Vietnamese soldiers were wounded, they were transported up the trail for treatment.

U.S. and South Vietnamese troops tried repeatedly to cut or destroy this lifeline. They drenched the surrounding jungle with defoliants to kill trees and other vegetation. This effort failed, and North Vietnam continued to use the trail.

The Tet Offensive of early 1968 showed how determined North Vietnam was. The North Vietnamese and the Vietcong launched simultaneous raids on provincial capitals and major cities throughout South Vietnam at the beginning of Tet, the lunar new year celebration. The U.S. Embassy in Saigon was attacked, as were many other supposedly secure sites. The planning and coordination needed to carry out such an action stunned Americans in Vietnam and in the United States. The Tet Offensive, though not a North Vietnamese victory in the sense that it captured territory or inflicted great casualties, still caused many Americans to rethink their nation's involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1971, South Vietnamese troops invaded Laos in an attempt to cut off the flow of men and supplies along the trail. Despite American air support, the invasion was a disaster, and the South Vietnamese army was defeated by North Vietnamese forces.

The Ho Chi Minh Trail, along which more than 20,000 troops a month could be moved by 1967, was the key to keeping North Vietnam in the war until the United States tired of battle and controversy and pulled out.



© McDougal Littell Inc. All rights reserved.

Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. Describe the path of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. _____

2. What was the purpose of the Ho Chi Minh Trail? _____

3. According to the map, about how many miles long was the Ho Chi Minh Trail? _____

4. Describe the 1971 operation directed at interrupting the Ho Chi Minh Trail. _____

5. What might have been the outcome of a successful invasion of Laos in 1971? _____

6. Reread the text and then look at the map for the northernmost and southernmost points of attack during the Tet Offensive. What part do you think the Ho Chi Minh Trail played in the attacks? _____



Section 4

PRIMARY SOURCE Lyndon B. Johnson on Vietnam and Reelection

In a televised address to the nation on March 31, 1968, President Johnson outlined changes in Vietnam policy and concluded with the surprise announcement that he would not run for reelection. As you read part of Johnson's speech, consider what he offered to North Vietnam and why he decided not to seek the Democratic nomination.

Tonight I want to speak to you on peace in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

No other question so preoccupies our people. No other dream so absorbs the 250 million human beings who live in that part of the world. No other goal motivates American policy in Southeast Asia.

For years, representatives of our government and others have traveled the world—seeking to find a basis for peace talks. Since last September, they have carried the offer I made public at San Antonio.

It was this: that the United States would stop its bombardment of North Vietnam when that would lead promptly to productive discussions—and that we would assume that North Vietnam would not take military advantage of our restraint. . . .

Tonight, I renew the offer I made last August—to stop the bombardment of North Vietnam. We ask that talks begin promptly and that they be serious talks on the substance of peace. We assume that during those talks Hanoi would not take advantage of our restraint. We are prepared to move immediately toward peace through negotiations.

Tonight, in the hope that this action will lead to early talks, I am taking the first step to deescalate the conflict. We are reducing—substantially reducing—the present level of hostilities. And we are doing so unilaterally, and at once.

Tonight, I have ordered our aircraft and naval vessels to make no attacks on North Vietnam, except in the area north of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) where the continuing enemy build-up directly threatens allied forward positions and where movements of troops and supplies are clearly related to that threat. . . .

I call upon President Ho Chi Minh to respond positively and favorably to this new step toward peace.

But if peace does not come now through negotiations, it will come when Hanoi understands that our common resolve is unshakable and our common strength is invincible. . . .

In these times, as in times before, it is true that a house divided against itself—by the spirit of faction, of party, of region, of religion, of race—is a house that cannot stand. There is divisiveness in the American house now. . . .

What we won when all our people united must not now be lost in suspicion, distrust, and selfishness or politics among any of our people.

Believing this as I do, I have concluded that I should not permit the presidency to become involved in the partisan divisions that are developing in this political year. With America's sons in the field far away, with America's future under challenge here at home, with our hopes and the world's hopes for peace in the balance every day, I do not believe that I should devote an hour or a day of my time to any duties other than the awesome duties of this office, the presidency of your country.

Accordingly, I shall not seek and I will not accept the nomination of my party for another term as your President. But, let men everywhere know, however, that a strong and confident, a vigilant America stands ready to seek an honorable peace and stands ready to defend an honored cause, whatever the price, whatever the burden, whatever the sacrifice that duty may require.

Thank you for listening. Goodnight, and God bless all of you.

from *Chicago Sun-Times*, April 1, 1968. Reprinted in *Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1961–1968: The Burdens of World Power*, vol. 18 of *The Annals of America* (Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1968), 613–616.

Discussion Questions

1. What offer did President Johnson make to North Vietnam?
2. Why did he decide not to seek the Democratic nomination for president?
3. How do you think antiwar activists responded to Johnson's speech?



Section 4

AMERICAN LIVES John Lewis

Moral Force for Nonviolence

*"We got arrested for the first time and I felt good about it. We felt we were involved in a crusade and, in order to do something about it, you had to put your body on the line. We felt we could bring about change in the South."
—John Lewis, recalling his feelings after joining in his first sit-in, 1973*

John Lewis (b. 1940) has worked outside the system in the civil rights movement. He has worked inside the system as the head of a federal agency and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Wherever he has worked, Lewis has urged the nonviolent pursuit of equal rights.

Lewis was born to an Alabama farm family. He hoped to become a minister one day and listened on the radio to the speeches and sermons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who became his model. At college in Nashville, Tennessee, he joined workshops to learn the principles of nonviolent protest. These principles appealed to his deep faith.

In 1960, Lewis and other students heard about successful sit-ins being staged in North Carolina. They decided to stage similar protests. Over the next few weeks, they were arrested many times for breaking the city's segregation laws. That spring, Lewis and other students from across the South organized the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

In 1961, Lewis joined in the freedom rides. In the beatings that took place in Montgomery, Alabama, Lewis was knocked unconscious. Nevertheless, he continued with the freedom rides throughout the summer. That fall the Interstate Commerce Commission ruled that segregation was illegal on interstate buses.

In 1963, Lewis was voted chairman of SNCC. He left school to devote himself full time to the movement. In the 1963 march on Washington, the young Lewis joined veteran civil rights leaders King and Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as one of the principal sponsors and speakers. The next year, he organized the voter registration drive called Mississippi Freedom Summer. In 1965, Lewis and King organized the march from Montgomery to Selma, Alabama. In the clubbings that took place on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Lewis's skull was fractured. He recovered enough to help lead the second march two weeks later.

Lewis was feeling increasing frustration. He was tired of being beaten, and the growing war in Vietnam disturbed him. An advocate of nonviolence, he was a conscientious objector—someone who opposed all war on principle. An opponent of racism, he urged African Americans to resist the draft until they had won equal rights.

During this time, Lewis continued to serve as chairman of SNCC. However, many members now wanted a more radical approach to the struggle for rights. In 1966, one of these radicals was elected chairman, defeating Lewis. A few months later, Lewis resigned from the organization he had helped found and had led for three years.

In the next few years, Lewis continued his civil rights work in various organizations. Most noteworthy was his work in a project that helped register a million new African-American voters. In 1978, President Carter named him to head ACTION. This agency had responsibility for such volunteer programs as the Peace Corps and Vista. Lewis changed policy to put the agencies in closer touch with community groups.

In 1986, Lewis won election to the House of Representatives from Georgia. He has been reelected every two years since then, winning his sixth term in 1996. House colleagues have given him great respect due to the sacrifices he made in the civil rights movement and his principled stands on current issues.

Questions

1. How was Lewis's commitment to nonviolence tested in his life?
2. Lewis said he left SNCC when radicals took control because "violence . . . might deliver some quick solutions, but in the long run it debases you." What did he mean?
3. In 1991, Lewis opposed the use of force against Iraq. How is this stand—even if it was unpopular—not surprising?