The Road to Vietnam War

1954: French Defeated at Dien Bien Phu by Vietnamese Communists:
- Division of Vietnam: 1954 Geneva Conference agree to split Vietnam at the 17th Parallel with Communist North and Capitalist South.
- Civilians chose which side to live.
  (1 million went South and only 50,000 migrated to the North).

1957: North Vietnam Army began the war against South Vietnam.

1964: Congress passed the Tonkin Gulf Resolution:
1965: President Lyndon B. Johnson sent U.S troops to fight the war.

1973: The U.S, North and South VN signed a cease-fire agreement

1975: The Fall of Saigon.

Opening Immigration’s Pandora’s Box

1965-Marked the year the National Quotas Act was repealed.
The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (Hart-Cellar Act).
89th US Congress passed into law
Passed house unanimously 318-95 in favor and 76-18 for the Senate.
House approved Senate substitute unanimously 320-70.
Impacts of the Pandora’s Box:
- Immigration demographics practically flip entirely
- Since the repeat of National Quotas Act in 1965:
  - About 87% of immigrants were composed of previously mentioned countries.
  - European migration dropped or was made less noticeably since

The First Wave of Refugees

The law under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which allowed 270,000 visas annually, applied to these immigrants.
First wave of immigrants (1975-77) from Vietnam were predominantly highly educated and well connected to U.S and South Vietnam govt.
Approximately 86,000 left for Philippines or Guam.

The Second Wave of Refugees

Second wave is considered between 1978-mid 1990’s.
Known as “The Flight of The Boat People” since they mostly escaped by boats.
All at this time were considered refugees.
Estimated a million and a half refugees left Vietnam.
Mainly consisted of the less educated and with little or no English.
Through boats or running through Thai jungles to get away.

Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986

Gave unauthorized aliens opportunity to apply and gain legal status.
Granted amnesty:
  - Some argue it did not.
99th US Congress passed unanimously (Senate: 69-30 House: 230-166)
Joint Conference for Sub (House Passed 238-173, Senate passed 63-24)

With the Aid of Immigration Reform Act of 1990

Increased the cap of visas given.
101st US Congress passed unanimously:
  - Senate passed 81-17
  - House passed 231-192
Joint Conference on sub (House: 264-118 pass, Senate: 89-8 pass).

The 3rd Wave & Vietnam and US relations

3rd Wave considered between mid 1990’s to 2000
Bill Clinton signed policy to lift trade embargo off Vietnam in 1994
  - It was with the advise of John McCain.
Family Reunification Provision:
  - Gave more immigration opportunity to Vietnamese.