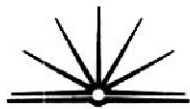


The 1968 Tet Offensive was a turning point in the ~~the~~ Second Indochina war, & was ~~was~~ a significant part of North Vietnam's strategy in achieving victory in 1973.

The decision to have a cease-fire from both sides over Christmas, New Year & the sacred celebration of Tet, was made & agreed to by both North Vietnam, South Vietnam & the US. However the 30th January 1968 saw North Vietnam & the NLF pour thousands & thousands of troops into the city of Saigon, launching a ~~surprise~~ surprise attack on its enemy.

South Vietnam & the US retaliated with strong defensive attacks, & the fighting continued until ~~the~~ mid February, when the North retreated its



remaining troops.

The Tet offensive caused Johnson's reaction, & his decision to begin to "de-escalate" the war. It acted as the final push that drew the Americans out of Vietnam.

The results of the Tet Offensive had a major impact on the attitudes of the American civilian population.

The war was highly televised, & this event pushed the attitudes of the Americans even further to believing that America should not be in the war, & that the US army & the South had no chance of winning. The low morale of the US homeland, which was escalated by the Tet Offensive was an important factor in the withdrawal of America, & therefore, the eventual

loss of the war.

The Tet Offensive changed the US aim of winning the war & defeating communism, to just getting out quickly before the war was completely lost, & their reputation completely damaged.

This change in ~~the~~ ^{the US} aims led to Richard Nixon being elected as US President on the basis of "Peace with honor." Nixon planned to achieve this in two ways.

Firstly, Vietnamisation involved gradually reducing numbers of American troops within Vietnam, combined ~~with~~ with the increase of machinery, economic & equipment aid. The US troops began to formally train the ARVN

in the hopes that they would be able to sustain themselves without such huge involvement from the American troops.

Secondly, Triangulation ~~was~~ involved Nixon's strategy to gain greater diplomatic relations with Russia & China, in order to help force North Vietnam to the conference table. In anticipation of this, North Vietnam launched another massive offensive on the South, pushing them even closer to their eventual victory in 1973.

The Tet Offensive was largely responsible for the ~~loss~~ creation of disillusionment & lowering of morale amongst the American population. This, plus the impact of the Tet Offensive on the US troops led to the

de-escalation of the war on America's behalf. The Offensive was a significant part of North Vietnam's strategy, driving the US out of the war, thus leading the North to victory of the second Indochina war.

While realising that the Tet Offensive contributed significantly to the US & Southern defeat, ~~and~~ there were other factors that contributed to the end result.

America never had clear motives for being involved in the war. What was originally seen as a fight against communism, was instead seen as the US supporting a corrupt & failed ~~of~~ political system that had failed to support itself. This seemingly pointless & futile reason for ~~the~~ US involvement

involvement in the war lowered US troop morale, as they began to question their purpose in being there. Acts of violence occurred against US commanding officers, & ~~the~~ the use of drugs was common amongst the American soldiers.

This disillusionment & low morale of the US & ARVN armies was a direct contrast to the high morale & strong will of the NLF & North Vietnamese armies. The North fought a revolutionary war, which involved including all citizens & members of the North in the fighting in any way they could. Their strong belief in communism, combined with their willingness to fight a revolutionary war for ~~as~~ as long as it took was a

contributing strategy in the North's achievement of victory in the Second Indochina War.

Another important strategy of the North's to achieve victory was their use of guerilla warfare.

This unique form of ~~warfare~~ warfare reduced the occurrence of direct contact in battle with the opposition, and gave them an advantage in wearing down the enemy.

The inability of the US & the South to successfully counter the methods of guerilla warfare was a defining factor in their defeat.

~~Other~~ Another successful strategy of North Vietnam was the construction & large use of

underground tunnels. This enabled them to confuse the opposition by simply disappearing. This provoked the US & ARVN forces to conduct "Search & Destroy" missions in which they would destroy a village with bombs, drive the Viet Cong out, & take over the area. However, the inability of the US to hold on ~~to~~ to their possession of the land once taken over, meant that the North eventually re-gained what they had lost.

While the Tet Offensive of 1968 was a significant part of North Vietnam's strategy in achieving victory, there were other contributing factors. North Vietnam's strong communist ideals, as well as their high morale, ability

to wage a revolutionary war, as well as their guerilla warfare tactics, were also significant strategies of ~~the~~ North Vietnam's for achieving victory in the Second Indochina War.