Historical Studies A70: International History
November 29, 2001: The Vietnam War in the International Context

1. Global Transformations during the 1960s (Review)
   a. Changing patterns of the Cold War
   b. “Decade of Development”
   c. The “cultural revolution” of the sixties

2. Vietnam in International Affairs
   a. Geopolitical: U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia, from Eisenhower to Kennedy; U.S. neutralization/international supervision of Laos and Cambodia, but not Vietnam (why?); escalation of the war under Lyndon Johnson (search for regional stability); Sino-Soviet split and Vietnam; U.S. and its Western allies (DeGaulle, Harold Wilson, Willy Brandt, etc. are critical of U.S. policy)
   b. Economic: Decolonization and nation-building (which nation, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, or Vietnam?); Johnson and “the American dream”
   c. Cultural: Maoism, Cold War “revisionism” (erosion of “consensus”)

3. Global Turmoil during the 1960s
   a. Western Hemisphere: Castro in Cuba, fall of Bosch in Dominican Republic, Goulart in Brazil, Prado in Peru, Frondizi in Argentina
   b. Africa: independence of new states; Organization for African Unity established; civil war in Congo and elsewhere; UN sanctions against Rhodesia; South Africa’s apartheid condemned by UN
   c. Middle East: Iraq and Syria under Soviet influence; PLO established (1963); 1967 war between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, Syria
   d. Asia: China-India war, India-Pakistan war, Singapore becomes independent; Japan-South Korea normalization; fall of Sukarno in Indonesia (replaced by Suharto)
   e. Non-Aligned Nations meetings in 1961, 1964, 1966, but they become split between followers of USSR and China

   a. The search for re-stabilization (in domestic and international affairs)
   b. Ending the war in Vietnam; the “Guam doctrine” (1969)
   c. The Nixon presidency: domestic underpinnings for a “new international order”?
   d. U.S.-PRC rapprochement; China’s domestic stabilization; PRC in UN
   e. U.S.-USSR détente (CSCE, SALT): was the Cold War ending?
   f. The changing nature of U.S. world leadership: crisis of the Bretton Woods system (erosion of the value of the dollar; U.S. trade and balance-of-payments deficits)