

US IV The Cold War - B

Learning Target:

I can examine the Soviet equivalent to our Vietnam War, the Soviet/Afghanistan War. I can identify how this conflict impacted America today with terrorism.

5. The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan (The Soviet's Vietnam)

Afghanistan –

- Mountainous country that makes travel very difficult
- People live in rural tribes that are very loyal to these tribes
- Majority of the population is Muslim

Communism comes to Afghanistan –

- 1970s a communist party overthrew the Afghan monarchy
- Rural population saw the communist social reforms as alien to their culture
- New communist government lacked popular support due to its anti-Islamic tone

The Mujahideen –

- Guerilla Islamic insurgency
- Declared a jihad on the communist Afghan government
- Also declared jihad on the Soviets who were assisting the Afghan government

The Soviet's Invade –

- Invaded in December of 1979
- Invaded to preserve the unpopular communist government established in the 70s
- The Soviets killed the leader of Afghanistan and installed a puppet leader

Soviets vs. The Mujahideen –

- The Mujahideen proved to be a formidable opponent
- Soviets used napalm, poison gas, land mines, and helicopter gun ships
- Could not defeat the Mujahideen due to popular support from the Afghans

American Impact On Afghanistan –

- The US condemned the Soviet invasion and boycotted the 1980 Moscow Games
- America also supplied surface-to-air missiles indirectly to combat Soviet choppers
- The US secretly supported the Mujahideen to give the Soviets their Vietnam

Soviet Withdrawal –

- 1989, the Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan
- Around 15 thousand Soviets died and over 1 million Afghans died

Consequences Today –

- Afghanistan was left as a weak state with hatred towards richer nations
- It became a breeding ground for terrorism
- The vacuum of power left by the Soviets was the perfect place for the Taliban and Osama bin Laden to flourish
- The United States viewed the conflict in Afghanistan as a Cold War event even though it would prove to be the inspiration of the modern terrorist movement