

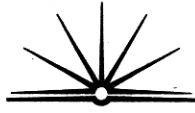


(b.)

It was the Vietcong & DRV forces that demonstrated effective strategies & tactics in Vietnam between 1960 and 1975. The nature of guerilla warfare in this period featured a unique style, one that the Northern forces perfected. The methods used by the US/ARVN forces were rigid & ineffective in the Vietnamese country's circumstances, as General Westmoreland discovered. The Vietcong/Vietminh were able to defeat the South in 1975, due to their effective adaptation to the climate & vegetation of Vietnam.

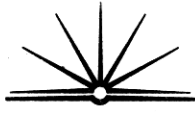
The nature of guerilla warfare was well-suited to the ~~the~~ Northern Vietcong/

DRV forces. The slight build & agility of the soldiers was utilised through the establishment of tunnels that protected their forces from Aerial bombardment, notably Napalm. Similarly, the strategy of attacking at night exacerbated their already effective use of camouflage. This superior skill of warfare often gave the forces of the North the advantage of surprise. Upon surprising US/ARVN forces, the Vietcong would engage in brief combat & then retreat into the terrain. To the North's advantage, their forces had an understanding of how the American weapons worked, and were able to respond adequately with modern Soviet & Chinese weapons. The forces of the North had a clear



understanding of guerilla warfare
& implemented it effectively.

The modern tactics & strategies implemented by the US forces in Vietnam, were inferior to that of the North. Under ~~General Westmoreland~~ Commander and Chief Westmoreland, the Americans put to use the tactic of 'search & destroy'. Their forces would raid suspected Vietcong villages, seek out anyone supporting the North, relocate the villagers and destroy the village. This led to the construction of 2000 hamlets, whereby villagers were relocated, however they became ~~resentful~~ resentful towards this forced relocation - often providing some opposition. Westmoreland's strategy was to attempt to draw



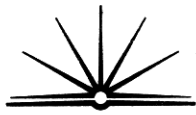
the Vietcong / DRV into open combat. The use of aerial bombardment explored for this purpose, and was at times successful, however the North possessed so little infrastructure, that this modern style of warfare was predominantly ineffective. Similarly, the US forces faced the ongoing problem of not being able to hold captured installations, ~~which~~ without large numbers of troops assigned there. It is therefore understandable as to why the American implementation of modern warfare was so ineffective.

The Vietnamese succeeded primarily due to the greater superiority of warfare it implemented. Kevin Ruane



also points out further reasoning as to the success of the Northern strategies: "Time, though, was not on their (the South's) side". The terrain proved decisive in the failure of the US/ARVN military tactics, as the dense shroud of the jungle gave enormous camouflage which their enemy exploited effectively. Similarly, the climate was greater suited to guerilla warfare, demonstrated by the constant decision of the North to attack during rainy periods. Also, important was the lack of understanding & cooperation on behalf of the South towards American tactics. Clearly, they possessed an inferior strategy.

The superiority of the style of



warfare selected by the South was greater suited to the surroundings. With the US familiar with more open combat & the advantage of Aerial bombardment - they were disadvantaged. Thus, the effectiveness of the tactics & strategies of the Vietcong / DRV, from 1960 to 1975 in Vietnam.

P1 Nature of warfare

- tunnels
- attacks at night
- attack & then flee

P2 US (West) tried to match with...

- drawing into combat - couldn't hold
- search & destroy
- Hamlets
- Aerial bombardment

P3 Why Vietnamese succeeded

- Time
- ~~also~~ Terrain
- Climate
- South forces didn't cooperate

~~P4~~

Conc

Ruane