

# EDEXCEL GCSE

## HISTORY

**Paper 3:** Modern Depth Study

Option 33: The USA, 1954-75: conflict at home and abroad

**SET 2**

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## Insert

### Sources/interpretations for use with Section B

**Source B:** From an interview with Ngo Vinh Long in 2003. Long grew up in Vietnam. Here, he is talking about the Strategic Hamlet Program.

**Source C:** A propaganda poster created by the South Vietnamese government in 1968. The text says: "ONE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW LIFE HAMLETS IS TO ORGANIZE THE PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN THE ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE."

**Interpretation 1:** From 'Ngo Dinh Diem and South Vietnam Reconsidered', an article by Philip E. Catton in *Triumph Revisited* (2010).

**Interpretation 2:** From 'The Failed Search for Victory', an article by Lawrence J. Bassett and Stephen E. Pelz in *Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War* (1995).

**Source B:** From an interview with Ngo Vinh Long in 2003. Long grew up in Vietnam. Here, he is talking about the Strategic Hamlet Program.

"It created tremendous destruction to peasant life, especially in central Vietnam. People were sometimes moved great distances from their land and put in villages behind barbed-wire fences, moats and spikes... It caused tremendous dislocation, even starvation. One day I entered a village by the name of Ka Rom where the highlanders had been re-grouped into a strategic hamlet. They [the villagers] said that two hundred people had starved to death in the past month. I knew they were telling the truth just by looking at them. Their hair was crinkled and brown, their skin was dark and flaky, and they smelled horrible."

**Source C:** A propaganda poster created by the South Vietnamese government in 1968. The text says: "ONE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW LIFE HAMLETS IS TO ORGANIZE THE PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN THE ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE."



**Interpretation 1:** From 'Ngo Dinh Diem and South Vietnam Reconsidered', an article by Philip E. Catton in *Triumph Revisited* (2010).

“The Strategic Hamlet program [was] not only a Vietnamese initiative, but also an elaborate nation-building project – it was, in fact, the last and most ambitious of the regime’s [Diem’s government] plans for developing South Vietnam”.

**Interpretation 2:** From ‘The Failed Search for Victory’, an article by Lawrence J. Bassett and Stephen E. Pelz in *Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War* (1995).

“Diem regained some favour with Washington by accepting another part of the Kennedy plan for Vietnam – strategic hamlets. Roger Hilsman [an official in Kennedy’s government]... correctly concluded that the villages of South Vietnam willingly provided supplies and a great majority of recruits to the NFL [Vietcong]. He argued that the South Vietnamese government had to provide villagers with civic action programmes [schools, clinics and self-defence training] and physical security by creating fortified hamlets.”



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