The US wanted to limit the influence of the Soviet Union around the world. They wanted to contain their power. They didn’t want them to influence Vietnam

Domino Theory – if Vietnam fell to the Communists – as China and North Korea had done – all of Southeast Asia would fall as well, like dominos in a row

Gulf of Tonkin events – In 1964 a naval vessel exchanged gunfire with North Vietnamese vessels in the Gulf of Tonkin, a body of water off the Vietnamese coast. Two days later, during bad weather, U.S. ships reported that their radar showed torpedo attacks. Even though the second attack years later was shown to be a false report, President Johnson called the attacks and act of war and ordered air strikes against the armies of Communist Vietnam

President Johnson asked congress for permission to send the army against the forces of North Vietnam and congress passed the Tonkin Gulf Resolution

People might have been suspicious of the fact that this was meant to fight communism but why in Southeast Asia?

People didn’t want to see an enormous number of young people going to Vietnam

The draft really turned people away

It was a small unimportant country

People wondered if the domino theory would actually happen if we didn’t go to Vietnam

People were suspicious of the government and why we backed this South Vietnamese government that was so far away from the United States

President Kennedy said Vietnam was a “test of American responsibility and determination in Asia”. What questions would a person ask the President if they were suspicious of the government?

How did the fall of Dien Bien Phu, who we supported, cause people to be suspicious?