

#34 A New Year Surprise



U.S. Marines engaged in street fighting with Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces.



The Vietnam War was fought from November 1955 to the fall of Saigon in April 1975. It was the second of the Indochina Wars and was officially fought between North Vietnam and South Vietnam. North Vietnam was supported by the Soviet Union, China, and other communist allies; South Vietnam was supported by the United States and other anti-communist allies. It lasted almost 20

years, with direct U.S. involvement ending in 1973.

During the war, the Tet Offensive was fought against U.S. and South Vietnamese forces from January–February 1968 by the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese army. Timed to coincide with the first day of the Tet (Vietnamese New Year), it was a surprise attack on South Vietnamese cities, notably Saigon. Although repulsed after initial successes, the attack shook US confidence and hastened the eventual withdrawal of its forces.