



Dr. John Linantud  
Geopolitics Exercise  
Korean and Vietnam Wars  
linantudj@uhd.edu

[http://www.uhd.edu/academic/colleges/humanities/sos/political\\_science/linantud.htm](http://www.uhd.edu/academic/colleges/humanities/sos/political_science/linantud.htm)

Updated 24 June 2013

Learning Outcome: upon completion of this assignment, students will better understand the impact of geography and international politics on the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

### References

- Regional and National Maps from *CIA World Factbook*; counterfactual maps created using PaintShopPro and Powerpoint.
- Actual war maps from Allan R. Millett, "Korean War" and Ronald H. Spector, "Vietnam War" in *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, accessed 20 June 2013.
- Based on John Linantud, "Pressure and Protection: Cold War Nation-Building in South Korea, South Vietnam, Philippines, and Thailand," *Geopolitics* 13, 4 (October 2008) ppg. 635-656 (London: Routledge).

## Directions

- Identify the similarities and differences between Figures 1 and 2.
- Study Figure 3. Draw the main battle arrows from any one Actual Map of the Korean War on the Counterfactual Korea map.
- Study Figure 4. Draw the main battle arrows from the Actual Map of the Vietnam War on the Counterfactual Vietnam map.
- Which Actual arrows would be easiest, and hardest, to duplicate in the Counterfactual worlds? Why?
- What new arrows would you be tempted to create in the Counterfactual worlds? Why?
- Don't forget how Counterfactual *Neighborhoods* formed by surrounding states would influence your arrows.

30/4/1975  
30/4/2007



Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

USSR

Mongolian People's Republic

People's Republic of China

Democratic People's  
Republic  
of Korea  
(North Korea)

Republic of  
Korea  
(South Korea)

Japan

India

**Figure 1**  
**Actual East and**  
**Southeast Asia**  
**Circa the**  
**Tet Offensive**  
**1968**

Union of Burma

Republic of China  
(Taiwan)

Islamic Republic  
of Pakistan  
(East Pakistan)

Laos\*\*

Democratic Republic of  
Vietnam  
(North Vietnam)

Republic of the Philippines

Kingdom  
of Thailand

Cambodia\*

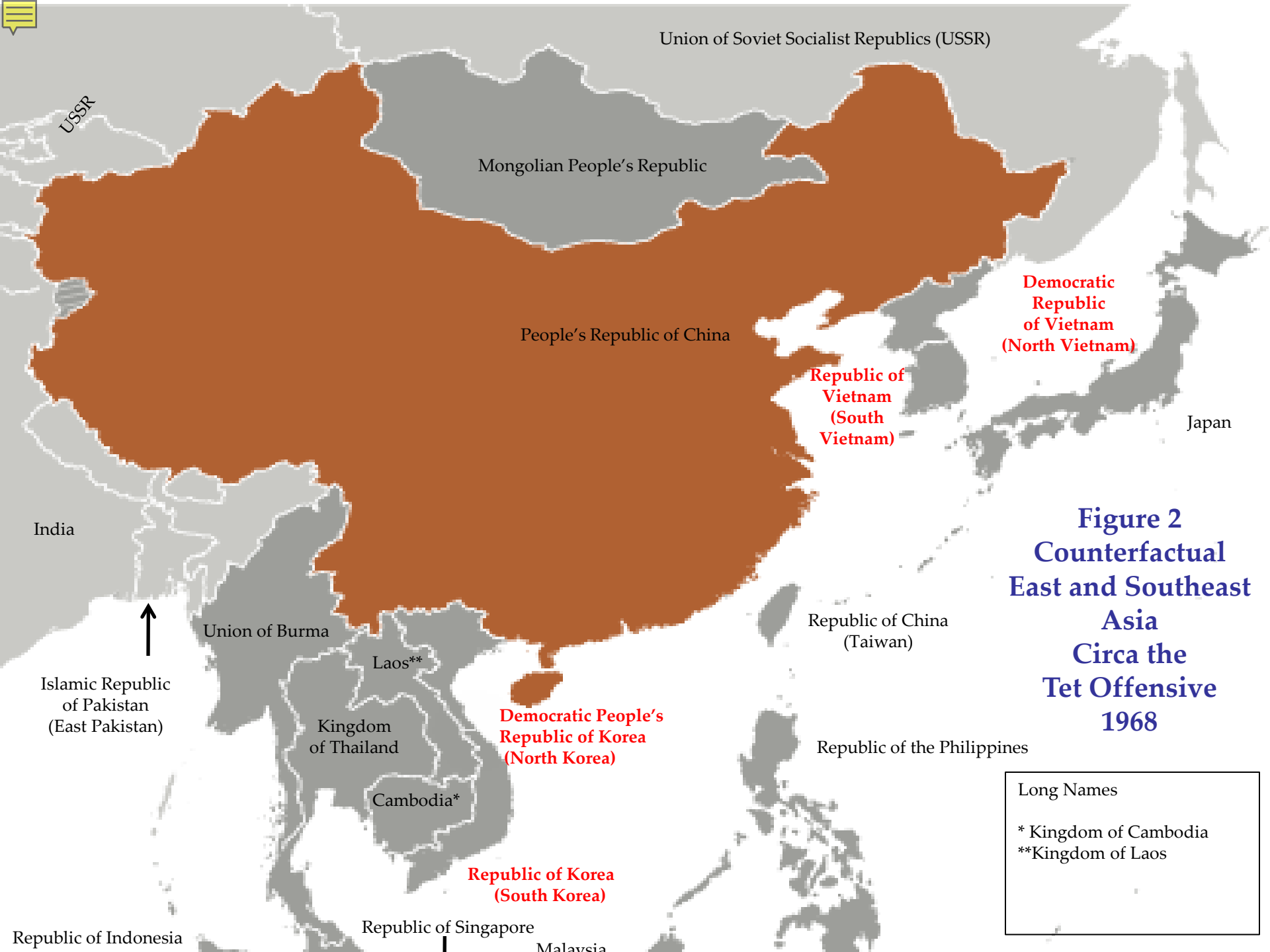
Republic of  
Vietnam  
(South Vietnam)

Long Names  
\* Kingdom of Cambodia  
\*\* Kingdom of Laos

Republic of Indonesia

Republic of Singapore

Malaysia



Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

USSR

Mongolian People's Republic

People's Republic of China

Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam)

Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam)

Japan

India



Union of Burma

Islamic Republic of Pakistan (East Pakistan)

Laos\*\*

Kingdom of Thailand

Cambodia\*

Republic of China (Taiwan)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

Republic of the Philippines

Republic of Korea (South Korea)

**Figure 2**  
**Counterfactual**  
**East and Southeast**  
**Asia**  
**Circa the**  
**Tet Offensive**  
**1968**

Long Names  
 \* Kingdom of Cambodia  
 \*\* Kingdom of Laos

Republic of Indonesia

Republic of Singapore

Malaysia



Actual Korean War, 1950-53

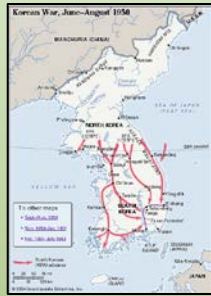


Figure 3  
Counterfactual Korea



Actual Vietnam War, 1965-70



Actual Korean War, 1950-53

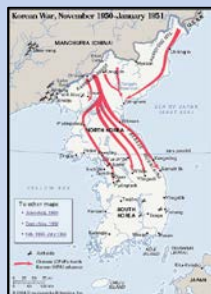


Figure 4  
Counterfactual Vietnam



Actual Vietnam War, 1965-70

