

**Comparison of Vietnam with Iraq:  
In Light of George Bush's Claim that There is no Analogy  
Between the Two**

by  
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*"QUESTION: Mr. President, ... some people are comparing Iraq to Vietnam and talking about a quagmire. ... How do you answer the Vietnam comparison?"*

*BUSH: I think the analogy is false. I also happen to think that analogy sends the wrong message to our troops and sends the wrong message to the enemy."*

George W. Bush Press Conference, 13 April, 2004

**Analogy** is the comparison of two pairs which have the same relationship. The key is to ascertain the relationship between the first so you can choose the correct second pair. Part to whole, opposites, results of -- are types of relationships you should find.

**Example:**

hot is to cold as fire is to ice OR hot: cold:: fire: ice  
Cf. similarity, likeness, parallel, comparable

<b>Nation:</b>	<b>Vietnam:</b>	<b>Iraq:</b>
Continent:	Asia (South east)	Asia (South west)
Previous Empire:	French (Indo-China) earlier (China)	British (since WWI) earlier (Ottoman)
Language:	Vietnamese	Arabic, and others
Religion(s): Sunni)	Confucian Secular Christian (Roman Catholic)	Buddhist Islam (Shia and Secular
Political Party:	Communist	Baathist (socialist)
Political Leader:	Ho Chi Minh	Saddam Hussein

American Choice

for Political Leader:

Ngo Dinh Diem (until 1963)	Saddam Hussein (until 1990)
--assorted generals--	
Nguyen Van Thieu (until 1975)	Ahmad Chalabi Iyad Allawi Nouri al-Maliki (2006)

CIA employment:

OSS and Ho in WW2 USA at war with Japan	CIA and Saddam in 1980's USA hostile to Iran
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Principal Resource:

Rice	Oil and sand
Cheap labor	Cheap labor
	Highly educated population

Strategic Value:

USA base on mainland of Southeast Asia	USA base for domination of Persian Gulf region
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Dead Americans:

58,000 (total)	2, 700+ and climbing
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Dead enemies :

millions	one hundred thousand (+ -)
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Popular phrases:

hearts and minds	shock and awe
light at the end of the tunnel	mission accomplished
	Weapons of Mass Destruction
Domino Theory	Anti-terrorism
Anti-communism	

Costs:      billions of dollars      billions of dollars

Damage to country:

massive bombing	massive (precision?)
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bombing

Civilian casualties:

millions	600,000 + - (est.)      (WSJ, 11
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Oct. 06)

Principal enemy tactic:	guerrilla warfare	guerrilla warfare
USA tactic:	warfare \$\$	high tech warfare \$\$high tech
US Armed Forces:	initially all volunteers (poor and minorities) [eventually a conscript army]	initially all volunteers (to date) (poor and minorities)
US homefront:	initial support eventual rejection	initial support w/protests
Media coverage:	uncensored	censored
English speaking:	little to none (French)	some
Americans who can speak native language:	miniscule	miniscule
Support for US from UN:	No	No
Opposition to US from Europe:	Yes	Yes
Impact on US economy:	-Increased deficits -weak dollar -Good for military- industrial complex -neglect of domestic issues	-Increased deficits -weak dollar -Good for military- industrial complex -neglect of domestic issues

Legal/moral issues:

Contested/doubtful	Contested/doubtful
Just war?	Just war?
Necessity?	Necessity?

Impact on US

Presidency:

JFK assassinated	Bush runs for re-election
LBJ quits	Bush wins re-election
Nixon resigns (Watergate)	2006 Mid-term elections?
Ford defeated for re-election	