

Appendix C

Questions for Students on The Origins of the War in Vietnam, 1945-1965

1. What specific points do these two versions of the origins of the Vietnam War have in common?
2. What historical points are unique to the first version, and which are unique to the second version?
3. Do these accounts of history contain any biases? If so, what are they?
4. Do the differences in their content impact the way readers might interpret the history? Explain.
5. Do these two accounts have common purpose? Explain.
6. Are all the details in these accounts relevant to the matter of the Vietnam War's origins? Explain.
7. What difference does it make that the second version included references to scholarly work?
8. What questions about the origins of the Vietnam War might emerge as a result of reading these versions of history and why do they matter?
9. Which version do you think provides a better description of how the war in Vietnam evolved? Why?
10. What does this exercise teach you about historiography and the importance of understanding something about who wrote the historical narrative and for what purpose they wrote it?