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## Level 2 History, 2016

### 91234 Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society

9.30 a.m. Wednesday 23 November 2016  
Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society.	Examine, in depth, how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society.	Comprehensively examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

Excellence

TOTAL

8

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Write an essay, using the essay task below, on ONE significant historical event that has affected New Zealand society.

Your essay must include an introduction and a conclusion, and use detailed supporting evidence.

You should provide context for your discussion by adding a detailed paragraph(s) describing the historical event and its background.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

**ESSAY TASK**

Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealanders in the short *and/or* long term. You must consider one or more of the following impacts:

- **social**
- **political**
- **economic**
- **strategic/military.**

Historical event: The Vietnam War

# **PLANNING**

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Description of the historical event that affected New Zealanders

NZ political involvement  
 NZ change in political & military policies  
 NZ sends troops  
 Counter cultural movement  
 withdraw

Short-term effect(s) on New Zealanders  
 (social, political, economic, strategic/military)

Refugees - social

Examination/Evidence

Long-term effect(s) on New Zealanders  
 (social, political, economic, strategic/military)

Social - returning soldiers  
 Health  
 political change

Examination/Evidence

Begin your essay here:

The Vietnam War was a war of ideology, ideologies that had their roots in the Cold War, Communism against international policies of capitalism and democracy, which erupted into physical combat in Vietnam in the early 1960's when President Lyndon B. Johnson <sup>escalated the war by</sup> ~~sent~~ sending in ground troops. ~~Between~~ Between 1962-1970 New Zealand sent combat troops, surgical teams and engineers into Vietnam to support their allies Australia and the US in the fight against Communism. However there was a great deal of social backlash with the emergence of the counter cultural movement in New Zealand and world wide who strongly protested foreign troops being deployed in Vietnam. The Vietnam War lead to many significant social, military and political impacts that affected New Zealand society. The Vietnam War <sup>not only</sup> lead to physical and psychological damage to the soldiers <sup>but also</sup> ~~and~~ marked a turning point in New Zealand foreign policy that would permanently <sup>change</sup> ~~determine~~ New Zealand's relationships with it's international allies making the Vietnam War a significant event in New Zealand history.

New Zealand was drawn into the Vietnam War in 1962 due to post World War Two treaty obligations they held with the US which is a key political feature of the Vietnam War as it is the reason New Zealand initially got involved in the War effort. US ideologies concerning the Vietnam War steamed from Cold War Communism fears beginning in 1947. The US didn't want Communism to spread into South East Asia as they believed this would be the foothold <sup>The Soviet Union</sup> ~~Russia~~ needed to spread Communism to the Western World, this hypothesis was called the Domino Theory. New Zealand's involvement in Cold War tensions steamed from the Labour Governments

decision in the 1940's to support Great Britain and the United States in any disagreements with the Soviet Union. This was cemented in the Canberra Pact signed in 1944 by Australia and New Zealand with which agreed to work towards mutual interests rather than a military alliance. This was followed by the ANZUS (Australia New Zealand United states) alliance signed in 1951 which agreed to <sup>a united defence of</sup> ~~defend~~ the Pacific region from the growing Communist threat, ANZUS formally extended US reach to the Pacific region allowing them to retaliate against any threat to their allies. Three years later the SEATO alliance was signed by New Zealand in 1954 to block further communist gains in the Pacific under the guise of improving the social and economic state of the region. These treaties were the first to be signed by New Zealand without Great Britain causing concern that New Zealand was beginning to align more with the US on international issues, this is a key political feature of the Vietnam war as it initiated a shift in NZ foreign policy that went on to affect NZ society by drawing them into the Vietnam War. //

The Vietnam War also saw NZ shift the focus of their foreign political and military policies another key political and military feature of the Vietnam War. In the lead up to the Vietnam War New Zealand began to distance itself from its traditional ally Great Britain to show stronger defence ties to the US. Despite having the capability to fight alone the US wanted Australian and New Zealand troops in Vietnam as a 'strong show of flags' to show they had international support behind their actions, another key political feature of the Vietnam War. New Zealand's sudden alliances with the US was due to their search for security in the Pacific region as Communism

had spread to South East Asia following the 1950 Communist Victory in the Chinese Civil War. As South East Asia was the only place where a direct communist threat could come from it became the focus of the New Zealand Militaries new 'forward defensive strategy' another key military feature of the Vietnam War. The fact the Communist threat was now so close to New Zealand encouraged New Zealand to become more involved in the allied effort to fight against Communism with the US. The shift in New Zealand Foreign policy in the lead up to the Vietnam War had a significant effect on New Zealand society as it saw New Zealand more aligned with the US whose obligations would eventually draw them into the War.

Despite Prime Minister Keith Holyoake's reluctance New Zealand was eventually drawn into the Vietnam War on a military capacity in 1962 due to recently forged treaty obligations to the US a key military feature of the Vietnam War in New Zealand. Due to consistent US pressure New Zealand first sent a surgical team into Vietnam in 1962, the team was not sent to Vietnam to participate in combat. The War continued to intensify and the US put more pressure on New Zealand as it's foreign ally to send more support New Zealand then sent over 25 non-combat engineers to build roads and bridges in South Vietnam. It was not until 1965 that New Zealand sent over combat troops in response to consistent US calls for allied support. In July 1965 the 161 artillery Battery consisting of 120 men arrived in South Vietnam to fight alongside allied forces. The 161 Battery completed a historic fire mission in the Battle of Long Tan in August 1966. However the US continued to

pressure New Zealand to supply more support so the NZ government at the time approved additional military assistance to be sent between 1967-1969. Two rifle companies consisting of 180 men were deployed direct from Malaysia in 1967 and the Special Air Services (SAS) units were deployed in 1969. New Zealand tried to keep it's military support of the US to a minimum while still fulfilling it's obligations to the US in order to keep the US as a key ally until the end of the war, this was a key military feature of the Vietnam War that affected New Zealand Society due to the significant strain this commitment had on already limited military resources. //

New Zealand's military Participation in the Vietnam War caused a great deal of social backlash leading to the development of the Anti-Vietnam War counter cultural movement in New Zealand. A key social feature of the Vietnam War that heavily affected New Zealand Society. The root cause of the counter cultural movement was the exposure the public had to the brutalisation and violence of the Vietnam War through the television, as historian Marshall McLuhan stated "television brought the brutality of the war to the comfort of the living room" the horror and violence was not restricted to the battle field but <sup>was</sup> seen by the general public causing a huge outcry in opposition to the War inflaming the protest movement. The Anti Anti - Vietnam protest movement took over as the new focus <sup>for</sup> the New Zealand public many different forms of protest were used such as marches, rallies, hunger strikes, music festivals and 'teach ins'. Between 1967-1970 there were 339 street demonstrations against the Vietnam

War in New Zealand with Wellington Parliament being a popular protest location. This specific counter cultural movement was rooted in the youth of the country with the largest Protest group being the Progressive Youth Movement (PYM) established in 1964 by three young school teachers, the group soon got the reputation of being the most aggressive and militant group. PYM was actually a branch of the New Zealand Communist Party which changed it's name to the Socialist Unity party in 1966. PYM felt they needed to take strong and physical action in order to get their opinion heard to make a change, these shock tactics frustrated both the Labour and National governments. One of PYM's biggest protests was in 1969 when 800 Auckland members wrapped in white sheets and red paint marched on Auckland University making national headlines. When the government heard of a planned PYM march on ANZAC day in 1970 Norman Kirk leader of the Labour Party made this statement "the PYM should know the public is sick of their antics, their behaviour is a fertile seed bed for disorder and should be controlled by the proper authorities" this demonstrates the New Zealand governments frustration towards the counter cultural movement and the severe division that began to form in New Zealand society. The New Zealand counter cultural movement against the New Zealand troops being deployed in Vietnam, inflamed by what they saw on TV, was a key social feature of the Vietnam War in New Zealand that directly affected and tore apart New Zealand society for many years.

New Zealand Troops began to withdraw from Vietnam in 1970 beginning the US organised strategic Vietnamisation of the War which was another military feature of the War. The first NZ



troops to withdraw from Vietnam were the Whiskey 3 Company in 1970 followed by the NZSAS and 161 Battery in 1961 and 1 & 2 NZATTU companies in 1972. The last Royal New Zealand Air Force flight out of Vietnam was April 1975 as the New Zealand Ambassador to South Vietnam was evacuated. The Regional and popular South Vietnamese forces were meant to fill the significant gap left by the ANZAC troops, initiating the strategic Vietnamisation of the war. New Zealand Army officers were to have a huge <sup>role</sup> ~~take~~ in the handover <sup>of</sup> training the Vietnamese forces, to ensure allied areas stayed defended once all foreign troops had withdrawn. However the South Vietnamese forces were ill equipped and inefficient ~~and~~ with little incentive to fight so once <sup>majority of</sup> ~~at~~ foreign troops had withdrawn in 1975 the ARVN South Vietnamese were quickly defeated by the NVA (North Vietnamese Army). Following the fall of Saigon in April 1975 marking the end of the Vietnam War and the victory of Ho Chi Minh's communist forces.

A short term social and economic impact of the Vietnam War on New Zealand Society was the sudden influx of South Vietnamese refugees welcomed into New Zealand. After Saigon fell in 1975 and the Viet Cong declared the Socialist Republic of Vietnam victorious in 1976 there was a mass exodus of approximately 2 million South Vietnamese refugees who fled South Vietnam from fear of living under the new Communist government and the threat of being placed in brutal re-education camps. These refugees were called 'boat people' because they fled <sup>from</sup> the Vietnamese coast on dangerously crowded boat vessels, and sadly 200-400 thousand of these refugees died at sea. New Zealand helped considerably in the international effort to

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Welcome these refugees into New Zealand Society with 412 refugees entering New Zealand in 1977 increasing to an estimated 2000 in the mid 1980. Welcoming this many displaced South Vietnamese would have put a significant strain on New Zealand resources especially following New Zealand's contributions to the Vietnam war itself, having a huge social and economic affect on New Zealand Society.       

A long term social impact of the Vietnam War in New Zealand was the lack of recognition for the returning soldiers which illustrated the severe ethical divisions evident in New Zealand Society. Even though the New Zealand troops began withdrawing from Vietnam in 1970 they were completely ignored by the Returned Services Association and it was not until 2008 that an official apology and welcome home ceremony was held for these soldiers. The returning soldiers were shocked at the amount of public opposition there was to this war, they assumed they were fighting a noble cause for their country and would be welcomed back as heroes but were dismayed upon returning to realise they were fighting a cause opposing to popular opinion and had been labelled murderers by their peers. The first encounter the returning soldiers had with the <sup>anti-Vietnam war</sup> counter cultural movement was during their only welcome home ceremony organised by the Auckland council in 1971 to welcome home the NZ special Air Services and 161 Battery. The parade was uneventful until it reached the platform

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erected outside the Auckland Town Hall, red paint bombs and fire crackers were thrown onto the road to symbolise the unneeded blood shed of the Vietnam War and red paint covered protestors even sat in the middle of the road in an attempt to block the parade route. Major John Masters commander of the 161 Battery and leader of the parade was subject to a citizens arrest by activist Roger Fowler <sup>who</sup> charged the Major with offensive and disorderly behaviour, however Magistrate H. Y. Gillard said the case was "misconstructed and abusive" and dismissed it from court. This event demonstrates the unwarranted abuse (physical and psychological) <sup>these</sup> soldiers suffered on a daily basis, especially considering Major Masters carried an injured Gurka for 54 hours straight through the jungle to safety and was named New Zealand inaugural ANZAC of the year. The lack of recognition for the returned soldiers <sup>and their contributions to the war</sup> made it harder for them to move on from <sup>their horrific experiences</sup> ~~the war~~ <sup>in the war</sup> affecting them for years to come and illustrating the severe division and conflict that plagued New Zealand Society long after the war was over showing ~~how~~ the enormity of affect the Vietnam War had on New Zealand Society.

There were numerous long term health impacts of the Vietnam War on returning soldiers effected both physically and psychologically from the war through Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and over exposure to the chemical toxin Agent Orange. Over

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the course of the Vietnam War 20 million gallons of herbicide were used on South Vietnam and by 1969 1,034,300 hectares of forest had been destroyed. Over 3400 returning soldiers have died from cancers associated to exposure to Agent Orange and children in South Vietnam still grow up with deformities, disabilities and diseases caused by DNA mutations from Agent Orange. Many returning soldiers also suffered from PTSD and even their families suffered from secondary traumatic stress disorder caused by hearing first hand accounts of a loved ones traumatic experience indicating how deeply disturbing the soldiers experiences in Vietnam were. There were also numerous reports of soldiers suffering from sleep disturbance, alcoholism, violent outbreaks and in severe cases suicide thoughts, with Richard Easton from the Victor Company stating "I wake up in a sweat terrified because the frogs have no quiet" demonstrating how hard it was for the soldiers to move on. The Anti-Vietnam War protest propaganda also hindered the returning soldiers emotional recovery as they began to believe what the public thought of them and couldn't handle being viewed as a murderer or brutaliser. The long term health impacts of PTSD and disease due to agent orange affecting the lives of hundreds of soldiers and their families for years following the war indicating how significant the Vietnam War was in New Zealand history and society.

The Vietnam War also led to long term political impacts.

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as New Zealand began to re evaluate it foreign policy and relationships with it's foreign allies, especially the US, following the events and of the Vietnam War and the effect it had on New Zealand Society.

During the Vietnam War protestors encouraged the New Zealand government to distance itself from it's allies and even pull out of the <sup>JANZUS</sup> ~~ANZUS~~ <sup>the</sup> alliance but New Zealand government chose to support the US through the entirety of the war because they saw value in a strong foreign ally. However as the Vietnam War drew to a close New Zealand began to distance itself from both it's dominant allies, Great Britain and the US, as New Zealand saw their ideals may not always allign with their allies ideals and that getting too involved in international issues can negatively impact New Zealand society, it was the Vietnam War saw the end to New Zealand's previously bipartism based foreign policy. As Hirston Philippa Mein stated "The Vietnam War saw the end to the consensus of foreign policy and split the country" demonstrating how after the Vietnam War New Zealand was left divided both internally and externally. In 1973 Prime Minister Norman Kirk stated "From now on when we are presented with a new situation we will not ask what do the British think? or what do the Americans want us to do? We will first ask what do we think?" which perfectly summarised New Zealand's new stance on foreign policy following the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War greatly impacted New Zealand society on the political front as it lead to permanent changes to foreign policy which marked a turning point in New Zealand's relationships with it's international allies. //

Even though New Zealand's Overall contribution to the Vietnam War can be considered minimal they made a significant

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different to the war effort by sending a total of 3500 troops by 1972 and of those troops 37 were killed and 187 wounded. The Vietnam War significantly impacted New Zealand society through the social, political, Health, economic and military fronts including the influx of South Vietnamese refugees, new government policies, the beginning and end of the Anti-Vietnam War counter cultural movement and the severe physical and psychological damage suffered by soldiers and their families for many years following the war. The Vietnam War led to many significant impacts on New Zealand society and still remains a controversial and talked about topic today, therefore the Vietnam War is a highly significant event important to New Zealand history. *U*

*ES*



Grade	Explanation
E8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The discussion reflects the weighting and focus of the essay task, namely the effect on New Zealanders</li><li>• Responds directly to the essay task, comprehensively examining the impacts and the links to the event</li><li>• Makes insightful links, judgements and conclusions</li><li>• Effectively uses evidence. In parts this is extraordinary, indicative of the candidate's thorough understanding of the topic</li><li>• Macro / micro contexts</li><li>• Use additional pages, but is written with cogency and conviction.</li></ul>