

(B)

The Tet offensive in 1968 was very significant in ~~the~~ North Vietnam achieving victory as it psychologically weakened the South Vietnam and US position. Although it was a military defeat for the North, it had the biggest impact on the US as it caused the breakdown of US morale and discipline and increased US disillusionment. Although it did affect the north as it was a military defeat, Tet proved to be very important in their defeat of the South.

The Tet offensive in ~~the~~ 1968 was a ^{North} ~~Nth~~ attack on 44 cities in the south. The North hoped that as a result ARVN ~~be~~ units would be isolated and destroyed, forcing them to surrender. The attack also wanted to create chaos and confusion that would ultimately result in the South

population 'rising up' and overthrowing President Thieu. However the attack was a military failure as the South's response was alot fiercer than they had expected. The north also suffered alot more casualties than the south; 45000 casualties based on US calculations. The unexpected responses physically weakened the north Vietnam position however it did result in a much worse psychological defeat on the US which eventually led to their withdrawal and the North claiming victory over the south.

Although the South and US proved to be ~~militarily~~ militarily superior in the Tet offensive, it was the psychological affect that had the greatest impact. ~~The Tet~~ The Offensive made the world realise how the second

Indochina war was the first 'televised war'. Horrible images and video's started to emerge from the media that they had taken and witnessed during the war. This personally shocked the US public as for the first time they realised the horrible nature of the war. This led to an increase in protest and a breakdown in US morale back in America. For the soldiers their discipline was beginning to have a negative impact. "Fragging" became very common the drug use soared in popularity among the soldiers. By 1970 $\frac{2}{3}$ of US soldiers were addicted and using marijuana and about $\frac{3}{4}$ had tried heroine. It became evident that something needed to be done on the political front, however the Tet offensive had also had a negative impact on the US

government.

In 1968 President Johnson was politically in trouble. He had lost the support of the congress and the events and images that circulated after the attack ~~and~~ placed him in a very bad position. He ~~had~~ began to have major opposition from his own party.

~~Senator~~ Senator McCarthy and Kennedy became prominent anti-war campaigners within his own party. ~~So~~ It was clear Johnson couldn't deal with the pressures from the government and congress and the outcry and protest from the American population.

Johnson announced that he would not re-run for election, and this led to the breakdown of the democrats. Johnson was succeeded by Nixon, a ~~republican~~ republican who continued the war for

another four years, although it was clear in 1969 that the South and US were not going to win the war.

The overall effect of Tet was the slow withdrawal of ~~the~~ the US from the war. ~~Thanks to~~ The Tet offensive proved to be the biggest defeat for the South and US in the entire war. It put the US in a more vulnerable state that allowed the North to take clear advantage of. The offensive ~~clearly was the biggest defeat on the South and~~ was a major factor that led to the North finally achieving victory over the South and allowing Vietnam to be united again as one country under communist rule.