

External assessment 2022

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Stimulus book

# Modern History

## General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

## Source 1

### Excerpt from *ABC News* website article

[Wiradjuri man Victor Bartley] shares his life story and explains what makes him the man he is today:

...

‘In 1966, when I turned 19, I received a letter from the department. My number had come up for national service.

‘When I was registering, one of the questions was: “Are you of Aboriginal descent?” I ticked ‘yes’.

‘Five or six weeks later, I received a letter back stating I was exempt from national service because I was Indigenous’

...

In 1968, Victor signed up with the Army to serve in the war with his mates — this time he lied on his paperwork to ensure he was accepted, indicating his nationality was British.

‘... We were young, we were only about 19 when we went to Vietnam. I was one of about five Indigenous blokes in our regiment, but there was no colour.

‘It wasn’t black and white. There was only one colour in the Army — green.’

...

‘No-one came up to me and said, “You ... can’t sit with us”, as I was accustomed to.

‘There was none of that, and that’s how it always was for me for those six years in the Army.

‘I’m proud to say those I served with treated me just as I treated them. It gave me the knowledge that people can be different.

‘Yes, there are good people in life. Yes, there are bad people in life. Yes, there’s racism right around the country. But within the mob I was with, there was no racism.’

**Source:** Thackray, L 2020, ‘Vietnam War gave Wiradjuri man Victor Bartley his first experience of life without racism’, *ABC News*. Lucy Thackray © 2020 ABC

### Context statement

Victor Bartley is on the Bourke Shire Council in New South Wales and has been the President of the Bourke Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) sub-branch. The RSL is a support organisation for people who have served or are serving in the Australian Defence Force. National service, also called conscription or the National Service scheme, was a military program established under the *National Service Act* of 1964. This program required 20-year-old men, if selected, to serve in the army for two years. People serving under this program were called conscripts, national servicemen or ‘nashos’.

## Source 2

### Excerpt from *NITV* website article

The redacted extract is comprised of the paragraphs from ‘Graham says that he came from a very proud Aboriginal family ...’ to the paragraph starting ‘I found the Vietnamese to be really clever, smart people ...’

**Source:** McKeich, A 2018, “‘It was hot, humid, helicopters flying overhead’”: Uncle Graham Atkinson, Aboriginal Vietnam Veteran’, *National Indigenous Television*.

### Context statement

In 2013, Graham Atkinson was a state finalist for Senior Australian of the Year in Victoria. National Indigenous Television (NITV) is a channel made by, for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The 1967 Referendum resulted in changes being made to the Australian Constitution, such as counting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in population surveys.

## Source 3

### Excerpt from magazine article in *Inside Story*

In June 1970 twelve women strode into Parliament House and padlocked themselves to the railings of the public gallery in the House of Representatives.

...

Those women were part of a movement that stretched back to 1965, when a group of Sydney women calling themselves Save Our Sons, or SOS, began protesting against conscription. They were swiftly dismissed as a bunch of eccentric housewives.

...

Coming across photos of the Sydney protesters almost fifty years later, I too thought I had them [SOS] pegged ... as a group of concerned middle-class mums.

...

Black-and-white photographs of women in sensible shoes and matching handbags don't do SOS justice... [While completing research for] my book, *Save Our Sons: Women, Dissent and Conscription during the Vietnam War* ... I soon learned [that] there was no typical SOS supporter; many weren't even mothers. They were young and old; rich and poor; working and non-working; of all political and religious creeds; and they lived on farms and in cities and country towns.

...

The year following the Canberra protest, five SOS members were jailed after staging a sit-in at a Commonwealth office in Melbourne. Politician and moratorium leader Jim Cairns would later describe it as a turning point in the anti-war campaign (and apologise for not mentioning SOS in his memoirs).

**Source:** Collins, C 2021, 'Gloves off', *Inside Story*.

### Context statement

Collins is an academic in the area of history at an Australian university and a member of the History Council of South Australia. *Inside Story* features essays, journalism and reviews by leading writers and researchers. Collins's book, *Save Our Sons: Women, Dissent and Conscription during the Vietnam War*, was published in 2021.

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## Source 4

### Save Our Sons flyer

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# DO YOU KNOW?

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**That WITHOUT FURTHER LEGISLATION Conscripts  
can be required to serve continuously  
for five years.**

On May 25, 1965, Section 27 of the National Service Act was amended to include the following:

"If at the end of your two years period of full time service in the Regular Army Supplement a time of defence emergency is proclaimed you will be deemed to be re-enlisted till the end of the time of defence emergency or for a further three years, whichever is the shorter".

**ALL MALES FROM 18 TO 60 YEARS OF AGE CAN BE CONSCRIPTED TO  
SERVE OVERSEAS (under Amendment to Clause 16, 25/5/1965).**

The Minister for the Army has left no doubt that conscripts will be in the first relief battalion to Vietnam.

**MORE CONSCRIPTS GO INTO CAMP ON  
SEPTEMBER 29**

## Are You In Favour Of This?

If not, there is still time for a nation-wide movement of determined people to force the Government to reverse its policy on this issue.

Join now with mothers all over Australia in the

**SAVE OUR SONS  
MOVEMENT**

**OPPOSE CONSCRIPTION FOR OVERSEAS**

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Authorised by Mrs. P. Ashcroft, 31 George St., Pennant Hills (ph.84-1931)  
on behalf of the Save Our Sons Movement.

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Printed by Byrnes Publishing Co. Pty. Ltd., 181c Burwood Road, Burwood

Source: Ashcroft, P 1965, *Do You Know?* (flyer).

### Context statement

Ashcroft was a leading member of the Australian branch of Save Our Sons (SOS). A battalion is a small group of soldiers that belongs to a regiment.

## Source 5

### Poster titled *Mothers in Mourning*

This content has not been published for copyright reasons.

**Source:** Australian Living Peace Museum 1970, *Mothers in Mourning*.

### Context statement

This poster was distributed across various parts of Sydney in 1970. The phrase ‘Vietnam Moratorium Campaign’ referred to the organised protests aimed at stopping Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. A copy of this poster is kept in the National Archives of Australia — an Australian Government agency that collects and preserves Australia’s most valuable records.

## Source 6

### Excerpt from speech by Paul Hasluck

What is happening in South Vietnam is not a local rebellion caused by internal discontent but the application of the methods and doctrines of Communist guerrilla warfare first evolved in China and then successfully used in North Vietnam. The Peking [Beijing] and Hanoi regimes have both come to power through guerrilla warfare and both share the Asian communist doctrine evolved by the Chinese. The practical application in neighbouring areas is clear. Neither Peking nor Hanoi has yet had to commit large-scale ... aggression. A dissident communist-controlled movement was created for guerrilla warfare against the established social order and government. Lines of communication and support from outside were organised. Given the natural elements of instability in many of the newly established countries of the region, and their social, ethnic and communal problems, there are understandable opportunities for such tactics.

**Source:** Hasluck, P 1965, 'Statement on Foreign Affairs' (transcript), 23 March, House of Representatives.

### Context statement

At the time this speech was delivered, Paul Hasluck was the Australian Minister of External Affairs. These comments were made a little over a month before then prime minister Robert Menzies announced that Australian military troops would be sent to Vietnam.



## Source 7

### Excerpt from speech by Arthur Calwell

[The Government takes an] over-simplified position that this is a straightforward case of aggression from North Vietnam against an independent South Vietnam. In the Government's view, such internal subversion<sup>1</sup> as there may be in South Vietnam is directed and operated from the North ...

The Government then takes this theory a little further by cleverly pointing to the undoubted fact that just as Communist North Vietnam lies north of South Vietnam, so Communist China lies north of North Vietnam. Thus, according to this simplified, not to say simple, theory, everything falls into place and the whole operation becomes, in the Prime Minister's words 'part of a thrust by Communist China between the Indian and Pacific Oceans'. And by this reasoning, the very map of Asia itself becomes a kind of conspiracy of geography against Australia. But is this picture of Chinese military aggression thrusting down inexorably<sup>2</sup> through Indo China, Malaysia and Indonesia to Australia a true or realistic one? ... Does it tell the truth about the relation between China and North Vietnam?...

[It is a] misleading over-simplification to depict this war in simple terms of military aggression from the North. That there has long been, and still is, aggression from the North and subversion inspired from the North, I do not for one moment deny. But the war in South Vietnam ... is also a civil war and it is a guerrilla war. The great majority of the Vietcong are South Vietnamese

...

I repeat: The war in South Vietnam is a civil war, aided ... by the North Vietnamese Government, but neither created nor principally maintained by it. To call it simply 'foreign aggression' as the Prime Minister does, and as his colleagues do, is to misrepresent the facts and, thereby, confuse the issue with which we must ultimately come to terms.

**Source:** Calwell, A 1965, 'Speech to the Australian House of Representatives' (transcript), 4 May.

### Context statement

Arthur Calwell was the leader of the Australian Labor Party and leader of the federal opposition at this time. The comments made by Calwell formed part of a formal response to Robert Menzies announcing Australia would increase its involvement in the Vietnam War. The Vietcong (or Viet Cong) were a military group consisting mostly of South Vietnamese people that used guerrilla warfare to fight against the Government of South Vietnam and its allies during the Vietnam War.

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1 undermining the power and authority of an established system or institution

2 in a way that is impossible to stop or prevent

## Source 8

### Excerpt from newspaper article, 'Mr. Holt's growing deathroll'

Another eight Australian soldiers were killed last week in Vietnam ...

Most of last week's 35 casualties were conscripts.

Altogether, Australia's Vietnam deaths now total 99 and 480 have been wounded or injured.

...

No territory has been won — all the army claims to show by way of compensation is the bodies of 70 or more Vietnamese who ... should have lived on as friends and trading partners of their Australian neighbours.

Will Mr. Holt explain how the safety of Australia is advanced by the deaths of these 70 Asian boys (as most of them probably were) fighting on their own soil.

Does anyone allege that they [South Vietnamese members of the Viet Cong] were planning to invade Australia or wanted to invade Australia?

They were not Chinese; they were not even North Vietnamese — they were just, according to our army chiefs ... local boys defending their own homes and families.

**Source:** *Tribune* 1967, 'Mr Holt's growing deathroll'.

### Context statement

This article appeared in the *Tribune*, the official newspaper of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA). It was distributed throughout Sydney. The CPA argued that Australia should not have involved itself in the Vietnam War.

## Source 9

### Excerpt from 'Australia's Road to Vietnam'

In the 1960s, the American and Australian governments in particular, generally aided by their mainstream media, projected a simplistic, distorted and fundamentally false picture of the origins and nature of the conflict in Vietnam: this picture persists in some quarters today. Essentially, they asserted that after Geneva [Conference of 1954] there were now (exactly when was never made clear) two nation-states in Vietnam: one they dubbed 'South Vietnam', the other 'North Vietnam'. The former [South Vietnam] allegedly was stable, democratic, prosperous and an independent member of the free world; the latter [North Vietnam] totalitarian, repressive and a satellite of Moscow and/or (it varied) Peking [Beijing]. The military conflict which followed was between the 'non-communist' South and the 'communist' North, aided by 'communists' in the South. It supposedly started in 1959 when the North launched 'aggression' against the South by training, supplying and directing insurgents [rebels] which it infiltrated into the South. These ... assertions contain some truth but overall are deficient, factually and conceptually, in explaining the conflict.

**Source:** Pemberton, G 1990, 'Australia's Road to Vietnam', *Vietnam Remembered*.

### Context statement

Pemberton is an academic working at an Australian university.

# References

## Source 1

Thackray, L 2020, 'Vietnam War gave Wiradjuri man Victor Bartley his First Experience of Life without Racism', *ABC News*, 19 July, [www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-19/aboriginal-soldiers-experience-of-racial-equality-in-vietnam-war/12462118](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-19/aboriginal-soldiers-experience-of-racial-equality-in-vietnam-war/12462118). Reproduced by permission of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation – Library Sales.

## Source 2

McKeich, A 2018, "'It was Hot, Humid, Helicopters Flying Overhead": Uncle Graham Atkinson, Aboriginal Vietnam Veteran', *National Indigenous Television*, 24 April, [www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2018/04/24/it-was-hot-humid-helicopters-flying-overhead-uncle-graham-atkinson-aboriginal-1](http://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2018/04/24/it-was-hot-humid-helicopters-flying-overhead-uncle-graham-atkinson-aboriginal-1).

## Source 3

Collins, C 2021, 'Gloves Off', *Inside Story*, 5 June, <https://insidestory.org.au/gloves-off>. Used with permission.

## Source 4

Ashcroft, P 1965, *Do You Know?* (flyer), Byrnes Publishing Co., Burwood, <http://historyvietnamwar.yolasite.com/moratorium-movement.php>.

## Source 5

Save Our Sons Movement 1970, *Mothers in Mourning* (poster), Comment Publishing Company, Sydney, [www.livingpeacemuseum.org.au/s/alpm/item/80](http://www.livingpeacemuseum.org.au/s/alpm/item/80).

## Source 6

Hasluck, P 1965, *Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates* (speech), House of Representatives, 23 March, vol. 45, p. 232. [https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22publications%2Ftabledpapers%2FHSTP01656\\_1964-66%22](https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22publications%2Ftabledpapers%2FHSTP01656_1964-66%22). Available under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia licence (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

## Source 7

Calwell, A 1965, 'Address to the House of Representatives' (speech), 4 May, *Historic Hansard*, <https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22hansard80%2Fhansard80%2F1965-05-04%2F0068%22>. Available under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia licence (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

## Source 8

*Tribune* newspaper 1967, 'Mr Holt's growing deathroll', 22 February, p. 2, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article237360184>. Use with permission of SEARCH Foundation.

## Source 9

Pemberton, G 1990, 'Australia's Road to Vietnam', *Vietnam Remembered*, Gregory Pemberton (ed.), Weldon Publishing, Sydney, pp. 21–22. Used with permission.



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