

## Vietnam Troop Escalation

*Context:* Following the passage of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution in 1964, the U.S. began its military intervention in Vietnam in earnest. In the years that followed, the American military presence grew considerably. As detailed in the chart below, troop levels increased under both Republican and Democratic administrations – reaching their highest number in 1968, when more than 500,000 American troops were serving in Vietnam.

Administration	Date	Military Forces, Total
Kennedy (Democrat)	1961	3,200
Kennedy	1962	11,300
Kennedy	1963	16,300
Johnson (Democrat)	1964	23,300
Johnson	1965	184,300
Johnson	1966	385,300
Johnson	1967	485,600
Johnson	1968	536,100
Nixon (Republican)	1969	475,200
Nixon	1970	334,600
Nixon	1971	156,800
Nixon	1972	24,200

*Source:* Data in this chart is taken from two tables printed in the National Defense and Veterans Affairs section of two editions of the *US Census Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1967 (table # 372) and 1973 (table #428). The U.S. Census cites *Selected Manpower Statistics* from the U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary as the source for their tables.

\* What historical conclusions or arguments can you make from the given data above?