From Revolt to Rule

Trace how communist movements gained power in Vietnam and its neighbors.

TOT.C.9.4 "Describe the rise of communism in Vietnam (e.g., successful Communist revolt against French colonial rule, Land Reform Terror, Soviet and Chinese support for the North Vietnamese Communist forces, the fall of South Vietnam..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two turning points in Vietnam's shift to communist rule, circle one source of foreign support, and put a star beside the sentence that describes mass death under the Khmer Rouge.

Communism in Southeast Asia

1. Under French colonial rule, many Vietnamese farmers paid high rents and had little political power. Ho Chi Minh led the Viet Minh, a communist-led independence movement that fought Japanese occupation during World War II and then fought France. In 1954, Viet Minh forces defeated the French at Dien Bien Phu. An agreement temporarily divided Vietnam: Ho's communist government controlled the North, while an anticommunist government held the South. The division did not settle who would govern a united Vietnam.

2. In North Vietnam, leaders sought to remake rural society by taking land from landlords and distributing it to peasants. During the 1950s land reform campaign, officials also accused people of being class enemies; some were executed or imprisoned. This repression became known as the Land Reform Terror. China and the Soviet Union supplied the North with weapons and other aid. Northern forces and communist fighters in the South fought the South Vietnamese government, which received major support from the United States.

3. In 1975, northern forces captured Saigon, ending the South Vietnamese government. Vietnam was formally reunified under communist rule in 1976. Communist movements also took power in Laos and Cambodia in 1975. In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, forced people out of cities and into labor camps. From 1975 to 1979, its dictatorship caused roughly 1.5 to 2 million deaths through executions, starvation, disease, and forced labor. These neighboring victories shared a Cold War setting, but each country's path differed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Viet Minh's victory over France change who ruled Vietnam?

2. How did North Vietnam's land reform change rural life, and what made it a period of terror?

3. How did outside powers affect the struggle between North and South Vietnam?

4. What happened in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in 1975, and what made Cambodia's outcome distinct?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 60 to 80 words explaining how a fight for independence grew into communist rule in Vietnam and its neighbors. Include one turning point, one source of outside support, and why the Khmer Rouge's rule in Cambodia must be distinguished from the other victories.

From Revolt to Rule

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two turning points in Vietnam's shift to communist rule, circle one source of foreign support, and put a star beside the sentence that describes mass death under the Khmer Rouge. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Viet Minh's victory over France change who ruled Vietnam?	**It ended French colonial rule and led to a temporary division, with Ho Chi Minh's communist government controlling the North.**
2	How did North Vietnam's land reform change rural life, and what made it a period of terror?	**Leaders redistributed landlords' land to peasants, while officials accused people of being class enemies and executed or imprisoned some.**
3	How did outside powers affect the struggle between North and South Vietnam?	**China and the Soviet Union supplied the North with weapons and other aid; the United States gave major support to the South.**
4	What happened in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in 1975, and what made Cambodia's outcome distinct?	**Northern forces ended South Vietnam's government, and communist movements took power in Laos and Cambodia. In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge established a dictatorship that caused roughly 1.5 to 2 million deaths.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Vietnam's path to communist rule began with resistance to French colonialism. The Viet Minh victory at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 ended French rule and left Vietnam temporarily divided. China and the Soviet Union aided the communist North during the later war. In 1975, communist forces won in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Cambodia's outcome was not simply another change of government: Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge forced people into labor and caused mass death.

Accept accurate descriptions that connect independence, foreign support, and the 1975 victories. The museum label should distinguish the Khmer Rouge's mass killings from communist victory itself.