Comparison of Vietnam with Iraq: 
In Light of George Bush's Claim that There is no Analogy Between the Two
by
John J. Fitzgerald

"QUESTION: Mr. President, ... some people are comparing Iraq to Vietnam and talking about a quagmire. ... How do you answer the Vietnam comparison? 
BUSH: I think the analogy is false. I also happen to think that analogy sends the wrong message to our troops and sends the wrong message to the enemy."

George W. Bush Press Conference, 13 April, 2004

Analogy is the comparison of two pairs which have the same relationship. The key is to ascertain the relationship between the first so you can choose the correct second pair. Part to whole, opposites, results of -- are types of relationships you should find.

Example:
hot is to cold as fire is to ice OR hot: cold:: fire: ice
Cf. similarity, likeness, parallel, comparable

Nation: Vietnam: Iraq:

Continent: Asia (South east) Asia (South west)

Previous Empire:
French (Indo-China) British (since WWI)
earlier (China) earlier (Ottoman)

Language: Vietnamese Arabic, and others

Religion(s):
Buddhist Islam (Shia and Sunni)
Confucian Secular
Secular Christian
(Roman Catholic)

Political Party:
Communist Baathist (socialist)

Political Leader:
Ho Chi Minh Saddam Hussein
American Choice
for Political Leader:
  Ngo Dinh Diem  Saddam Hussein
    (until 1963)      (until 1990)
--assorted generals--
  Nguyen Van Thieu  Ahmad Chalabi
    (until 1975)      Iyad Allawi

CIA employment:
  OSS and Ho in WW2  CIA and Saddam in 1980's
  USA at war with Japan  USA hostile to Iran

Principal Resource:
  Rice  Oil and sand
  Cheap labor  Cheap labor
                    Highly educated population

Strategic Value:
  USA base on mainland  USA base for domination
    of Southeast Asia  of Persian Gulf region

Dead Americans:
  58,000 (total)  2,700+ and climbing

Dead enemies:
  millions  one hundred thousand (+ -)

Popular phrases:
  hearts and minds  shock and awe
  light at the end of  mission accomplished
  the tunnel
  Domino Theory  Destruction
  Anti-communism  Anti-terrorism

Costs:
  billions of dollars billions of dollars

Damage to country:
  massive bombing  massive (precision?)
  bombing

Civilian casualties:
  millions  600,000 + - (est.) (WSJ, 11 Oct. 06)
Principal enemy tactic: guerrilla warfare

USA tactic: high tech warfare $$

US Armed Forces: initially all volunteers initially all volunteers (to date) (poor and minorities) (poor and minorities) [eventually a conscript army]

US homefront: initial support initial support w/protests eventual rejection

Media coverage: uncensored censored

English speaking: little to none some (French)

Americans who can speak native language: miniscule miniscule

Support for US from UN: No No

Opposition to US from Europe: Yes Yes

Impact on US economy:
- Increased deficits - Increased deficits
- Weak dollar - Weak dollar
- Good for military- - Good for military-
  industrial complex industrial complex
- Neglect of domestic - Neglect of domestic issues
**Legal/moral issues:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contested/doubtful</th>
<th>Contested/doubtful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Just war?</td>
<td>Just war?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Necessity?</td>
<td>Necessity?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Impact on US Presidency:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JFK assassinated</th>
<th>Bush runs for re-election</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LBJ quits</td>
<td>Bush wins re-election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nixon resigns</td>
<td>2006 Mid-term elections?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Watergate)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford defeated for</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re-election</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>