

### **Study Questions for Michael H. Hunt, *Lyndon Johnson's War*, Chapters 4-5**

1. How did Lyndon Johnson fundamentally change the nature of U.S. involvement in Vietnam? Was this, then, "Lyndon Johnson's war?"
2. In what ways were Johnson's home grown bromides particularly inappropriate when applied to the situation in Vietnam?
3. How did Johnson's personality and background shape his Vietnam policies?
4. Beginning on page 78, Hunt discusses "four key decisions" Johnson made on Vietnam. What were they and why were they significant?
5. Beginning on page 99, Hunt reviews the four major criticisms of Johnson's conduct of the war. What are they and to what extent are they justified?
6. Why does Hunt say that the Vietnam War was also "America's war?" In what sense did it "emerge out of an American culture?"
7. Was the bombing of North and South Vietnam effective? Why or why not? How does one define "effective?"
8. Why was the January 1968 Tet Offensive a significant benchmark in the war?
9. What strategy did Nixon pursue in Vietnam? Did it work?

10. Why did the United States fail to achieve its objectives in Vietnam?

11. The ancient Greeks defined tragedy as a good man brought to a bad end by the very quality or qualities that had allowed him to achieve greatness in the first place. Apply this definition to the United States' experience in Vietnam.