America's Wars of the 20th Century: Was Our Intervention A Mistake? Different Conflicts, Different Results, Different Verdicts

World War I

Question: Do you think it was a mistake for the US to enter World War I (the last world war)?

Past Wars: Conflicting Judgements

World War II

Question: Do you think it was a mistake for the US to enter World War II?

April 1946

- Don't know: 6%
- Mistake: 14%
- Not a mistake: 81%

September 1947

- Don't know: 10%
- Mistake: 24%
- Not a mistake: 66%

Korean War

Question: Do you think the US made a mistake in (deciding to defend) going into war in Korea, or not?

August 1950

- Don't know: 15%
- Mistake: 20%
- Not a mistake: 65%

January 1951

- Don't know: 13%
- Mistake: 49%
- Not a mistake: 38%

February 1952

- Don't know: 14%
- Mistake: 51%
- Not a mistake: 35%

October 1952

- Don't know: 19%
- Mistake: 43%
- Not a mistake: 37%

January 1953

- Don't know: 14%
- Mistake: 36%
- Not a mistake: 50%

The Vietnam War

Question: Do you think the US made a mistake sending troops to fight in Vietnam?

August 1965

- Don't know: 15%
- Mistake: 24%
- Not a mistake: 60%

March 1966

- Don't know: 16%
- Mistake: 26%
- Not a mistake: 59%

November 1966

- Don't know: 18%
- Mistake: 31%
- Not a mistake: 52%

January 1967

- Don't know: 16%
- Mistake: 32%
- Not a mistake: 52%

July 1967

- Don't know: 11%
- Mistake: 41%
- Not a mistake: 48%

December 1967

- Don't know: 9%
- Mistake: 45%
- Not a mistake: 46%

The Vietnam War

**Question:** Do you think the US made a mistake sending troops to fight in Vietnam?

- **September 1968**
  - Don't know: 9%
  - Not a mistake: 37%
  - Mistake: 54%

- **September 1969**
  - Don't know: 10%
  - Not a mistake: 32%
  - Mistake: 58%

- **May 1970**
  - Don't know: 8%
  - Not a mistake: 36%
  - Mistake: 56%

- **May 1971**
  - Don't know: 11%
  - Not a mistake: 28%
  - Mistake: 61%

- **January 1973**
  - Don't know: 11%
  - Not a mistake: 29%
  - Mistake: 60%

- **April 1985**
  - Don't know: 10%
  - Not a mistake: 27%
  - Mistake: 63%

- **April 1995**
  - Don't know: 6%
  - Not a mistake: 23%
  - Mistake: 71%

The Gulf War

**Question:** Do you think the US made a mistake in... sending troops to Saudi Arabia or not? [Gallup]; ...sending of armed forces to fight in the Persian Gulf or not? [ABC]; ...getting involved in the war against Iraq or not? [CBS/NY7]