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?

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/NYT]