America in Vietnam will be different this time around. I plan to make the course America in Vietnam and Iraq and Afghanistan. These wars deserve to be treated together in one course because there are powerful links between them in terms of America's definition of itself and the world challenges that go beyond specific areas, or even long-term events like the Cold War. The course will be approximately fifty-fifty between Vietnam and the later wars. We will consider all three in terms of the post-colonial era from 1945 to the present. After WWII, the United States attempted to replace the 19th Century world of formal colonialism, with a liberal world order based upon the traditional "Open Door" policy that has been associated with the United States since the turn of the 20th Century. The United States did not want France to return to Indochina or the French and British to continue to dominate the Middle East. These were goals that supercede the Cold War framework. It was true that at first the United States saw no option but to support the old colonial powers, but the history of these conflicts demonstrates a determination to forge a new order that would attempt to accommodate nationalism while opposing Communist revolutions, and, in the case of the Middle East any regional leader who hoped to unite the area against Western interests in oil and geopolitics.