



Agent Orange

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30th April 2025 marked the **50th anniversary of the Vietnam War's end (1954-75)**. However, millions of Vietnamese still suffer the **lasting effects of [Agent Orange](#)**, a toxic chemical **used by the US during the war**.

- **Agent Orange:** A Blend of herbicides **used to defoliate trees and shrubs**, depriving enemy troops of cover.
 - It was composed of two herbicides (**2,4-D** and **2,4,5-T**)—mixed with **the highly toxic contaminant dioxin**.
 - Dioxin has a **half-life of up to 20 years in the human body** and can persist in soil and water for up to 100 years, **causing long-term contamination**.
 - In radioactivity, **half-life is the time it takes for half of the atoms in a radioactive sample to decay**.
- **Impacts:**
 - Health issues- birth defects, [cancer](#), [diabetes](#), and [neurological disorders](#).
 - **Areas sprayed with the chemical were unfit for agriculture for years**, severely damaging wildlife, soil quality, and disrupting livelihoods, with long-lasting impacts on ecosystems.
- **Vietnam War:** It was a conflict between communist North Vietnam (Saigon), led by Ho Chi Minh, and South Vietnam's government, supported by the US.
 - It was **part of the broader [Cold War](#)** between the US and the Soviet Union, with North Vietnam backed by communist allies (Soviet Union and China).



Read More: [Cold War](#)

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