

. . . First of all, you have the specific value of a locality in its production of the materials that the world needs. Then you have the possibility that many human beings pass under a dictatorship that is inimical [opposed] to the free world. Finally, you have broader considerations that might follow what you would call the "falling domino" principle. You have a row of dominos set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you could have a beginning of disintegration that would have the most profound influences. . . . when we come to the possible sequence of events, the loss of Indochina, of Burma, of Thailand, of the Peninsula, and Indonesia following . . . you are talking about millions and millions of people.

— Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954

1. Who gave this speech?
2. In what year was the speech given?
3. What part of the world is the speech about?
4. Explain the falling domino principle.

5. Based on the speech, what foreign policy was the U.S. continuing to follow?

6. What three reasons does the speaker support U.S. involvement in this part of the world?