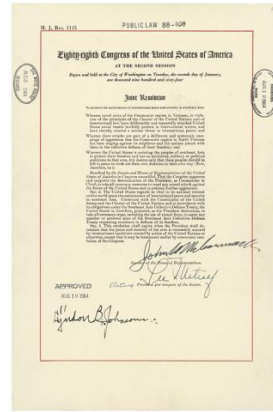


0. EXTRAORDINARY POWERS - Story Preface

1. WHAT ARE THE PENTAGON PAPERS?
2. LEAKS TO THE PRESS
3. WHO SUPPORTED THE WAR?
4. THE ASSASSINATION PLOT
5. DEATH OF A PRESIDENT
6. THE GULF OF TONKIN
7. A SECOND ATTACK?

8. EXTRAORDINARY POWERS

9. THE TRUTH ABOUT TONKIN
10. CASE DISMISSED
11. THE VERDICT OF HISTORY



With few questions asked about its justification, by the Congress or the national media, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution became law. It gave President Johnson the authority he wanted to direct U.S. military affairs in Vietnam. This document, now maintained by the U.S. National Archives, allowed U.S. involvement in Vietnam to drastically increase.

On August 7th, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. It was as close as America would ever come to actually declaring war on North Vietnam.

The President signed the resolution before a standing-room crowd on August 10th. Within a week, his power had dramatically increased. He had moved from providing military advisor support in South Vietnam to doing whatever he thought was necessary.

For the most part American journalists, barely questioning what was really going on, reported whatever government officials told them.

Full-scale war, with many American casualties, was just around the corner.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/EXTRAORDINARY-POWERS-Pentagon-Papers)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/EXTRAORDINARY-POWERS-Pentagon-Papers)

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Media Stream



President Johnson - Signing the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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