

# Vietnam And America

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no single event since world war ii has marked this country s foreign policy and national image as deeply as did the war in vietnam vietnam and america is a complete history of the war as documented in essays by leading experts and in original source material with generous selections from the documentary records the book dispels distortions and illuminates in depth the many facets of the war from vietnam s history before the war to washington s insider policy making to troop perspectives to the impact back on the home front in essays introducing each major stage of the war the editors elucidate the issues foreign policy choices and consequences of u s involvement substantial headnotes put each document in historical perspective this comprehensive anthology is an invaluable reference for anyone who wants to understand the vietnam war

now in its 7th edition vietnam an american ordeal continues to provide a thorough account of the failed american effort to create a viable non communist state in southern vietnam unlike most general histories of u s involvement in vietnam which are either conventional diplomatic or military histories this volume synthesizes the perspectives to explore both dimensions of the struggle in greater depth elucidating more of the complexities of the u s vietnam entanglement it explains why americans tried so hard for so long to stop the spread of communism into indochina and why they failed in this new edition george donelson moss expands and refines key moments of the vietnam war and its aftermath including the strategic and diplomatic background for united states involvement in indochina during world war ii how the french with british and american support regained control in southern vietnam saigon and the vicinity in the fall 1945 the account for the formation of seato and the account of the sino vietnamese war of 1979 the text has also been revised and updated to align with recently published monographic literature on the time period the accessible writing will enable students to gain a solid understanding of how and why the united states went to war against the democratic

republic of vietnam and why it lost the long bitter conflict this book will be of interest to students and scholars of american history the history of foreign relations and the vietnam war itself

based on a variety of classified military records lewy provides the first systematic analysis of the course of the vietnam war the reasons for the failure of american strategy and tactics and the causes of the final collapse of south vietnam

publisher s description this book presents new perspectives on the vietnam war its global repercussions and the role of this war in modern history the volume reveals america s war as an international event that reverberated all over the world in domestic settings of numerous nation states combatants and non combatants alike as well as in transnational relations and alliance systems the volume thereby covers a wide geographical range from berkeley and berlin to cambodia and canberra the essays address political military and diplomatic issues no less than cultural and intellectual consequences of vietnam the authors also set the vietnam war in comparison to other major conflicts in world history they cover over three centuries and develop general insights into the tragedies and trajectories of military conflicts as phenomena of modern societies in general for the first time america s war is thus depicted as a truly global event whose origins and characteristics deserve an interdisciplinary treatment

in this study of the encounter between vietnam and the united states from 1919 to 1950 mark bradley fundamentally reconceptualizes the origins of the cold war in vietnam and the place of postcolonial vietnam in the history of the twentieth century among the first americans granted a visa to undertake research in vietnam since the war bradley draws on newly available vietnamese language primary sources and interviews as well as archival materials from france great britain and the united states bradley uses these sources to reveal an imagined america that occupied a central place in vietnamese political discourse symbolizing the qualities that revolutionaries believed were critical for reshaping their society american policymakers he argues articulated their own imagined vietnam a deprecating vision informed by the conviction that the country should be remade in america s image contrary to other historians who focus on the soviet american rivalry and ignore the policies and perceptions of vietnamese actors bradley contends that the global discourse and practices of colonialism race modernism and postcolonial state making were profoundly implicated in and ultimately transcended the dynamics of the cold war in shaping vietnamese american relations

this controversial and timely book about the american experience in vietnam provides the first full exploration of the perspectives of the north vietnamese leadership before during and after the war herbert y schandler offers unique insights into the mindsets of the north vietnamese and their response to diplomatic and military actions of the americans laying out the full scale of the disastrous u s political and military misunderstandings of vietnamese history and motivations including frank quotes from vietnamese leaders the book offers important new knowledge that allows us to learn invaluable lessons from the perspective of a victorious enemy unlike most military officers who served in vietnam schandler is convinced the war was unwinnable no matter how long america stayed the course or how many resources were devoted to it he is remarkably qualified to make these judgments as an infantry commander during the vietnam war a pentagon policymaker and a scholar who taught at west point and national defense university his extensive personal interviews with north vietnamese are drawn from his many trips to hanoi after the war schandler provides not only a definitive analysis of the american failure in vietnam but a crucial foundation for exploring the potential for success in the current guerrilla wars the united states is fighting in iraq and afghanistan

offering a controversial perspective on america s most painful war the author proposes that vietnam should have been fought but with different tactics

a survey of the vietnamese communist experience during the vietnam war 1954 75 with a focus on high level decision making and military planning

provides a comprehensive narrative history of u s involvement in southeast asia from the mid 1940s to the mid 1970s giving full and unbiased treatment it also discusses why americans tried so hard to stop the spread of communism into indochina and why they failed blending vietnamese and american political diplomatic and military history this book presents u s involvement in southeast asia as an episode in the forty year cold war between the u s and the soviet union it also points out the french effort to reimpose colonialism on vietnam the third edition of history of the vietnam war has been revised to include an expanded account of the postwar period leading to the restoration of normal relations between the u s and vietnam on july 11 1995 it reveals the strong national identity of the vietnamese people against kennedy a committed cold warrior it also analyzes media coverage of the war and the anti war movement in the u s to demonstrate that neither really turned public opinion against the war

as shown by published reports compared with the laws of war binding on the united states government and on its citizens t p

the military events the political and strategic contexts and the social and cultural impact of the vietnam war are all brought together into this single compelling and readable volume as well as breadth and incisiveness it has new things to say on the nature of the communist revolution and the way of war the flaws in us strategy and tactics and how these affected the soldier on the ground and the legacy of the war for vietnam and america alike book jacket

the american war in vietnam was so much more than the sum of its battles to make sense of it we must look beyond the conflict itself we must understand its context and above all the formative experiences worldview and motivations of those who devised communist strategies and tactics vietnam s american war now in its second edition remains a story of how and why hanoi won however this revised and expanded edition offers more extensive and nuanced insights into southern vietnamese history politics and society it puts to rest the myth of vietnamese national unity by documenting the myriad profound local fractures exacerbated by us intervention it also includes over thirty five new images intended to highlight that the vietnam war was fundamentally a vietnamese civil war and tragedy this new edition is as richly detailed as it is original eye opening and absorbing

cover the american war in vietnam title copyright contents acknowledgments introduction the commemoration story 1 the noble cause principle and the actual history 2 french colonialism and the origins of the american war in vietnam 3 the diem regime and president john f kennedy 4 president johnson and escalation of the war 5 president nixon vietnamization and the end of the war 6 some lessons and myths of the american war in vietnam notes bibliography index

on april 30 1975 saigon and the government of south vietnam fell to the communist regime of north vietnam ending for american military forces exactly twenty five year of courageous but unavailing struggle this is not the story of how america became embroiled in a conflict in a small country half way around the globe nor of why our armed forces remained there so long after the futility of our efforts became obvious to many it is the story of what went wrong there militarily and why the author is a professional soldier

who experienced the vietnam war in the field and in the highest command echelons general palmer s insights into the key events and decisions that shaped american s military role in vietnam are uncommonly perceptive america s most serious error he believes was committing its armed forces to a war in which neither political nor military goals were ever fully articulated by our civilian leaders our armed forces lacking clear objectives failed to develop an appropriate strategy instead relinquishing the offensive to hanoi yet an achievable strategy could have been devised palmer believes moreover our south vietnamese allies could have been bolstered by appropriate aid but were instead overwhelmed by the massive american military presence compounding these errors were the flawed civilian and military chains of command the result was defeat for america and disaster for south vietnam general palmer presents here an insider s history of the war and an astute critique of america s military strengths and successes as well as its weaknesses and failures

drawing upon both archival research and his own military experiences in vietnam willbanks focuses on military operations from 1969 through 1975 he begins by analyzing the events that led to a change in u s strategy in 1969 and the subsequent initiation of vietnamization he then critiques the implementation of that policy and the combat performance of the south vietnamese army arvn which finally collapsed in 1975

an overview of the vietnam war with an emphasis on its military campaigns and political issues

the vietnam war was one of the most heavily documented conflicts of the twentieth century although the events themselves recede further into history every year the political and cultural changes the war brought about continue to resonate even as a new generation of americans grapples with its own divisive conflict america and the vietnam war re examining the culture and history of a generation reconsiders the social and cultural aspects of the conflict that helped to fundamentally change the nation with chapters written by subject area specialists america and the vietnam war takes on subjects such as women s role in the war the music and the films of the time the vietnamese perspective race and the war and veterans and post traumatic stress disorder features include chapter summaries timelines discussion questions guides to further reading a companion website with primary source documents and tools such as music and movie playlists for both instructors and students heavily illustrated and welcoming to students and scholars of this infamous and pivotal time america and the vietnam war is a perfect companion to any course on the vietnam war era

a compassionate and penetrating landmark history of vietnam and the vietnam war new york times book review fitzgerald s pulitzer prize and national book award winning study of the vietnam war remains essential reading thirty years after its initial publication library journal this magisterial work based on frances fitzgerald s many years of research and travels takes us inside the history of vietnam the traditional ancestor worshiping villages the conflicts between communists and anti communists catholics and buddhists generals and monks the disruption created by french colonialism and america s ill fated intervention and reveals the country as seen through vietnamese eyes originally published in 1972 fire in the lake was the first history of vietnam written by an american and won the pulitzer prize the bancroft prize and the national book award with a clarity and insight unrivaled by any author before it or since frances fitzgerald illustrates how america utterly and tragically misinterpreted the realities of vietnam fire in the lake is a magnificent achievement huge wide ranging fascinating stimulating it is the first book i would recommend to anyone to read on vietnam martin bernal new york review of books fresh and enthralling fitzgerald fills an enormous gap by explaining the vietnamese from their own point of view and by describing the war from the perspective of vietnamese

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