

A Vietcong Memoir

Vietcong Memoir: An Inside Account of the Vietnam War and Its Aftermath
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the autobiography of *Truong Nhu Tang* who fought in the Vietnamese jungle and emerged as one of the major Vietnamese figures in the fight for liberation

an absorbing and moving autobiography an important addition not only to the literature of vietnam but to the larger human story of hope violence and disillusion in the political life of our era chicao tribune when he was a student in paris truong nhu tang met ho chi minh later he fought in the vietnamese jungle and emerged as one of the major figures in the fight for liberation and one of the most determined adversaries of the united states he became the vietcong s minister of justice but at the end of the war he fled the country in disillusionment and despair he now lives in exile in paris the highest level official to have defected from vietnam to the west this is his candid revealing and unforgettable autobiography

former vietcong official tells what vietnam thought it was fighting for what the reunified vietnam was like and why he left

this provocative book seeks to answer a most crucial and embarrassing question concerning the u s military why the united states is so often stymied in military confrontations with seemingly weaker opponents despite its superpower status this fascinating book examines a question that continues to puzzle soldiers statesmen and scholars why do major powers including the ostensible superpower united states repeatedly perform poorly against seemingly overmatched adversaries and what can they and the united states do to better achieve their military objectives how wars are won and lost vulnerability and military power argues that beyond relying solely on overwhelming military might the united states needs to focus more on exploiting weaknesses in their adversaries such as national will resource mobilization and strategic miscues just as opposing forces have done to gain advantage over our military efforts the author tests the vulnerability theory by revisiting six conflicts from the philippine war of 1899 1902 to the ongoing actions in iraq and afghanistan showing again and again that victory often depends more on outthinking the enemy than outmuscling them

catton treats the diem government on its own terms rather than as an appendage of american policy focusing on the decade from dien bien phu to diem s assassination in 1963 he examines the vietnamese leader s nation building and reform efforts particularly his strategic hamlet program which sought to separate guerrilla insurgents from the peasantry and build grassroots support for his regime catton s evaluation of the collapse of that program offers fresh insights into both diem s limitations as a

leader and the ideological and organizational weaknesses of his government while his assessment of the evolution of washington's relations with saigon provides new insight into america's growing involvement in the vietnamese civil war

the use of airpower in wartime calls to mind the massive bombings of world war ii but airplanes have long been instrumental in small wars as well ever since its use by the french to put down rebellious moroccan tribes in 1913 airpower has been employed to fight in limited but often lengthy small conflicts around the globe this is the first comprehensive history of airpower in small wars conflicts pitting states against non state groups such as insurgents bandits factions and terrorists tracing it from the early years of the twentieth century to the present day it examines dozens of conflicts with strikingly different scenarios the greek civil war the philippine anti huk campaign french and british colonial wars the war in south vietnam before the american escalation counterinsurgency in southern africa latin american counter guerrilla operations and counterinsurgency and counterterrorist campaigns in the middle east over the last four decades for each war the authors describe the strategies employed on both sides of the conflict the air forces engaged and the specific airpower tactics employed they discuss the ground campaigns and provide the political background necessary to understand the air campaigns and in each case they judge the utility of airpower in its broadest sense in their historic sweep they show how forms of airpower evolved from planes to police helicopters aircraft of the civilian air reserve and today's unmanned aircraft they also disclose how small wars after world war ii required new strategies operational solutions and tactics by taking this broad view of small war airpower the authors are able to make assessments about the most effective and least effective means of employing airpower they offer specific conclusions ranging from the importance of comprehensive strategy to the need for the united states and its allies to expand small wars training programs airpower in small wars will be invaluable for educating military professionals and policy makers in the subject as well as for providing a useful framework for developing more effective doctrine for employing airpower in the conflicts we are most likely to see in the twenty first century

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

a world list of books in the english language

when american and south vietnamese forces led by general creighton abrams launched an attack into neutral cambodia in 1970 the invasion ignited a firestorm of violent antiwar protests throughout the united states dealing yet another blow to nixon s troubled presidency but as john shaw shows the campaign also proved to be a major military success most histories of the vietnam war either give the cambodian invasion short shrift or merely criticize it for its political fallout thus neglecting one of the campaign s key dimensions approaching the subject from a distinctly military perspective shaw shows how this carefully planned and executed offensive provided essential support for nixon s decent interval and peace with honor strategies by eliminating north vietnamese sanctuaries and supply bases located less than a hundred miles from saigon and by pushing communist troops off the vietnamese border despite the political cloud under which the operation was conducted shaw argues that it was not only the best of available choices but one of the most successful operations of the entire war sustaining light casualties while protecting american troop withdrawal and buying time for nixon s pacification and vietnamization strategies he also shows how the united states took full advantage of fortuitous events such as the overthrow of cambodia s prince sihanouk the redeployment of north vietnamese forces and the late arrival of spring monsoons although critics of the operation have protested that the north vietnamese never did attack out of cambodia shaw makes a persuasive case that the near border threat was very real and imminent in the end he contends the campaign effectively precluded any major north vietnamese military operations for over a year based on exhaustive research and a deep analysis of the invasion s objectives planning organization and operations shaw s shrewd study encourages a newfound respect for one of america s genuine military successes during the war

the signing of the paris agreement in 1973 ended not only america s vietnam war but also richard nixon s best laid plans after

years of secret negotiations threats of massive bombing and secret diplomacy designed to shatter strained communist alliances the president had to settle for a peace that fell far short of his original aims

for as long as the vietnamese people fought against foreign enemies women were a vital part of that struggle the victory over the french at dien bien phu is said to have involved hundreds of thousands of women and many of the names in viet cong unit rosters were female these women were living out the ancient saying of their country when war comes even women have to fight

harry truman s administration began searching for an american response to the clash in indochina between french colonialism and vietminh communism in 1945 thirty years and five administrations later gerald ford and his aides tried unsuccessfully to solicit additional aid for south vietnam from a reluctant congress for truman ford and every american leader in between the dilemma in vietnam hung ominously over the presidency in shadow on the white house seven prominent historians examine how the leadership of six presidents and an issue that grew into a difficult and often unpopular war shaped each other focusing on the personalities politics priorities and actions of the presidents as they confronted vietnam the authors consider the expansion of presidential power in foreign policy formulation since world war ii in their analyses they chronicle the history of executive leadership as it related to vietnam assess presidential prerogatives and motives on war and peace issues and clarify the interconnection between the modern presidency and the nation s frustrating tragic and humiliating failure in southeast asia although other histories have been written about the vietnam experience this book is the first systematic and comparative survey on presidential leadership as it relates to the war issue it is organized by presidential administrations giving a detailed examination of each president s decisions and policies based on the most recently opened archival sources the essays provide a framework on which to hang the kaleidoscopic events of the war amazon com

the first major synthesis of the war since 2001 drawing upon a host of newly declassified documents presidential tapes and overlooked foreign sources to give the most comprehensive look to date of the war that still haunts america

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