

# A Vietcong Memoir

Vietcong Memoir: An Inside Account of the Vietnam War and Its Aftermath  
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How Wars Are Won and Lost  
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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

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

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  
chicago 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

while war is most effectively waged as a united effort the united states has consistently waged military conflict without firm central direction throughout our history observes michael pearlman the waging of war has been subject to continuous bargaining and compromise among competing governments and military factions what passes for strategy emerged from this process

the narratives in part 1 tales of witness treat the major events of the vietnamese diaspora vietnam s resistance to french colonization the vietnam war post war vietnamese life immigration to and life in america and reconnections with contemporary vietnam part 2 tales of imagination moves beyond the master narratives of war and immigration to survey exciting innovations in the work of vietnamese american writers the texts demonstrate the full flowering of vietnamese american writers the texts demonstrate the full flowering of vietnamese american literature in english and are among the best contemporary writing of any category

index and bibliography included

schwab examines america s decision to stand in vietnam with a fresh perspective provided by new archival materials and the intellectual synthesis of institutional political and diplomatic history vietnam policy is shown at many different levels from the presidency down to the level of cia operatives in the field and public opinion specialists on the white house staff the views of state department officers foreign public opinion editorials in major u s newspapers and the powerful leaders of both congressional houses reveal an informed and highly conflicted public leadership well before american combat troops were committed in large numbers in the summer of 1965 the study begins with john f kennedy s inaugural address in january of 1961 and proceeds to show the decision making process regarding vietnam and indochina through the several critical events that led to johnson s famous press conference speech of 1965 the author contends that responsibility for the war and its tragic consequences should not be placed upon individuals but rather at the levels of the state society and the international system this view of agency existing at a higher level than the presidency challenges the dominant view of most diplomatic historians and other writers who have focused on the blunders and misperceptions of policy makers

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