

The United States And Vietnam 1787 1941

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if there is an overall theme to this study it relates to the american response to the vietnamese communist revolution or more specifically to the august revolution which in 1945 brought ho chi minh and his movement to prominence and power throughout the several phases of u s involvement the support of the french war effort the fostering of an independent south vietnam the years of intense warfare and the postwar hostility the american opposition to the vietnamese revolution has been unrelenting how a communist revolution in such a relatively obscure and

economically backward country came to be perceived as a challenge to u s national security can be answered in part but enough uncertainty remains that it continues to be an intriguing question and one with long range implications for u s foreign policy preface

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some will be shocked to find out that the united states and ho chi minh our nemesis for much of the vietnam war were once allies indeed during the last year of world war ii american spies in indochina found themselves working closely with ho chi minh and other anti colonial factions compelled by circumstances to fight together against the japanese dixie bartholomew feis reveals how this relationship emerged and operated and how it impacted vietnam s struggle for independence although the oss did not bring ho chi minh to power bartholomew feis shows that its apparent support for the viet minh played a significant symbolic role in helping them fill the power vacuum left in the wake of japan s surrender her study also hints that had america continued to champion the anti colonials and their quest for independence rather than caving in to the french we might have been spared our long and very lethal war in vietnam based partly on interviews with surviving oss agents who served in vietnam bartholomew feis s engaging narrative and compelling insights speak to the yearnings of an oppressed people and remind us that history does indeed make strange bedfellows

although the hostilities of the vietnam war ended in 1975 the diplomatic repercussions lasted for several more decades eventually however the dedicated perseverance of diplomats on both sides paid off in november 2003 major general pham van tra defense minister of the socialist republic of vietnam met with u s defense secretary donald rumsfeld in the halls of the pentagon signaling a new era in u s vietnamese defense relations this book traces the development of that relationship in the years since the vietnam war it focuses especially on the 1990s a decade in which the author served as country director for indochina thailand and burma in the office of the assistant u s secretary of defense for international security affairs his experience adds a personal perspective to the historical and political record multiple facets of the relationship between the two countries are addressed including trade immigration of amerasian children and pow mia concerns through this honest depiction of the sometimes fractious and confusing policy making process stern shows how both parties came to agree in the words of major general tra that we should not allow the future to repeat the past

the new evidence uncovers a number of behind the scenes plays such as nixon s secret nuclear alert of october 1969 and sheds more light on nixon s goals in vietnam and his and kissinger s strategies of vietnamization the china card and triangular diplomacy the excerpted documents also reveal significant new information about the purposes of the linebacker bombings nixon s

manipulation of the pow issue and the conduct of the secret negotiations in paris as well as other key topics events and issues all of these are effectively framed by kimball whose introductions to each document provide historical context

the presidency of john f kennedy continues to fascinate even as it also continues to inspire heated debates between admirers and detractors of camelot s fallen king now readers can gain a new appreciation of jfk in this thoroughly revised and updated edition of james giglio s bestselling study widely acclaimed as the best and most balanced book on jfk s white house years giglio incorporates the voluminous archival materials made available in the last fifteen years including the declassified documents on crucial foreign policy affairs and white house medical records that contradict the image of kennedy s youth and vigor he stresses the extent to which domestic and foreign policies were interconnected at a time when the cold war dominated national life and reveals his new appreciation for jfk s prudence in his handling of such enormous challenges as the cuban missile crisis and the emerging war in vietnam giglio shows kennedy to be the most medicated one of the most courageous and perhaps the most self absorbed of our presidents he reviews the physical ailments and heavy prescriptions that were kept out of the public eye and catalogs sexual indiscretions ranging from marilyn monroe and socialite florence pritchett to low level white house employees and even virtual strangers surveying this field of conquest giglio suggests that jfk s sexual obsession could easily have affected his presidency even more during a second term his work also amplifies coverage of key issues like civil rights the cuban missile crisis and vietnam and reevaluates many of the questions surrounding the assassination maintaining that even with the existence of a conspiracy still doubtful the case is far from closed like the first edition this new edition provides a sharp and thoughtful analysis of both domestic and foreign affairs and underscores that despite his undeniably brief tenure in office the state of the nation actually did improve on kennedy s watch featuring an expanded bibliographical essay and twenty two photos from the jfk library the presidency of john f kennedy remains the definitive appraisal of camelot s kingdom

unfolding the calley case step by step belknap shows how our system of military justice actually works his dramatic reenactment takes readers through every stage of the trial from pre trial investigations to actual courtroom exchanges among prosecutors defenders witnesses and judges in the process he reveals how a court martial conducted within the public eye transformed a purely legal proceeding into a political debate about the conduct of the war calley

but these questions are asked again in the hope that they might lead to a better understanding of what my lai means for us now

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