The American War: Vietnam, 1960-1975


**Item Type:** Book

**Note:**
Second edition, A People’s History of the Vietnam War, 2003, ISBN 1565848071. Paperback, New York, 2005. Translated: Spanish, 2003; German, 2004; Korean, 2004; Turkish; Greek, 2005. An original history of the Vietnam War and an innovative work in creative nonfiction. The intellectual advance can be assessed from the wide translation and publication, and from the fact that the book is widely available in Vietnam. This is “people’s history”. The war is seen from the point of view of Vietnamese guerrillas, American enlisted personnel and protestors in America. There is a constant emphasis on class conflict between American military personnel, back home in America, between landlords and peasants in Vietnam, but also between Vietnamese guerrillas and the Communist leaders. This is unique in histories of the war, and is the most significant and original aspect of the book. The rigour lies in the cohesion of the intellectual argument, and in the way that personal memoirs, professional histories, Vietnamese novels, and anthropological ethnographies are woven together so that a series of stories create a continuous narrative. This is history facing toward the public. It synthesizes a large body of specialist knowledge and brings it to a wider audience without losing complexity.

**Divisions:** College of Liberal Arts

**Date Deposited:** 18 Nov 2012 04:45

**Last Modified:** 29 Apr 2016 13:30

Request a change to this item or report an issue

Update item (repository staff only)

---

Slide 1 The Vietnam War & American Society 1960 - 1975 Slide 2 31.1 Deepening American Involvement Causes of the war: Communist nationals ousted French colonial power & divide Vietnam North (Communist) & South (Republic) The U.S. supports South Vietnam with 16,000 military advisers Gulf of Tonkin Resolution: after an alleged attack on U.S. ships, congress authorizes all necessary measures to repel any. armed attack. Slide 3 31.2 The Brutality of the War Viet Cong use guerrilla warfare tactics & infiltrate the civilian population U.S. troops face booby traps & snipers; often Many American soldiers went to war with high enthusiasm, unaware of the conditions in Vietnam. Walking through jungles carrying heave backpacks, fighting leeches, fever, jungle rot, and having to deal with racial tensions in the military was common. Troops never knew what to expect as women and even children could be assisting the Viet Cong. In 1975, the North Vietnamese issued a campaign of strikes and on April 30th, the Saigon (capitol) government officially surrendered to the North Vietnamese. Legacy of the War. The Vietnam War was the longest and least successful war in which the United States had ever participated. Vietnam BACKGROUND OF THE WAR American policy members supported France as they tried to stop Ho Chi Minh. French effort failed, and as a result of the Geneva Conference, Vietnam was split into two separate nations. Ho Chi Minh – Communist leader in North Vietnam Ngo Dinh Diem – Premier of South Vietnam, who became President in 1955, with the support of the U.S. JFK AND VIETNAM Kennedy sent Lyndon Johnson to Vietnam. He gained the broad authority to have nearly complete control over what the U.S. did in Vietnam by the Congressional passing of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Congress never officially declared war. Escalated the war effort – 1965- 25,000 American troops in Vietnam. By 1968 there were 543,000 American troops in Vietnam.