



The Second Indochina War: A Concise Political and Military History

By William S. Turley

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Now in a thoroughly revised edition, this influential book offers a concise history of the "Vietnam War" as seen by all sides, not just from the American perspective. Retaining its invaluable account of the strategies, perspectives, and internal politics of the Vietnamese Communists based on research in primary documents and interviews in Saigon and Hanoi, this completely updated and expanded edition incorporates the avalanche of documentation and secondary literature in both English and Vietnamese that has appeared over the past two decades. Distinguished scholar William S. Turley traces the conflict from its origins in the colonial period to its aftermath and shows how the local, national, regional, and global layers of conflict blended into a single event of great complexity. He takes a refreshingly objective look at contentious issues and concludes with a penetrating assessment of the claims, justifications, and "lessons" that scholars, statesmen, and strategists have advanced since the war's end.

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Editorial Review

Review

Turley is a leading scholar on Vietnamese politics, and he has updated his classic account of the Second Indochina War to reflect not only the latest scholarship and memoirs but also the perspective gained from more than thirty years of peace. There is never a 'last word' on a complex event, but for scholars, veterans, and anyone else who wants to understand the war in its context, this excellent and judicious book is the place to start. I look forward to using it in class. (Brantly Womack, University of Virginia)

By viewing events almost as closely from Hanoi and Saigon as from Washington, Professor Turley spares us the rampant self-absorption so characteristic of most American accounts of the war. For younger generations wondering 'Why Vietnam?' this book is the best place to start seeking answers. (David G. Marr, Australian National University)

This new edition, buttressed by twenty years of new scholarship, is even more satisfying than the original impressive book. The author's lucid prose and keen analytic bent give the work a distinctive tone and penetration, and his mastery of Vietnamese-language material allows for a balance and depth not found in other surveys. (David Hunt, University of Massachusetts–Boston)

Mandatory reading for everyone concerned with any of the Indochina states. Turley elegantly and vividly provides a comprehensive overview of the war, perceptive analysis of calculations at the top in Hanoi and Washington leading to the war's end, and compelling details of the prolonged and complex disputes within the Vietnamese communist leadership and followers and among Vietnamese, Chinese, Lao, and Cambodian actors. (Jeffrey Race, author of *War Comes to Long An*)

Review

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