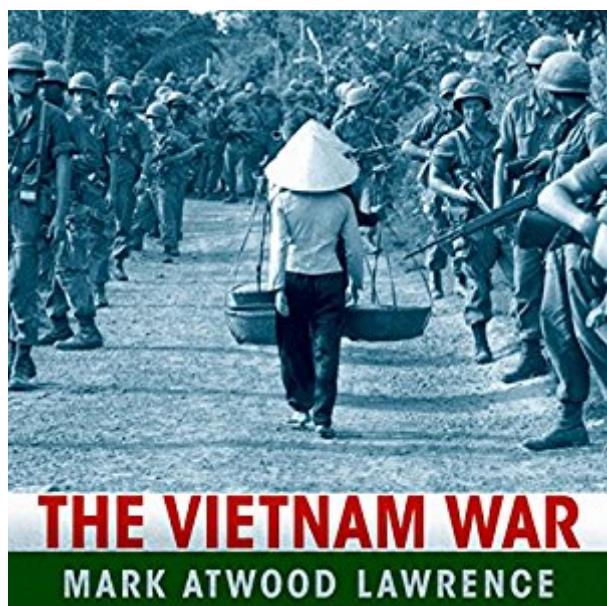


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The Vietnam War: A Concise International History



Synopsis

Hailed as a "pithy and compelling account of an intensely relevant topic" (Kirkus Reviews), this wide-ranging volume offers a superb account of a key moment in modern U.S. and world history. Drawing upon the latest research in archives in China, Russia, and Vietnam, Mark Lawrence creates an extraordinary, panoramic view of all sides of the war. His narrative begins well before American forces set foot in Vietnam, delving into French colonialism's contribution to the 1945 Vietnamese revolution, and revealing how the Cold War concerns of the 1950s led the United States to back the French. The heart of the book covers the "American war", ranging from the overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem and the impact of the Tet Offensive to Nixon's expansion of the war into Cambodia and Laos, and the final peace agreement of 1973. Finally, Lawrence examines the aftermath of the war, from the momentous liberalization - "Doi Moi" - in Vietnam to the enduring legacy of this infamous war in American books, films, and political debate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I grew up with the words "From Saigon" on the evening news. I was 25 when Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese. I realized recently, that I knew nothing about the War in Vietnam other than the media presentation at the time. I started looking for a reasonably short, readable history of the war that did not project someone's political agenda. This book filled that need. The author did not editorialize much (refreshing in today's journalistic world where fact and opinion get blurred by writers). It did not answer the big question for me: why did 58,000 American troops have to die in

Vietnam? Of course, that would be a matter of opinion. It did provide perspective about the world events that surrounded the war and put it into context for me. I would recommend it to anyone looking for some knowledge of this war that so changed the landscape of US politics.

Well written, it is historic and a yet told in way you want to hear the story. Mr. Lawrence does have a way at combining both what you learned in history class (which is boring) and the ability to tell a story (which is exciting). I did have to read this for a history class, but it was so well written I decided to keep it. It is one of my favorite books. If all history writers could write like this than history books would go flying off the shelves. It is strong writing you can almost feel the humidity from the jungle and smell the food.

A nice, concise history of the causes of the Vietnam war and its major battles. More a review of the forces at work that led to the war and its aftermath than details of individual battles. I wanted a better understanding of this rather than a simple military chronology, so this was overall a good book in this regard.

College book pick by college professor I had to get.

Overall, this book does exactly what it sets out to do and it does it very well. My only issue with reading this book was that historical figures/important people are only really introduced once and there are no reminders about who they are after. At first, it was difficult to re-find where certain people were first introduced to remind myself who they were, but then I remembered Google exists. Aside from that small issue the book is great.

This book gives an excellent historical portrayal of the Vietnam War, from the earliest days of French colonization to the last helicopter fleeing the American embassy. While its scope is wide it treats each major event in enough depth to successfully recall the entire period to mind. It goes further to suggest how Vietnam has continued to remain in the American psyche.

Well written and researched, yet is short and concise. This book looks to write about the Vietnam wars from a "international history" perspective which gives a reader a very good big picture view of the era. Which is quite a accomplishment due to the long and complicated history of the Vietnamese and foreign powers involved in this piece.

Short and concise the author gives the novelist historian a basic understanding of the many problems that plagued the American leadership

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