

A Pocket Guide To Vietnam 196

My Story, Vietnam 1968, 196th Light Infantry Brigade
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my story was written in an effort to capture my memories of the vietnam war i arrived in vietnam on december 19 1967 as a naive twenty year old private e 3 and left on december 9 1968 as a disillusioned staff sergeant e 6 with two bronze stars and a purple heart as a soldier assigned to alpha company third battalion twenty first infantry 196th light infantry brigade i fought the viet cong and north vietnamese regulars nva in the flatlands and the mountains west of tam ky and the nva on the dmz north of dong ha enemy fire malaria accidents and the scorching heat all took a heavy toll on alpha company the high casualty rate was a constant drain on the company s experience and the lack of experience produced yet more casualties on more than one occasion stupid mistakes cost young men their lives but at other times like when we turned back the nva on the dmz i can assure you that there wasn t a better outfit in vietnam on that night in may

few analysts of u s involvement in vietnam would agree with the provocative conclusion of this book the thesis of most postmortems is that the united states lost the war because of the failure of its foreign policy decisionmaking system according to gelb and betts however the foreign policy failed but the decisionmaking system worked they attribute this paradox to the efficiency of the system in sustaining an increasingly heavy commitment based on the shared conviction of six administrations that the united states must prevent the loss of vietnam to

communism however questionable the conviction and thus the commitment may have been the authors stress that the latter was made and kept for twenty five years that is what the system the shared values the political and bureaucratic pressures was designed to do and it did it the comprehensive analysis that supports this contention reflects the widest use thus fare of available sources including recently declassified portions of negotiations documents and files in presidential libraries the frequently quoted statement of the principals themselves contradict the commonly held view that u s leaders were unaware of the consequences of their decisions and deluded by false expectations of easy victory with few exceptions the record reveals that these leaders were both realistic and pessimistic about the chances for success in vietnam why they persisted nonetheless is explained in this thorough account of their decisionmaking from 1946 to 1968 and how their mistakes might be avoided by policymakers in the future is considered in the final chapter

this is a study of u s government policymaking during the 30 years of the vietnam war 1945 75 beginning with the 1945 1960 period although focusing on the course of events in washington and between washington and u s officials on the scene it also depicts major events and trends in vietnam to which the u s was responding as well as the state of american public opinion and public activity directed at supporting or opposing the war preface

this fourth volume of a five part policy history of the u s government and the vietnam war covers the core period of u s involvement from july 1965 when the decision was made to send large scale u s forces to the beginning of 1968 just before the tet offensive and the decision to seek a negotiated settlement using a wide variety of archival sources and interviews the book examines in detail the decisions of the president relations between the president and congress and the growth of public and congressional opposition to the war differences between u s military leaders on how the war should be fought are also included as well as military planning and operations among many other important subjects the financial effects of the war and of raising taxes are considered as well as the impact of a tax increase on congressional and public support for the war another major interest is the effort by congress to influence the conduct of the war and to place various controls on u s goals and operations the emphasis throughout this richly textured narrative is on providing a better understanding of the choices facing the united states and the way in which u s policymakers tried to find an effective politico military strategy while also probing for a diplomatic settlement originally published in 1995 the princeton legacy library uses the latest print on demand technology to again make available previously out of print books from the distinguished backlist of princeton university press these editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions the goal of the princeton legacy library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by princeton university press since its founding in 1905

today vietnam is one of america s strongest international partners with a thriving economy and a population that welcomes american visitors how that relationship was formed is a twenty year story of daring diplomacy and a careful thawing of tensions between the two countries after a lengthy war that cost nearly 60 000 american and more than two million vietnamese lives ted osius former ambassador during the obama administration offers a vivid account starting in the 1990s of the various forms of diplomacy that made this reconciliation possible he considers the leaders who put aside past traumas to work on creating a brighter future including

senators john mccain and john kerry two vietnam veterans and ideological opponents who set aside their differences for a greater cause and pete peterson the former pow who became the first u s ambassador to a new vietnam osius also draws upon his own experiences working first hand with various vietnamese leaders and traveling the country on bicycle to spotlight the ordinary vietnamese people who have helped bring about their nation s extraordinary renaissance with a foreword by former secretary of state john kerry nothing is impossible tells an inspiring story of how international diplomacy can create a better world

national bestseller based on the celebrated pbs television series the complete text of an engrossing history of america s least understood conflict a significant milestone that will no doubt do much to determine how the war is understood for years to come the washington post more than forty years have passed since the end of the vietnam war but its memory continues to loom large in the national psyche in this intimate history geoffrey c ward and ken burns have crafted a fresh and insightful account of the long and brutal conflict that reunited vietnam while dividing the united states as nothing else had since the civil war from the gulf of tonkin and the tet offensive to hamburger hill and the fall of saigon ward and burns trace the conflict that dogged three american presidents and their advisers but most of the voices that echo from these pages belong to less exalted men and women those who fought in the war as well as those who fought against it both victims and victors willing for the first time to share their memories of vietnam as it really was a magisterial tour de force the vietnam war is an engrossing history of america s least understood conflict

the fierce close combat in the remote areas of south vietnam s northern provinces in 1967 68 the battles of hiep duc march 11 nhi ha and hill 406 has been a strangely underreported slice of the vietnam war through the valley brings those battles into sharp focus chronicling the efforts of the proud units of the americal division and the 196th light infantry brigade against a stubborn enemy in long forgotten villages and on torturous hills colonel humphries draws on both his own combat experience and the eyewitness reports of fifty former veterans to reconstruct what it was like to fight in vietnam

the congressional record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the united states congress it is published daily when congress is in session the congressional record began publication in 1873 debates for sessions prior to 1873 are recorded in the debates and proceedings in the congress of the united states 1789 1824 the register of debates in congress 1824 1837 and the congressional globe 1833 1873

when the vietnam war ended with the north vietnamese capture of saigon on april 30 1975 27 months after a cease fire had been signed in paris the differences between the united states and vietnam were far from being resolved mutual bitterness regarding the war remained newly unified vietnam wanted normalization of relations and the subsequent economic reconstruction aid promised in the paris peace accords understandably wary of such diplomatic relations the united states requested information regarding soldiers listed as missing in action and assistance with the repatriation of military remains a series of misconceptions and misunderstandings as well as changes from a regional to a global u s foreign policy left both countries bereft of an easy solution this book describes the negotiations during the late ford and early carter administrations 1975 1979 and discusses the repercussions the diplomatic stalemate had on the domestic and international

politics of the united states and vietnam emphasizing the conflicting priorities and political goals of both countries at home and abroad this previously neglected period in united states vietnam relations deals with issues such as hanoi s constant exultation over the victory american denial of responsibility the division between the presidents public declarations and congressional policies and both sides use of the mia issue based primarily on recently declassified documents and former u s official douglas pike s uncensored collection the work also makes use of media press sources from america vietnam britain france and china interviews with vietnamese immigrants and former u s politicians provide insight unavailable in written histories appendices contain the february 1973 correspondence between president nixon and the prime minister of the democratic republic of vietnam six diplomatic notes from 1976 and a january 30 1979 letter from president carter to chinese vice premier deng xiaoping

the first major synthesis of the war since 2001 drawing upon a host of newly declassified documents presidential tapes and overlooked foreign sources to give the most comprehensive look to date of the war that still haunts america

a man of extraordinary inner strength and patriotic devotion general harold k johnson was a soldier s officer loved by his men and admired by his peers for his leadership courage and moral convictions lewis sorley s biography provides a fitting testament to this remarkable man and his dramatic rise from obscurity to become lbj s army chief of staff during the vietnam war a native of north dakota johnson survived more than three grueling years as a pow under the japanese during world war ii before serving brilliantly as a field commander in the korean war for which he was awarded the distinguished service cross for extraordinary heroism the latter experiences led to a series of high level positions that culminated in his appointment as army chief in 1964 and a cover story in time magazine what followed should have been the most rewarding period of johnson s military career instead it proved to be a nightmare as he quickly became mired in the politics and ordeal of a very misguided war johnson fundamentally disagreed with the three men lbj secretary of defense robert mcnamara and general william westmoreland running our war in vietnam he was sharply critical of lbj s piecemeal policy of gradual escalation and his failure to mobilize the national will or call up the reserves he was equally despondent over westmoreland s now infamous search and destroy tactics and reliance on body counts to measure success in vietnam by contrast he advocated greater emphasis on cutting the north s supply lines helping the south vietnamese provide for their own internal defenses and sustaining a truly legitimate government in the south unheeded he nevertheless continued to work behind the scenes to correct the nation s flawed approach to the war sorley s study adds immeasurably to our understanding of the vietnam war it also provides an inspiring account of principled leadership at a time when the american military is seeking to recover the very kinds of moral values exemplified by harold k johnson as such it presents a profound morality tale for our own era

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

this text explains that government and media first shared a vision of american

involvement in vietnam but as the war dragged on government press releases were challenged by reports from the field

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

presents an assessment of the johnson administration including the vietnam issue

through its remarkable service during the war in southeast asia the skyraider became legendary it served with distinction in the hands of u s navy u s air force and south vietnamese air force pilots who took the war to the enemy often at low altitude and in the face of devastating anti-aircraft fire and it suffered heavy losses the skyraider s versatility and the mettle of its pilots were unmatched this book takes not only a look at an old airplane but at the warriors who flew and maintained the machine they called the spad this volume captures the essence of combat in the spad and explains the broad range of spad operations the text which is rich with the narratives of spad pilots and ground crew is complemented by over 300 original photographs seventy emblems and detailed listings of every skyraider that flew in the war and the colorful units to which they were assigned this fascinating volume is a must for aviation enthusiasts history buffs and modelers alike

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