



A Story of Vietnam

By Truong Buu Lam

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A Story of Vietnam By Truong Buu Lam

As a specialist of Southeast Asian History, I am often asked to introduce a book that would relate the history of Vietnam, from its beginnings to the present. As often, I am embarrassed to answer that there is no such book written in English. In effect, although we have many publications that deal competently with particular periods or systematically with different topics of its past, a comprehensive history of Vietnam is still lacking. That is the reason I am happy and humbled to introduce here A Story of Vietnam.

A Story of Vietnam treats evenly all the periods and also gives equal importance to the culture and the arts as to the political or military events of Vietnam's past. I call it a story and not a history, because I do not want my book to be the usual conventional textbook, overburdened with interminable academic, historical and bibliographic references.

While not a conventional textbook, A Story of Vietnam can, nonetheless, provide a substantial reading material to students interested in Asia. To the hyphenated Vietnamese, it can serve as a convenient reference tool to the historical allusions, cultural insinuations, mythical hints, literary suggestions, ethnic idiosyncrasies they encounter every day at home. This book may also be sought after by the people who know so much already about Vietnam as a War but who still would like to know more about Vietnam as a culture.

I have narrated my story with the greatest impartiality I am capable of. I have no theory that needs to be proven nor do I have any assumption to be verified. But I do come to history with emotion, even with passion. Sometimes, my sympathies surged to the surface or my distastes became apparent, though at no time, have I consciously distorted the facts or altered the documents in order to validate my feelings.

The ten chapters of this book are naturally of unequal length. They adhere strictly to the chronological order, meaning that Chapter One deals, among others, with the legendary origins of the Vietnamese people and the last chapter, Chapter Ten, recounts the social traumas, the economic hardships, and the political isolation the country experienced after reunification in 1975 to the remarkable recovery effected since 1986 and culminating in October of 2007 when Vietnam was elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council of the United

Nations.

Truong Buu Lam is a retired professor of History from the University of Hawaii.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

Thank you for submitting your work to Outskirts Press for evaluation. I am pleased to report that your work *A Story of Viet nam* has been accepted for publication.

You certainly have an interesting narrative here. I really enjoyed your approach and outlook... You do a nice job of sharing your research and ideas. Your narrative voice is very familiar and friendly. You have a way with words and your writing has an excellent flow to it. Your book is nicely put together and filled with information I am sure many people will find interesting and thought provoking. It is obvious that you have done your homework and put much work and preparation (and research) into your work. You have a certain fervor for your subject matter because you really speak to your audience. I am certain your word will be well received by a wide audience. Your book is well written.

From the Author

As I wrote this book, I always kept in mind the generations of hyphenated Vietnamese who have had no opportunity to learn much about the land of their ancestors in schools of their new country. I wanted to narrate to them the story of Vietnam from the beginning to the present. I also meant to relate the political events of Vietnam's past to its cultural features so that my readers can experience Vietnamese society in its wholeness.

I also wish this work will find its way to the people who know already so much about Vietnam as a war but who would still like to read something about Vietnam as a people, a country, a culture.

From the Inside Flap

A passage of this book:

It has now become an incontestable fact that the USA has failed to attain the twin goal it had assigned to itself in Vietnam. Besides the failure to realize its objectives, did the US suffer a military defeat in Vietnam?

There are more and more people who would answer no to that question, arguing that the USA did not go into that war with the will to win. It is quite difficult for me to understand such an argument, for does it not represent a very serious indictment of the American establishment? How could any government order its troops to shoot and kill hundreds of thousands of persons, rain more than four million tons of explosives and seventy two million liters of chemicals all over the territory of another country that is thousands of miles away from the US and to a people that has never done any harm to the United States?

Other scholars blame the US government for having bound the hands of its strategists by making the decision to fight only a limited war. Can the Vietnam War be seriously called a "limited war" when, at its peak, more than half a million of American armed persons had to be ferried half way around the globe to a country that is about the size of California? One might ask what would the generals have done had their hands not been tied down? Would they have used tactical nuclear bombs? Would they have bombed Vietnam back to the Stone Age? Would they have created a desert out of Vietnam and call it an American Victory or put on that desert the label Pax Americana?

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ronald Moffatt:

Do you have something that you enjoy such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, small story and the biggest the first is novel. Now, why not seeking A Story of Vietnam that give your entertainment preference will be satisfied by means of reading this book. Reading addiction all over the world can be said as the method for people to know world considerably better then how they react when it comes to the world. It can't be stated constantly that reading practice only for the geeky person but for all of you who wants to always be success person. So , for all of you who want to start reading through as your good habit, you could pick A Story of Vietnam become your own personal starter.

Kirby Paradiso:

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June Hargrove:

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Deanna Jackson:

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