

Doing it Ourselves – The Road to Americanization of the Vietnam Conflict, 1963-1965



The conflict in Vietnam should remain a cautionary tale to this day. The sole lost war for America in the 20th century, the decisions made regarding the American commitment to South Vietnam would come to define much of the 1960s. Over 57,000 American soldiers gave their lives for the goal of preserving the independence of South Vietnam from 1965 – 1973, a nation which would cease to exist after 1975.

Why did the United States assume responsibility for what some have labeled a civil war far from its borders, and why did the United States shoulder the majority of the war effort from 1965? Given the political instability of South Vietnam from late 1963 to 1965, could a stable situation even have emerged? And how has the experience of Vietnam shaped America's future?

Suggestions for Additional Reading

- Craig, Campbell and Logevall, Fredrik: *America's Cold War – The Politics of Insecurity*. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. 2009.
- Duiker, William J. *Ho Chi Minh – A Life* Paperback edition. New York. Hyperion, 2000.
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- Jacobs, Seth *Ngo Dinh Diem, the Impossible Ally* in “Light at the End of the Tunnel” ed. Rotter, Andrew J. Third Edition. Paperback. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010.
- Logevall, Fredrik *Choosing War – The Lost Chance for Peace and the Escalation of War in Vietnam* Paperback edition. University of California Press, 2001.
- McNamara, Robert S. *The Tonkin Gulf Resolution* in “Light at the End of the Tunnel” ed. Rotter, Andrew J. Third Edition. Paperback. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010.
- Preston, Andrew *The War Council – McGeorge Bundy, The NSC, and Vietnam* Paperback edition. Harvard University Press, 2010.
- Rystad, Goran *Images of the Past* in “To Reason Why – The Debate about the Causes of U.S. Involvement in the Vietnam War”. Kimball, Jeffrey. Ed. McGraw-Hill Inc. 1990.
- Schulzinger, Robert D. *A Time for War – The United States and Vietnam, 1941-1975* Paperback edition. Oxford University Press, 1998.