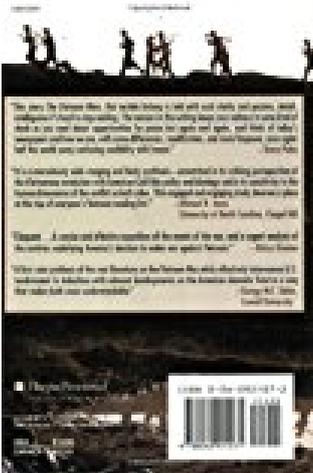


# [PDF] Vietnam Wars 1945-1990

Marilyn Young - pdf download free book

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## Books Details:

Title: Vietnam Wars 1945-1990

Author: Marilyn Young

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## Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** In this dark account of the political and diplomatic sides of the Vietnam wars and the psychic aftermath, the author contends that the Indochina experience refuted (temporarily) the simplistic assumptions that in foreign policy America always "meant well" and that communism was always "bad." The epithets popularly employed to characterize the enemy in Vietnam--"indifferent to human life," "dishonest," "ruthless"--came to characterize our own actions as well. From counterinsurgency expert Edward Lansdale's "cheerful brutalization of democratic values" to President Nixon's attempt to "make war look like peace," the moral breakdown is assessed here in disturbing detail. Young goes on to argue that more recent U.S. intervention in Lebanon, Libya, Grenada and Panama suggests that few lessons were learned in Vietnam--indeed, that the past decade has seen a dangerous resurgence of native faith in the benevolence of American foreign meddling. This, she maintains, goes hand in hand with a renewed commitment to use force in a global

crusade against Third World revolutions and governments. Young, a history professor at New York University, paints a grim picture of our part in the Indochina war and its excoriating effects on the nation. Photos.

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**From Library Journal** Two new books join the many which try to summarize and analyze the Vietnam War, its precedents, and its epilog, with differing approaches and results. Young (history, NYU) coauthored, along with William G. Rosenberg, *Transforming Russia & China* ( LJ 1/1/82). Her current study focuses on the American experience, while touching on the periods before and after direct American involvement. She provides some useful insights, and details debates among American leaders, but she draws predominantly on published sources and offers little new information. More significantly, her arguments are heavily biased (she seems to think that only the American and South Vietnamese military and governments demonstrated cruelty, corruption, deception, and destruction), leading to some troubling conclusions (e.g., that U.S. bombing of Cambodia may have been responsible for the later horrors of the Khmer Rouge), and leaving the reader unable to place events in any kind of valid historical perspective. In stark contrast to Young's black-and-white picture, Olson and Roberts (history, Sam Houston State Univ. and Purdue Univ., respectively) paint a picture of many colors. This successful popular history of the war is less scholarly, less detailed than *The Vietnam Wars*, but the better-balanced coverage throughout yields a more insightful, instructive history. At times the authors' emotionalism (e.g., the account of the My Lai massacre) clouds their presentation, and the otherwise fascinating discussion of the postwar media's depiction of the war is not up to date, but general readers will find their book to be a helpful and accessible introduction to the complexities of the Vietnam experience.

- *Kenneth W. Berger, Duke Univ. Lib., Durham, N.C.*

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The Vietnam War 1945-1990. Chapter one. The Fate of OSS Agent 19 (1945-1946) Perhaps naively, and without consideration of the conflicting postwar interests of the "Big" nations themselves, the new government believed that by complying with the conditions of the wartime United Nations conferences it could invoke the benefits of those conferences in favor of its own independence. Arthur Hale, U.S. Information Agency, Hanoi, October 1945. 1945, most Americans believed their country victorious over the unjust imperialist ambitions of two oppressive nations: Germany and Japan. Peace was loving Vietnam War (1954-75), conflict that pitted the communist government of North Vietnam and its allies in South Vietnam, the Viet Cong, against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. It was part of a larger regional conflict as well as a manifestation of the Cold War. By nearly every metric, the Vietnam War was, in the common sense of the word, a war. The United States committed some 550,000 troops to the Vietnam front at the height of the conflict, suffered more than 58,000 casualties, and engaged in battle after battle with communist forces in the region until its withdrawal in 1973. 13 Cold War, 1945-53. 14 Cold War, 1953-62. 15 Postwar America. 16 1960s: An Overview. 17 Civil Rights. 18 Vietnam Wars. 19 Nixonland. 20 Conservative Resurgence. After the Potsdam Conference toward the end of WWII, the U.S. helped China and Britain liberate the Vietnamese from Japanese control in the northern and southern parts of the country, respectively. By the middle of 1967, Vietnam was costing \$20 billion per year, and in August a 10 percent surcharge on individual and corporate taxes ended the illusion that the economy could painlessly supply both guns and butter. The tax increase was immediately reflected in Gallup and Harris Poll results; for the first time, those who said the war was a "mistake" outnumbered those who felt it wasn't (46 percent to 44 percent). In the summer and early fall of 1967 there were renewed contacts with Hanoi and a new American formula for starting talks. Wilbur Cohen and his son had worried about why the United States was in Vietnam. It was not a question that had seriously troubled cabinet officials so long as they believed the war was going well, and going well at an acceptable cost. Vietnam War Timeline. 1955. Nov 1 " US President Dwight Eisenhower sends the Military Assistance Advisory Group to help in the training of the South Vietnam Army. Dec 22 " The first casualty in the American forces dies in Vietnam, for many this marked the start of the Vietnam War. 1962. Jan " The US and South Vietnamese government put into action the Strategic Hamlet Program.