

My Vietnam Year | 12194af477f2f4919bf6a1563c1b19e0

Supplemental Foreign Assistance, Fiscal Year 1966--VietnamVietnam, a MemoirMy Vietnam YearMy VietnamMy Vietnam365 and a Wake-UpAir Power in Three Wars [WWII, Korea, Vietnam]My Vietnam ExperienceA Vietnam Trilogy, Vol. IHarrison E. Salisbury's Trip to North VietnamU.S. Navy Seabees-The Vietnam Years-1969Vietnam in My RearviewNot Your Ordinary Vietnam War StoriesVietnam by ChinookIssues Concerning Vietnam VeteransI Woke Up This Morning Feeling Around for My M-16The Vietnam War in American ChildhoodA Year In Vietnam With The 101st Airborne, 1969-1970U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The defining year, 1968My Year in VietnamA Life in a Year12, 20 & 5Vietnam War PortraitsMy Vietnam WarHeroesEscaping Vietnam: a Boy's ViewThe Vietnam WarA Chaplain Volunteers: A Memoir of My Two Years In VietnamMy LaiU.S. Navy Seabees-The Vietnam Years-1968Vietnam I'm Going !My VietnamVietnam, NowA Surgeon's WarMy Vietnam Year in Black and WhiteVietnam - A Dog's WarThrough the ValleyMy Vietnam WarMy VietnamMy Vietnam Year in Color

In this heartfelt memoir, Dennis Blessing, Sr., shares his experiences as a grunt in the First Cavalry Division in 1966 and 1967. Blessing's story is drawn from his own remembrance and from the 212 letters that he wrote to his wife while deployed. Among his many combat experiences was the battle of Bong Son in May 1966, in which his platoon was nearly wiped out, going from 36 to only 6 troopers in just a few hours. Told with honesty and vulnerability, the book combines gripping combat with personal reflection, and the author hopes that his story will help other veterans escape the shadow of the war.

Like many other young men during the Vietnam War, Ed Corlew faced a decision: enlist and have some influence over the course of his military service or wait to be drafted and face involuntary assignment. He volunteered and, with a post-war career in mind, chose aviation mechanics. When his instructor told his class of mechanics-in-training that helicopter door gunners had the shortest life expectancy of any soldiers in Vietnam, Corlew didn't anticipate that he'd soon find himself doing just that: serving as a door gunner aboard a CH-47 Chinook, 15 miles from the DMZ, in 1967 and 1968. Assigned to the famed 1st Cavalry Division, Corlew was shot down three times: in the Battle of Hue, the Battle of Quang Tri, and the A Shau Valley. This memoir began both as a journal to record his memories for family and friends, and as therapy: Corlew flew many missions during the war's bloodiest year, in addition to enduring enemy mortar and rocket attacks and jungle survival, and his VA counselor encouraged him to record his memories. Engaging, frank, and full of action, it describes Corlew's many combat experiences, the emotional effects that he suffered, and how his faith helped him get through it.

A historical chronology of the U.S. Navy Seabees in Vietnam during 1969. Data was researched from Battalion Cruisebooks and Deployment Completion Reports, Stars & Stripes Newspaper, All Hands magazine as well as personal stories and memories from the men who served 'boots on the ground'

Writers have been writing about war since the siege of Troy, but few, if any, have captured the first-person experience of war as deeply as My Vietnam War. Set in 1967 (the deadliest year of the Vietnam War), this memoir-style novel depicts the psychological journey of a young man whose carefree days of studying philosophy at the university are ended by the draft. The story follows him from his initial rear-echelon assignment in

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Saigon, where he falls for a mysterious storytelling bar girl, to his eventual posting at an isolated front-line firebase in one of the deepest parts of the Vietnam jungle. While recovering from a leg wound (he is hit by a piece of bone from a fellow soldier who stepped on a booby trap mine), he becomes the assistant medic and sees the horrors of war close up. The experience begins his steady spiral down into PTSD. After he is seriously wounded, he ends up back in Saigon where, after an old friend from Arizona gets him involved in the underground drug trade, the mysterious bar girl may be his only hope for salvation. It is a powerful story, well-written, with vivid detail that you will never forget.

This is a personal story of my journey to America. It describes why my family and I decided to leave Viet-Nam; how we left Viet-Nam; and the obstacles that we endured for the price of freedom. This book was written so people around the world can see the injustice that occurred to many thousands of Vietnamese who died seeking a new home after Viet-Nam became a communistic state. It is the hope that this book will give a sense of closure to many Vietnamese such as myself to forgive, forget, and be at peace.

"Hey Dad, instead of a gift, would you share your Vietnam experiences with me?" My daughter's request set into motion a journey 50 years into the past as a "grunt" in the steamy jungles of Vietnam. Four months later, with my memoir completed, Naomi asked another question. "Hey Dad, let's go to Vietnam, just you and me?" Could the ghosts of Vietnam past morph into a father and daughter blessing in the present?" Jack's book is an honest grunt's view of how it really felt as a soldier, like looking at the ass of a mule you were following, never sure where the trail would lead or if your life would end on an unknown trail. Jack's perspective as a young E4 made powerful points. Reading this book, people won't gloss over the days of Vietnam and forget." Harry Constance Navy Seal Team Two Three Vietnam Tours Author of "Good to Go"

The wry and heart-wrenching memoir of a young doctor's year behind the frontlines in Vietnam. Assigned to the marine camp at Phu Bai, Dr. John A. Parrish confronted all manner of medical trauma, quickly shedding the naïveté of a new medical intern. With this memoir, he crafts a haunting, humane portrait of one man's agonizing confrontation with war. With a wife and two children awaiting his return home, the young physician lives through the most turbulent and formative year of his life—and finds himself molded into a true doctor by the raw tragedy of the battlefield. His endless work is punctuated only by the arrival of the next helicopter bearing more casualties, and the stark announcements: "12 litter-borne wounded, 20 ambulatory wounded, and 5 dead." 12, 20 & 5 is an intimate and unique look at the effects of war that Library Journal calls "an autobiographical M*A*S*H* . . . phenomenal."

Even today, my thoughts of Vietnam are positive. I have incredibly fond memories of spending one year in that theater with some incredible people. My feelings about the Vietnam War mesh exactly with what Michael Norman wrote in his book *These Good Men: Friendships Forged From War*—even though Norman's heroes served in the U.S. Marine Corps and mine served in the First Air Cav. In recalling his tour in Vietnam, Norman wrote: "I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the U.S. Marine Corps. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never since given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another."

Vietnam, A Memoir: Airborne Trooper is the second work of a trilogy on one young Army officer's service in the Vietnam War. The first volume, *Saigon Cop*, covers his year as a Military Police platoon leader in Saigon. The third volume, *Mekong Mud Soldier*, describes the war seen by an American advisor to a Vietnamese unit in the wet Mekong Delta. Together, the three books tell a tale of war stripped of glory, high purpose,

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inspiration, and superficial patriotism. The focus is instead on five Bs: booze, babes, boredom, bureaucracy, and occasionally battle. In *Airborne Trooper*, the author is a semi-trained infantry platoon leader trying to quickly climb a steep learning curve in one of the Vietnam War's legendary units, the 173rd Airborne Brigade. The central ingredient of the book is not so much actual fighting as the hard, almost animal-like existence of the U.S. infantryman—the grunt, the line doggie, and the boonie rat—during Vietnam. The fighting itself ranges from brief, sometimes one-sided, engagements to one of the most costly efforts of the war, the Battle of Dak To in November 1967.

I was born in Lake, Florida, on December 1, 1950, to Jimmie and Anna Reeze. When I was two months old, my mother committed suicide and was buried on January 31, 1951. My grandmother and grandfather, who lived in Dublin, Georgia, then traveled to Florida to retrieve my mother's body, along with me! After that, I lived with my grandparents.

A stunningly beautiful love letter to Vietnam with more than 100 recipes, from best-selling author and Cooking Channel host Luke Nguyen. In *My Vietnam*, chef, television star, and best-selling author Luke Nguyen returns home to discover the best of regional Vietnamese cooking. Starting in the north and ending in the south, Luke visits family and friends in all the country's diverse regions, is invited into the homes of local Vietnamese families, and meets food experts and local cooks to learn more about one of the richest, most diverse cuisines in the world. Savor more than 100 regional and family recipes—from Tamarind Broth with Beef and Water Spinach to Wok-tossed Crab in Sate Sauce—and enjoy vibrant, stunning full-color photographs bursting with color and textures and capturing the beauty of Vietnam, her people, and their deep connection to food.

Vietnam - A Dog's War is about a group of men who were trained to walk patrol point with a German Shepherd dog. This book is about the dogs and some of the incredible things they did to save lives.

This book is a personal account of my year in Vietnam. It is a series of poems and stories presented in a sequence of my being drafted at age 19, though suffering with PTSD still at age 73. I started writing this book a few years back as a sort of therapy for my PTSD. My wife suggested that I put the poems in book form, to help her explain to the children why I was crazy as a squirrel on LSD. The voice of these stories is mine at 19 and 20 years old. The reflections are those of this old man at 72, now 73. At times you will find this book difficult to read, as I found it difficult to write. Hopefully, you will find it meaningful. And in some cases, you might find it helpful, as I have. And yes, I am Black, so the political and social references will speak more to black folk, especially Vietnam Veterans or other combat veterans. And of course some folk may be offended by the political tone. Please understand, it is not my intent to offend anyone.

What possessed this nineteen year-old to volunteer (or to accept being drafted like so many others) for a distant war in a totally unknown culture? I've spent decades pondering my actions. I tramped through I-Corps, the military area bordering North Vietnam, with 20 fellow infantry platoon members. Much happened to our small unit during that year. While writing this book I was amazed at how my perceptions from that time had changed. So it was a healthy trip for me. Join me in the jungles with my small band. I'll try to explain what it was like.

My Vietnam is a one of a kind look at the Vietnam War. In a small high school in Montana, a project was begun over a decade ago. One teacher at Frenchtown High School and two veterans started what is now the Frenchtown Vietnam Symposium. There is a history class on the Vietnam War and each year in May the seniors in the class host the Symposium. They invite up to forty Vietnam War vet's to come and discuss the war, their role

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in it, and they are honored by the students. My Vietnam is a book featuring thirteen Montana veterans telling what 'their' Vietnam was like. What makes it one of a kind is that these vet's are from all services, many military occupations from Marine sniper to fighter pilot, grunts and artillerymen. They cover many years of the war and they answer twenty-six of the most commonly asked questions by the students each year. My Vietnam is very special, heart warming and healing for all. You won't want to miss this special look at the war that shook our nation to its core.

A narrative of my two (one year) tours in Vietnam, the first with the 22nd Surgical Hospital (MUST), the second with the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry (NO SLACK) of the 101st Airborne Division (SCREAMING EAGLES). Many of the stories are based on journals I wrote on the battlefields.

This volume honors those who experienced the Vietnam War through striking portraits and personal accounts of the conflict and its repercussions. This book offers a uniquely human perspective on the Vietnam War through portraits and stories of American veterans, southern Vietnamese veterans, and civilians. The surreal imagery of Thomas Sanders' photography encourages the viewer to take a closer look at those who experienced the war. These images are paired with the individuals' haunting, inspirational, and sometimes comical stories of the war. Set in a surreal jungle environment, the portraits evoke the sense of darkness and uncertainty felt by those who experienced the war. Some portrait subjects hold objects that evoke their time of service: the common cigarette pack smoked by the vets while in the jungle; a homemade grenade made by the northern Vietnamese; and the "order to report" document that changed many a life.

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These are memories of a 20 year old's experiences in Vietnam during 1970-71. The soldier was a member of a 20 man infantry platoon with the 101st Airborne Division operating in the highlands and along the coast of South Vietnam's Military Corp I which bordered North Vietnam. Observations of fellow soldiers from very different backgrounds, tactics, reflections and even humor. Experiences only those who choose or are drafted to war carry with them throughout their lives.

It's 1965. A young surgeon is drafted into the U.S. Navy and sent to Vietnam, where he finds himself closer than he ever imagined to the carnage of war. He performs operations while under fire and sees wounds that can barely be contemplated. Marines are dying on the operating table in front of him. The small-town moral certainties he grew up believing in may themselves succumb to the ravages he is witnessing. More than anything, he wants to make it home to marry the woman he loves.

When he left war-ravaged Vietnam some thirty years ago, journalist David Lamb averred "I didn't care if I ever saw the wretched country again." But in 1997, he found himself living in Hanoi, in charge of the Los Angeles Times's first peacetime bureau and in the midst of a country on the move, as it progresses toward a free-market economy and divorces itself from the restrictive, isolationist policies established at the end of the war. This was a

new country; in Vietnam, Now, David Lamb brings it--and us--forward from its dark, distant past. From the myriad personalities entwined in the dark, distant history of the war to those focused toward the future, Lamb reveals a rich and culturally diverse people as they share their memories of the country's past, and their hopes for a peacetime future. A portrait of a beautiful country and a remarkable, determined people, Vietnam, Now is a personal journey that will change the way we think of Vietnam, and perhaps the war as well.

After graduating from the University of Missouri in 1969 I was commissioned as an officer in the Marines. I served an interesting 'tour of duty' in Southeast Asia in 1972, during which time I was "in and out" of six different countries including Vietnam. A greenhorn lieutenant when I landed, I was eventually promoted to captain. Because of my God given 'take charge personality' and a few "very junior officer" notable accomplishments I found myself frequently being handpicked for special assignments. I 'saw action' with seven different units some good some bad some ugly. I saw men die. I saw capable men withered by fatigue, brave men crippled by fear. Since I served, more than forty years ago now, I have had the pleasure and privilege of meeting and getting to know hundreds of fellow-Vietnam Vets; short term acquaintances, professional colleagues, neighbors, close friends, family members. Although our individual Vietnam stories are unique and intensely personal, I have come to realize that a common thread runs through most of them. For more than twenty-five years I have been asked to formally speak to sundry civic organizations, history classes, and social gatherings. As a result of fielding thousands of audience questions and listening to their spontaneous reactions to my "talks" I have learned what people are interesting in hearing. I have seen their reactions to my version of America's 'Vietnam experience'. I know what's interesting and what's not; what's important to those who weren't there, ordinary people who merely wonder 'what it was like'. I have enjoyed two "successful careers" and am currently embarked upon my third. I have fired most of life's best bullets, emptied most of my chosen weapon's most precious magazines, drained my fullest canteens, exhausted most of my allotted time on this fair planet we call earth. I want to share a few of the stories of men I served with, men I came to know later in life, men I loved as brothers-in-arms surviving in harm's way; or men who were simply 'Crazy Vietnam Vets' (like me) with a special story to tell. "Men JUST like me only different!" Ours are interesting up and down tales of wonder and weird, of good times and bad. I am happily married to a "seasoned" school nurse, am the father of three college educated sons, and have two fine grandsons. I live in Blanco, Texas about forty miles due west of Austin. I have always viewed life's glass as half full; hope you enjoy our 'Not Ordinary' war stories.

"The Vietnam War: Why the United States Failed" provides valuable insight into the war that no other author has provided. It reveals a highly effective automated battlefield that employed mechanical ambushes in the latter years of the war. In order to maintain operational security during the war of this automated battlefield, infantry troops in the field kept its use from journalists and out of the media. Therefore, the public and only a few within the military are aware of how effective it was in Vietnam. The commander of one of the most successful infantry companies during the Vietnam War makes a strong case that the war was winnable if God would have provided our leaders the wisdom and creativity to employ the correct tactics. "The Vietnam War" explains why the most powerful military in the world failed in the Vietnam War. It explains why and how God intervened in both victory and defeat within the war. Uncover both the flawed tactics that led to America's defeat, and the tactics that would have led to victory if used throughout the war. Learn the most important lesson from the Vietnam War and what America must do to prevent another similar defeat. "The Vietnam War" provides evidence of the power of Jesus Christ and serves as a warning to America to return to the Bible as its moral compass.

The story describes vividly the mixed bag of soldiers whose main agenda is not only to kill the Viet Cong but to simply make it through each of the 365 days and be give their wake-up.

In this study of the psychiatric impact of war on soldiers and veterans, Scurfield (social work, U. of Southern Mississippi) recounts his three different experiences in Vietnam, first, in 1968, as an Army social work officer working with psychiatric casualties, and in 1989 and 2000 when he and other veterans returned on missions of peace. Scurfield

Through the Valley is the memoir of an American prisoner of war in Vietnam. It is the true story of courage, hope, and survival. The author faced combat in some of the biggest battles of the Vietnam War. After being shot down and captured, he mustered the will to survive an ordeal in jungle cages, a forced death march of several hundred miles, and months of anguish in the notorious prisons of Hanoi. His tenacity in the face of unimaginable hardship is not only a captivating story, but serves as an inspiration to us all. This is an account with lessons for those in service who continue to face the demands of combat. It is also a human story that appeals to a broad general readership across the United States and around the world, much as have other POW stories such as *Undeclared* and *The Railway Man*. William Reeder's story is different than most published POW accounts. Unlike the majority of U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine pilots who were shot down and captured inside North Vietnam then moved quickly into established prison camps, Reeder was captured inside South Vietnam and held in jungle cages in Cambodia before enduring a grueling forced march of several hundred miles. That march took the lives of seven out of his small group of 27 POWs. He was the last U.S. Army prisoner taken in the war to have survived his captivity. The memoir begins with Reeder's return to Vietnam on his second tour of duty. It carries through his missions as a Cobra attack helicopter pilot during the rapidly deteriorating military situation in early 1972. His writing puts the reader right in the cockpit in the churning cauldron of war. Reeder cuts to the fear and anxiety, the thrill and the horror of combat, friendships made and friends lost. The story continues through his shoot down, capture, and struggle to survive a long and arduous march up the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Reeder shares the torment and pain of his ordeal, but always in the light of the hope that he never lost. More than anything, this is a story of hope and renewal. His memoir reinforces the themes of courage and sacrifice, belief in self, undying faith, strength of family, love of country, loyalty among comrades, and how precious is this thing called freedom that we so often take for granted.

My Vietnam chronicles the experiences of the Stemple family working with the Vietnamese in central Vietnam amidst the turmoil of the war years during the 1960s and 1970s. These incredible stories dramatically illustrate the triumphs and heart-break of life in war-torn Vietnam in a way not yet fully seen or explored. Ravi Zacharias, author and speaker "Charlotte not only offers her readers rich cultural insight but also marvelous instances in which only God in his sovereignty could weave the threads of hope and healing." Dr. Gary Benedict, President, The Christian and Missionary Alliance.. "Charlotte is a master story teller!" Dr. Marvin Eyles, Former Chaplain, First Marine Division, Danang 1970-71 "Charlotte Stemple's exciting and informative new memoir is compelling reading. I recommend this captivating book to lay persons, to mission historians, and to military veterans." Peter Burgo, Editor, Alliance Life (alife) Magazine "I have met few storytellers as poignant and compelling as Charlotte Stemple. Be forewarned: unless you're willing to endure some serious eyestrain, DON'T PICK UP THIS BOOK-because you won't want to put it back down." Charlotte Stemple is a communicator who has spoken and traveled across the U.S. and in 50 countries. She is a nurse, wife, mother of two, and grandmother of four. She formerly served as the national Director for church women's ministries for the Christian & Missionary Alliance, of which she is currently on the Board of Directors. In 2000, she received an honorary Doctorate from Nyack College, her alma mater. She and Woody live in Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, FL in the winter months and Beulah Beach (Vermilion) Ohio in summer. Her current passions include her family, leading short-term mission tours, mobilizing people for service in everyday life, mentoring young women, and sharing her story.

My Year in Vietnam Barry A. Popkin considers himself lucky. In addition to surviving 365 days in the jungle, he, unlike most of his squad, was able to

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make a smooth transition to civilian life and a successful career. He is now retired and living in Sarasota Florida. "Born in New York City, the youngest of six children. We had very little, but were rich being born in the shadow of the greatest generation. My first brother went into the Navy during the Korean war as a pilot on some of the first jets. The next brother went into the Air force and probably invented a new rank below private. My sister went into the Navy and was a Lieutenant at Guantanamo Bay. The next two brothers and I were drafted into the Army in succession, during Vietnam. They all came back from their service with their stories and this is mine. Upon my return from Vietnam, I went to college under the GI bill and spent the next forty years as a white-collar accountant/operational manager living in New York City. Now I live in Sarasota Florida after raising my three children in Connecticut Then moving to Dover Delaware for ten years. Looking back on my family, we were living through history and it was being taught at the 'feel level.' "

Vietnam - Im Going! is the story of a young WAC assigned to Vietnam. It starts with her excitement upon receiving orders and continues with a detailed description of daily living in a combat zone. Readers will be able to follow her through the year while experiencing life as she experienced it from missing clean towels to being blasted out of bed by incoming rockets. She wrote many detailed letters to her mother and they are recorded here in their original form as they were written. She describes among other things, the war as she saw it from her office window, nights spent in the bunkers, chopper rides and the difficulties of obtaining needed items. She also describes never ending heat, the red mud and dust and the bugs that were everywhere. Readers will be caught up in this story wondering what will happen next and find it hard to stop reading. The story has a mostly positive viewpoint since she was a volunteer and so much wanted to serve her country in a combat zone.

My Vietnam War is Dave Morgan's story. A typical 20 year old, he was forced into extraordinary circumstances in Vietnam. Far from his carefree youth, the Vietnam War would expose Dave to an atmosphere of ever-present danger and sheer terror that would impact him forever. His return to a divided Australia would isolate him further. During his service Dave wrote home to his mother from Vietnam tracking the days and the events. In 1992, after his mother passed away, he found all of his letters with his own recollections and diary entries, and the short stories of seven other veterans, to capture the unbelievable danger and horror that these young men experienced in Vietnam. He also describes how Vietnam established life-long feelings of intense loyalty, trust and mateship between the men that served there. Dave's story focuses on his time as a soldier and his return psychologically exhausted to a divided nation.

A historical chronology of the U.S. Navy Seabees in Vietnam during 1968. Data was researched from Battalion Cruisebooks and Deployment Completion Reports, Stars & Stripes Newspaper, All Hands magazine as well as personal stories and memories from the men who served 'boots on the ground'

This provocative in-depth book focuses on the experiences of the infantry soldier in Vietnam. More than 60 Army and Marine Corps infantrymen speak of their experiences during their year-long tours of duty.

On the early morning of March 16, 1968, American soldiers from three platoons of Charlie Company (1st Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 11th Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division), entered a group of hamlets located in the Son Tinh district of South Vietnam, located near the Demilitarized Zone and known as "Pinkville" because of the high level of Vietcong infiltration. The soldiers, many still teenagers who had been in the country for three months, were on a "search and destroy" mission. The Tet Offensive had occurred only weeks earlier and in the same area and had made them jittery; so had mounting losses from booby traps and a seemingly invisible enemy. Three hours after the GIs entered the hamlets, more than five hundred

unarmed villagers lay dead, killed in cold blood. The atrocity took its name from one of the hamlets, known by the Americans as My Lai 4. Military authorities attempted to suppress the news of My Lai, until some who had been there, in particular a helicopter pilot named Hugh Thompson and a door gunner named Lawrence Colburn, spoke up about what they had seen. The official line was that the villagers had been killed by artillery and gunshot fire rather than by small arms. That line soon began to fray. Lieutenant William Calley, one of the platoon leaders, admitted to shooting the villagers but insisted that he had acted upon orders. An exposé of the massacre and cover-up by journalist Seymour Hersh, followed by graphic photographs, incited international outrage, and Congressional and U.S. Army inquiries began. Calley and nearly thirty other officers were charged with war crimes, though Calley alone was convicted and would serve three and a half years under house arrest before being paroled in 1974. My Lai polarized American sentiment. Many saw Calley as a scapegoat, the victim of a doomed strategy in an unwinnable war. Others saw a war criminal. President Nixon was poised to offer a presidential pardon. The atrocity intensified opposition to the war, devastating any pretense of American moral superiority. Its effect on military morale and policy was profound and enduring. The Army implemented reforms and began enforcing adherence to the Hague and Geneva conventions. Before launching an offensive during Desert Storm in 1991, one general warned his brigade commanders, "No My Lais in this division--do you hear me?" Compelling, comprehensive, and haunting, based on both exhaustive archival research and extensive interviews, Howard Jones's *My Lai* will stand as the definitive book on one of the most devastating events in American military history.

For American children raised exclusively in wartime--that is, a Cold War containing monolithic communism turned hot in the jungles of Southeast Asia--and the first to grow up with televised combat, Vietnam was predominately a mediated experience. Walter Cronkite was the voice of the conflict, and grim, nightly statistics the most recognizable feature. But as involvement grew, Vietnam affected numerous changes in child life, comparable to the childhood impact of previous conflicts--chiefly the Civil War and World War II--whose intensity and duration also dominated American culture. In this protracted struggle that took on the look of permanence from a child's perspective, adult lives were increasingly militarized, leaving few preadolescents totally insulated. Over the years 1965 to 1973, the vast majority of American children integrated at least some elements of the war into their own routines. Parents, in turn, shaped their children's perspectives on Vietnam, while the more politicized mothers and fathers exposed them to the bitter polarization the war engendered. The fighting only became truly real inasmuch as service in Vietnam called away older community members or was driven home literally when families shared hardships surrounding separation from cousins, brothers, and fathers. In seeing the Vietnam War through the eyes of preadolescent Americans, Joel P. Rhodes suggests broader developmental implications from being socialized to the political and ethical ambiguity of Vietnam. Youth during World War II retained with clarity into adulthood many of the proscriptive patriotic messages about U.S. rightness, why we fight, heroism, or sacrifice. In contrast, Vietnam tended to breed childhood ambivalence, but not necessarily of the hawk and dove kind. This unique perspective on Vietnam continues to complicate adult notions of militarism and warfare, while generally lowering expectations of American leadership and the presidency.

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