
**Item Type:** Book

**Note:**
Second edition, *A People's History of the Vietnam War*, 2003. ISBN 1565848071. Paperback, New York, 2005. Translated: Spanish, 2003; German, 2004; Korean, 2004; Turkish; Greek, 2005. An original history of the Vietnam War and an innovative work in creative nonfiction. The intellectual advance can be assessed from the wide translation and publication, and from the fact that the book is widely available in Vietnam. This is "people's history". The war is seen from the point of view of Vietnamese guerrillas, American enlisted personnel and protestors in America. There is a constant emphasis on class conflict between American military personnel, back home in America, between landlords and peasants in Vietnam, but also between Vietnamese guerrillas and the Communist leaders. This is unique in histories of the war, and is the most significant and original aspect of the book. The rigour lies in the cohesion of the intellectual argument, and in the way that personal memoirs, professional histories, Vietnamese novels, and anthropological ethnographies are woven together so that a series of stories create a continuous narrative. This is history facing toward the public. It synthesizes a large body of specialist knowledge and brings it to a wider audience without losing complexity.

**Divisions:** College of Liberal Arts

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The Vietnam War and American Society 1960-1975

The times are a-changin' Bob Dylan

Section 1 The War in the 1960s

Background before war

Vietnam has a history of nationalism

After WWII Ho Chi Minh resisted China and France

The U.S. saw Ho as a communist and enemy in the cold war.

As the independence movement turned into a civil war in the 1960s

Teach-In Movement

When Vietnam intervened, students were among the first to protest American involvement in the war. Some opposed American imperialism, while others questioned American interests in a civil war. All called for withdrawal. Teach-In extended lecture on a controversial issue to protest the Vietnam War. First teach-in took place at the University of Michigan in March 1965.


The Vietnam War was the longest deployment of U.S. forces in hostile action in the history of the American republic. Although there is no formal declaration of war from which to date U.S. entry, President John F. Kennedy's decision to send over 2,000 military advisers to South Vietnam in 1961 marked the beginning of twelve years of American military combat. U.S. unit combat began in 1965. The number of U.S. troops steadily increased until it reached a peak of 543,400 in April 1969.