



Victory in Vietnam: The Official History of the People's Army of Vietnam, 1954-1975 (Modern War Studies)

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What was for the United States a struggle against creeping Communism in Southeast Asia was for the people of North Vietnam a "great patriotic war" that saw its eventual victory against a military Goliath. The story of that conflict as seen through the eyes—and the ideology—of the North Vietnamese military offers readers a view of that era never before seen.

Victory in Vietnam is the People's Army of Vietnam's own account of two decades of struggle, now available for the first time in English. It is a definitive statement of the Vietnamese point of view concerning foreign intrusion in their country since before American involvement—and it reveals that many of the accepted truths in our own histories of the war are simply wrong.

This detailed account describes the ebb and flow of the war as seen from Hanoi. It discloses particularly difficult times in the PAVN's struggle: 1955-59, when Diem almost destroyed the Communist movement in the South; 1961-62, when American helicopter assaults and M-113 armored personnel carriers inflicted serious losses on their forces; and 1966, when U.S. troop strength and air power increased dramatically. It also elaborates on the role of the Ho Chi Minh Trail in the Communist effort, confirming its crucial importance and telling how the United States came close to shutting the supply line down on several occasions.

The book confirms the extent to which the North orchestrated events in the South and also reveals much about Communist infiltration—accompanied by statistics—from 1959 until the end of the war. While many Americans believed that North Vietnam only began sending regular units south after the U.S. commitment of ground forces in 1965, this account reveals that by the time Marines landed in Da Nang in April 1965 there were already at least four North Vietnamese regiments in the South.

Translator Merle Pribbenow, who spent several years in Saigon during the war, has sought to render as accurately as possible the voice of the PAVN authors, retaining much of the triumphant flavor of the text in order to provide an

uncensored feel for the Vietnamese viewpoint. A foreword by William J. Duiker, author of *Ho Chi Minh: A Life* and other books on Vietnam, puts both the tone and content of the text in historical perspective.

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Victory in Vietnam: The Official History of the People's Army of Vietnam, 1954-1975 (Modern War Studies) From University Press of Kansas Bibliography

- Rank: #2254782 in Books
- Published on: 2002-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

- Dimensions: 1.50" h x 6.30" w x 9.34" l, 2.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 520 pages



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Review

"Merle Pribbenow's fine translation of this important PAVN official history of the war from 1954 to 1975 contains much detail never before available in English. . . . A valuable resource for serious students of the Vietnam War."—**Edwin E. Moise**, author of *Tonkin Gulf and the Escalation of the Vietnam War*

"Pribbenow's skillful and graceful translation provides valuable insights into many aspects of the Vietnam War from the North Vietnamese perspective, which is often surprisingly candid. He deserves our thanks for making this important volume accessible to a wider audience."—**Lewis Sorley**, author of *A Better War* "Fills a yawning gap in the growing literature on the Vietnam War."—**William J. Duiker**, author of *Ho Chi Minh: A Life*

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Merle L. Pribbenow served as a language officer, operations officer, and staff officer for the CLA from 1968 to 1995, including five years in Saigon at the end of the war. William J. Duiker is professor emeritus of history at Penn State University.

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