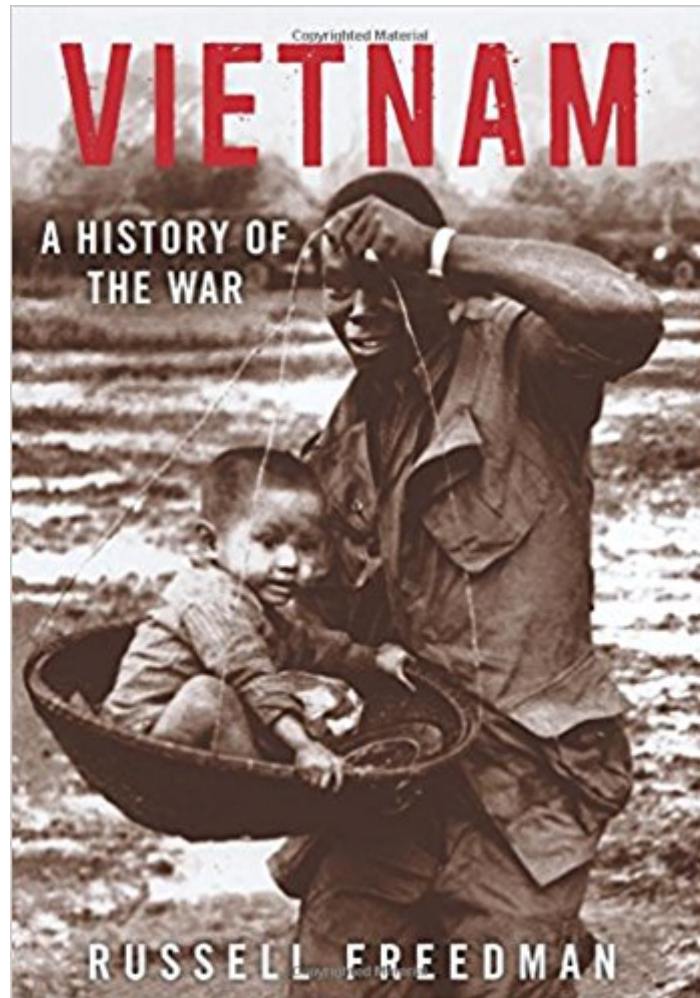




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Vietnam: A History Of The War



Synopsis

In an enthralling book, Newbery Medalist Russell Freedman provides a succinct account of perhaps the most puzzling and contentious of America's wars. Describing how a superpower caught up in Cold War politics became increasingly enmeshed in a conflict over 8,000 miles away, he then explains why twenty years later an exit was so difficult. In words and photographs he chronicles the unfolding events in Vietnam and at home as increasing numbers of young men were sent into the jungles to fight. After assessing the catastrophic damage, Freedman concludes the book with a hopeful epilogue on Vietnam today. A glossary, source notes, bibliography and index are included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 6-8 • In his customary well-honed prose, Freedman presents a coherent overview of the Vietnam War. First he retraces Vietnam's 2,000 year struggle to become and stay independent and how the United States went from ally to aggressor (a result of shifting from fighting colonialism to opposing communism after World War II). He goes on to recount the major events in the war, the course of the antiwar movement in the United States, U.S. troop withdrawal, and the long process of reconciliation. Amid descriptions of larger events, the author offers favorable or sympathetic glimpses of frontline soldiers—including quotes from a North Vietnamese soldier's diary—and documents the war's escalating brutality on both sides in a matter-of-fact but not sensationalistic way. The many documentary photos include the screaming child Kim Phuc (with a caption that describes what became of her) but not some of the more well-known disturbing

images. Though positively judicious next to Albert Marrin's rabidly opinionated *America and Vietnam: The Elephant and the Tiger*, Freedman's account leans toward the view that the carnage resulted from a perfect storm of missed opportunities for alliances or political solutions, misunderstood history and culture, wrongheaded strategic decisions, and mulish pride on the part of U.S. political and military leaders. The extensive back matter will be useful to serious students of the era. VERDICT Along with being more readable than the plethora of assignment titles on the subject, this is a clear-eyed view of a watershed event in U.S. history and a significant update to older histories for middle graders. —John Peters, Children's Literature Consultant, New York City

Wilder and Newbery medalist Russell Freedman's *Vietnam* is a concise history of the protracted and controversial war in Indochina (Publisher)

It's an excellent overview of the country's history, it's battles and struggles for independence. How their society and leader (ho chi minh) developed, how and why the US got involved...fascinating

Great short version.

The book *Vietnam a history of the war* is a good showcase of the Vietnam war and the events that caused it. The book explains in depth the events that took place during this horrific war.

If you just want the facts of the war then this is the perfect book for you. This is exactly what I was wanting. Good read.

This was a great book. It was a gift and he loved it!

This is a great overview of the disastrous series of French and American decisions that led ultimately to the horror of the American War on Vietnam. Prior to reading the book, I had been unaware that Ho Chi Minh had spent approximately 30 years abroad, living in both France and the United States. Thus, he knew and understood the cultures of his country's occupiers, while the latter understood little to nothing of Vietnamese culture or traditions. The appalling (and senseless) loss of life, as strongly implied by this fast-paced book, was largely attributable both to overwhelming Western hubris, and a lamentable series of mistaken decisions made on the basis of this hubris and of general ignorance.

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