



Vietnam: Explaining America's Lost War

By Gary R. Hess

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In *Vietnam*, Gary R. Hess describes and evaluates the main arguments of scholars, participants, and journalists, both revisionist and orthodox in their approach, as they try to answer fundamental questions of the Vietnam War.

- Clearly examines the historiography of the Vietnam War
- Questions whether the Vietnam War was lost due to poor strategy and leadership, or was inherently doomed to failure
- Includes a bibliographic essay which complements the literature discussed in the text

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Editorial Review

Review

“This is a book one will wish to assign to students: it lays out, with enviable clarity, what is at stake, what evidence exists for reaching a judgment, what various historians have concluded on the basis of the evidence they use and/or ignore, and Hess's own position on the matter. Because he is an honest historian, Hess does not pretend to be neutral.” (*International History Review*, June 2009)

“[Hess] has simply provided the best general overview of the literature on the Vietnam War that has been written to date.” (*Review of Politics*, March 2009)

A *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title of the Year

“Gary Hess's new book is a survey of the scholarship on the Vietnam War which pits this revisionist historiography (the so-called ‘winnable’ war tradition) against the more numerous orthodox historiography (the ‘unwinnable’ war tradition)[The book is] an enormously stimulating volume which usefully organises the literature on thematic lines and clarifies the battle lines between the orthodox and revisionist schools.” (*Reviews in History*, January 2009)

Review

“*Vietnam* is the clearest explanation of the arguments over American involvement in the Vietnam War. It is essential reading for teachers and students of the war.”

—*Robert Schulzinger, University of Colorado*

“Hess, one of America's leading diplomatic historians, has written the most useful book to date – for both teachers and students – on the nation's ordeal in Vietnam. It is a magnificently balanced study of the issues and the literature.”

—*Warren Cohen, University of Maryland-Baltimore County*

From the Back Cover

In *Vietnam*, Gary R. Hess describes and evaluates the main arguments of scholars, participants, and journalists – both revisionist and orthodox in their approach – as they consider why the United States was unable to achieve its objectives. While providing a clear and well-balanced account of the existing historical debate, Hess also offers his own interpretation of the events and opens a dialogue about the usefulness of historical argument in reaching a deeper understanding of the conflict. This concise book is essential reading for students and teachers of the Vietnam War as it provides a clear and well-balanced account of existing historical debate and a thought-provoking look at the future of historical scholarship.

Users Review

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