

**DIEN BIEN PHU AND THE FRENCH DEFEAT IN VIETNAM**

# **THE LAST VALLEY**

**THE BATTLE THAT DOOMED THE FRENCH EMPIRE  
AND LED AMERICA INTO VIETNAM**



**MARTIN WINDROW**

# The Last Valley Dien Bien Phu And The French Defeat In Vietnam

**Ruud van Dijk, William Glenn  
Gray, Svetlana Savranskaya, Jeremi  
Suri, Qiang Zhai**

## **The Last Valley Dien Bien Phu And The French Defeat In Vietnam:**

**The Last Valley** Martin Windrow,2004-12-13 In December 1953 the French army occupying Vietnam challenged the elusive Vietnamese army to engage in battle at Dien Bien Phu The story of how the siege in the jungle wore on until the French were depleted demoralized and destroyed is meticulously researched for this volume **Dien Bien Phu 1954**

Martin Windrow,2021-08-19 A highly illustrated study of the battle at Dien Bien Phu the 56 day siege that eventually led to the surrender of the remaining French led forces this iconic battle provided the climax of the First Indochina War In late 1953 the seventh year of France s war against the Viet Minh insurgency in its colony of Vietnam the C in C General Navarre was encouraged to plant an air ground base in the Thai Highlands at Dien Bien Phu to distract General Giap s Vietnamese People s Army from both Annam and the French northern heartland in the Red River Delta and to protect the Laotian border Elite French paratroopers captured Dien Bien Phu which was reinforced between December 1953 and February 1954 with infantry and artillery a squadron of tanks and one of fighter bombers to a strength of 10 000 men Giap and the VPA General Staff accepted the challenge of a major positional battle through a total mobilization of national resources and with Chinese logistical help they assembled a siege army of 58 000 regular troops equipped for the first time with 105mm artillery and 37mm AA guns Here author Martin Windrow describes how from their first assaults on 13 March 1954 the battle quickly developed into a dramatic 56 day Stalingrad in the jungle that drew the attention of the world **The Last Valley** Martin

Windrow,2011-12-01 Stalingrad in the jungle the battle that doomed the French Empire and led America into Vietnam In winter 1953 54 the French army in Vietnam challenged its elusive enemy General Giap s Viet Minh to pitched battle Ten thousand French paras and legionnaires with artillery and tanks were flown to the remote valley of Dien Bien Phu to build a fortress upon which Giap could smash his inexperienced regiments The siege which followed became a Stalingrad in the jungle and its outcome shocked the world *Autopsy of an Unwinnable War: Vietnam* William C. Haponski,Jerry J.

Burcham,2019-06-11 A military studies professor and former combatant rationally dissects the strategies and mindsets on both sides of this thirty year conflict New York Journal of Books Since the fall of Saigon in 1975 there have been much discussion of why and whether America lost the war in Vietnam The common belief is that the war was lost not on the battlefield but in Washington DC The stark facts though are that the Vietnam War was lost before the first American shot was fired In fact it was lost before the first French Expeditionary Corps shot almost two decades earlier and was finally lost when the South Vietnamese fought partly then entirely on their own Offering an informed narrative of the entire thirty year war this book seeks to explain why Written by a combatant in six large battles and many smaller firefights who was also a leader with a full range of pacification duties a commander who lost forty three wonderful young men *Autopsy of an Unwinnable War* is the result of a quest for answers by one who after decades of wondering what it was all about turned to a years long search of French American and Vietnamese sources This is a story lived and revealed mainly by the people inside Vietnam

who were directly involved in the war from leaders in high positions down to the jungle boots and sandals level of the fighters and among the Vietnamese who were living it Because of what was happening inside Vietnam itself no matter what policies and directives came out of Paris or Washington or the influences in Moscow or Beijing it is about a Vietnamese idea that would eventually triumph over bullets Includes photographs      *The End of the First Indochina War* James Waite, 2012-08-21 The French withdrawal from Vietnam in 1954 was the product of global pressures and triggered significant global consequences By treating the war as an international issue this book places Indochina at the center of the Cold War in the mid 1950s Arguing that the Indochina War cannot be understood as a topic of Franco US relations but ought to be treated as international history this volume brings in Vietnamese and other global agents including New Zealand Australia and especially Britain as well as China and the Soviet Union Importantly the book also argues that the successful French withdrawal from Vietnam a political defeat for the Eisenhower administration helped to avert outright warfare between the major powers although with very mixed results for the inhabitants of Vietnam who faced partition and further bloodshed The End of the First Indochina War explores the complexities of intra alliance competition over global strategy especially between the United States and British Commonwealth arguing that these rivalries are as important to understanding the Cold War as east west confrontation This is the first truly global interpretation of the French defeat in 1954 based on the author s research in five western countries and the latest scholarship from historians of Vietnam China and Russia Readers will find much that is new both in terms of archival revelations and original interpretations      **Extraordinary Valor** William Reeder, 2022-06-15 A Congressional Medal of Honor Account Extraordinary Valor is the story of Special Forces Major John Duffy s Medal of Honor gallantry at Firebase Charlie and the heroism of South Vietnamese paratrooper Major L V n M who fought by his side It is the true story of their battle to defend Charlie Hill a key to holding Vietnam s Central Highlands during North Vietnam s 1972 Easter Offensive John Joseph Duffy was born in New York City Le Van M in a small village outside the old imperial capital of Hue in South Vietnam Living on opposite sides of the globe they come together in the heat of war in Southeast Asia when Major Duffy is assigned as the American advisor to the elite South Vietnamese 11th Airborne Battalion where M is second in command The battalion receives the order to Fight to the death on Charlie Hill After two weeks of intense combat hundreds lay dead and those still standing are out of food water and medical supplies Their ammunition is nearly gone Duffy and M draw on their bond of friendship and trust to make a selfless two man last stand against the final North Vietnamese human wave assault Both are badly wounded Duffy multiple times Their heroic action allows 36 members of the 471 man battalion to escape and be rescued The rest are killed captured or missing in action This is their story      *America in the World* Frank Costigliola, Michael J. Hogan, 2013-12-23 This volume includes historiographical surveys of American foreign relations since 1941 by some of the country s leading historians Some of the essays offer sweeping overviews of the major trends in the field of foreign international relations history Others survey the literature on

US relations with particular regions of the world or on the foreign policies of presidential administrations The result is a comprehensive assessment of the historical literature on US foreign policy that highlights recent developments in the field

*The Rough Guide to Vietnam* Martin Zatko, Ron Emmons, 2012-04-02 The Rough Guide to Vietnam is the essential guide to one of Southeast Asia's most enticing destinations Roam the markets temples and shops of thousand year old Hanoi and then slow the pace down with a trip to national parks or the remote highlands From the rugged mountains of Ha Giang in the north to the pancake flat Mekong Delta in the south the Rough Guide's honest and up to date appraisals will steer you to the best places to stay eat and party across every price range Reviews take in hill tribe homestays quirky hostels boutique hotels sophisticated restaurants and delicious street food while informed and accessible writing covers everything from Buddhism to battlefields This fully revised edition is full colour throughout helping the country's tremendous food impressive colonial architecture and colourful ethnic minorities leap from the page and detailed maps offer clear guidance [A War of Logistics](#)

Charles R. Shrader, 2015-10-23 Following the French reoccupation of Indochina at the end of World War II the pro Communist Vietnamese nationalists or Viet Minh launched a grassroots insurgency that erupted into a full fledged war in 1949 After nearly ten years of savage combat the western world was stunned when Viet Minh forces decisively defeated the French Union army at the battle of Dien Bien Phu in May 1954 Logistics dominated every aspect of the First Indochina War dictating the objectives the organization of forces the timing and duration of the operations and even the final outcome In *A War of Logistics* Charles R Shrader meticulously examines both French Union and Viet Minh logistical units during the period of active conventional warfare as well as external support provided to the French by the United States and to the Vietnamese by China Although the Vietnamese had few advantages over their opponents their military leaders brilliantly employed a highly committed network of soldiers and civilians outfitted to accommodate the challenging terrain on which they fought Drawing on extensive research such as declassified intelligence documents the reports of French participants and accounts by Viet Minh leaders including Vo Nguyen Giap and Ho Chi Minh *A War of Logistics* provides in depth coverage of the often ignored but critically important topic of logistics in modern military campaigns **The Rough Guide to**

**Vietnam (Travel Guide with Free eBook)** Rough Guides, 2023-01-01 This practical travel guide to Vietnam features detailed factual travel tips and points of interest structured lists of all iconic must see sights as well as some off the beaten track treasures Our itinerary suggestions and expert author picks of things to see and do will make it a perfect companion both ahead of your trip and on the ground This Vietnam guide book is packed full of details on how to get there and around pre departure information and top time saving tips including a visual list of things not to miss Our colour coded maps make Vietnam easier to navigate while you're there This guide book to Vietnam has been fully updated post COVID 19 and it comes with a free eBook The Rough Guide to VIETNAM covers Ho Chi Minh City and around the Mekong Delta the central highlands the southern coast central Vietnam the northern coast Hanoi and around and the far north Inside this Vietnam

travel guide you ll find RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EVERY TYPE OF TRAVELLER Experiences selected for every kind of trip to Vietnam from off the beaten track adventures in Ca Mau Peninsula to family activities in child friendly places like Tra Su Bird Sanctuary or chilled out breaks in popular tourist areas like Ha Long Bay PRACTICAL TRAVEL TIPS Essential pre departure information including Vietnam entry requirements getting around health information travelling with children sports and outdoor activities food and drink festivals culture and etiquette shopping tips for travellers with disabilities and more TIME SAVING ITINERARIES Includes carefully planned routes covering the best of Vietnam which give a taste of the richness and diversity of the destination and have been created for different time frames or types of trip DETAILED REGIONAL COVERAGE Clear structure within each sightseeing chapter of this Vietnam travel guide includes regional highlights brief history detailed sights and places ordered geographically recommended restaurants hotels bars clubs and major shops or entertainment options INSIGHTS INTO GETTING AROUND LIKE A LOCAL Tips on how to beat the crowds save time and money and find the best local spots for water puppetry boat trips cycling kayaking or exploring markets HIGHLIGHTS OF THINGS NOT TO MISS Rough Guides rundown of Ho Chi Minh City Da Lat Kon Tum and Son My s best sights and top experiences helps to make the most of each trip to Vietnam even in a short time HONEST AND INDEPENDENT REVIEWS Written by Rough Guides expert authors with a trademark blend of humour honesty and expertise this Vietnam guide book will help you find the best places matching different needs BACKGROUND INFORMATION Comprehensive Contexts chapter of this travel guide to Vietnam features fascinating insights into Vietnam with coverage of history religion ethnic groups environment wildlife and books plus a handy language section and glossary FABULOUS FULL COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHY Features inspirational colour photography including the stunning Ma Pi Leng Pass and the spectacular Khai Dinh Mausoleum COLOUR CODED MAPPING Practical full colour maps with clearly numbered colour coded keys for quick orientation in Hoi An Hue and many more locations in Vietnam reduce the need to go online USER FRIENDLY LAYOUT With helpful icons and organised by neighbourhood to help you pick the best spots to spend your time French Indochina War Huston, Simon, 2021-07-01 Military mistakes impel strategic reflection The French Indochina War FIW from 1946 1954 furnishes useful insights with some resonance for current challenges A combination of pre existing conditions catalysts and operational drivers caused the cathartic 1954 French defeat Pre conditions included the illegitimacy of the colonial regime repression that polarised nationalist sentiment Economically pernicious terms of trade suppressed industrialisation but oiled speculation until suddenly reversed by devaluation in 1953 that reflected financial disengagement by France but increased American involvement Vacillating metropolitan and the dubious colonial regime of the night club Emperor Bao i fuelled political instability Militarily after the disastrous evacuation of the RC4 in 1950 Viet Minh men and supplies poured across the Chinese frontier In 1954 financial constraints and the looming international peace conference catalysed Navarre the new French commander to gamble on a battle of attrition He bet that the Viet Minh would be unable

drag artillery to the remote jungle outpost of Di n Bi n Ph but he underestimated their determination strength and adaptability In early December partisans resented the bungled evacuation of Lai Ch u The entrenched camp s defences were inadequate and neither infantry sorties nor napalm suppressed VM artillery in the surrounding hills The French aero logistical sub system was overstretched and significant parachute supplies fell into enemy hands Navarre scattered his reserves on a futile and remote side show Operation Atlante The Americans prevaricated and refused to unleash their B29 fleet lacta alea est the die was cast

**Political Violence in Southeast Asia since 1945** Eve Monique Zucker, Ben Kiernan, 2021-04-19 This book examines postwar waves of political violence that affected six Southeast Asian countries Indonesia Burma Myanmar Cambodia Thailand the Philippines and Vietnam from the wars of independence in the mid twentieth century to the recent Rohingya genocide Featuring cases not previously explored and offering fresh insights into more familiar cases the chapters cover a range of topics including the technologies of violence the politics of fear inclusion and exclusion justice and ethics repetitions of mass violence events impunity law ethnic and racial killings crimes against humanity and genocide The book delves into the violence that has reverberated across the region spurred by local and global politics and ideologies through the examination of such themes as identity ascription and formation existential and ontological questions collective memories of violence and social and political transformation In our current era of global social and political transition the volume s case studies provide an opportunity to consider potential repercussions and outcomes of various political and ideological positionings and policies Enhancing our understanding of the technologies techniques motives causes consequences and connections between violent episodes in the Southeast Asian cases the book raises key questions for the study of mass violence worldwide

Dartmouth Veterans Phillip C. Schaefer, 2014-04-01 These are tales of what it was like for young men to go from the bucolic hills of New Hampshire to a land wracked by war and violence The result is a collection of more than fifty accounts showing the variety of experiences and reactions to this dramatic period in American history Some soldiers were drafted some volunteered some supported the war but many turned against it Common to all the stories is the way in which war changes men for good and ill and the way in which the Vietnam experience colored so much of the rest of these writers lives

**The Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War** Bloomsbury Publishing, 2011-05-20 Now in its second edition this comprehensive study of the Vietnam War sheds more light on the longest and one of the most controversial conflicts in U S history The Vietnam War lasted more than a decade was the longest war in U S history and cost the lives of nearly 60 000 American soldiers as well as millions of Vietnamese many of whom were uninvolved civilians The lessons learned from this tragic conflict continue to have great relevance in today s world Now in its second edition The Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War A Political Social and Military History adds an entire additional volume of entries to the already exhaustive first edition making it the most comprehensive reference available about one of the most controversial events in U S history Written to provide multidimensional perspectives into the conflict it

covers not only the American experience in Vietnam but also the entire scope of Vietnamese history including the French experience and the Indochina War as well as the origins of the conflict how the United States became involved and the extensive aftermath of this prolonged war It also provides the most complete and accurate order of battle ever published based upon data compiled from Vietnamese sources This latest release delivers even more of what readers have come to expect from the editorship of Spencer C Tucker and the military history experts at ABC CLIO Small Wars, Faraway Places Michael Burleigh,2014-11-25 A sweeping history of the Cold War s many hot wars born in the last gasps of empire The Cold War reigns in popular imagination as a period of tension between the two post World War II superpowers the United States and the Soviet Union without direct conflict Drawing from new archival research prize winning historian Michael Burleigh gives new meaning to the seminal decades of 1945 to 1965 by examining the many largely forgotten hot wars fought around the world As once great Western colonial empires collapsed counter insurgencies campaigns raged in the Philippines the Congo Iran and other faraway places Dozens of new nations struggled into existence the legacies of which are still felt today Placing these vicious struggles alongside the period defining United States and Soviet standoffs in Korea Vietnam and Cuba Burleigh swerves from Algeria to Kenya to Vietnam and Kashmir interspersing top level diplomatic negotiations with portraits of the charismatic local leaders The result is a dazzling work of history a searing analysis of the legacy of imperialism and a reminder of just how the United States became the world s great enforcer Deadly Metal Rain: The Legality of Flechette Weapons in International Law Eitan Barak,2011-10-28 Relying on often unique sources this book offers the only in depth study on flechette weapons yet conducted Its comprehensive exploration of the legal versus illegal implications of conventional weapons use make it an invaluable resource for weaponry policy analysts **The Rough Guide to Vietnam** Jan Dodd,Mark Lewis,Ron Emmons,2009-10 The Rough Guide to Vietnam is the essential guide with clear maps and detailed coverage of one of Southeast Asia s most enticing destinations Using expert advice explore the best attractions of Ho Chi Minh City roam the best Vietnamese markets shopping temples national parks and then slow the pace down with a trip to the paddyfields of the Red River Delta From the rugged mountains to the west to the South China sea to the east the Rough Guide steers you in the right direction to find the best hotels in Vietnam Vietnam restaurants stylish Vietnamese bars caf s clubs and shops across every price range giving you clear balanced reviews and honest first hand opinions This guide covers the unspoilt islands pristine beaches and trekking opportunities that have long made Vietnam a travel hotspot from magical Ha Long Bay to the hill tribes of the mountainous north Explore all corners of Vietnam with authoritative background on everything from Vietnam s ethnic minorities to Hanoi s impressive colonial architecture relying on the clearest maps of any guide and practical language tips Make the most of your holiday with The Rough Guide to Vietnam Slaves to the Generals Nathan Toulane,2017-12-04 Slaves to the Generals is a captivating and poignant love story set against the backdrop of the tumultuous final years of French colonial rule in Vietnam The novel follows the journey of a British Foreign



Legionnaire named Brian Miller who arrives in the colony full of ambition and ready to fight for the French Foreign Legion. However, as Miller's tour of duty progresses, he observes the reality of the conflict in a different light. He witnesses brutal atrocities committed by both sides and becomes increasingly disillusioned with the French government's colonial policies. Then Miller meets a beautiful Vietnamese girl named Dai Long and falls deeply in love with her despite the many challenges and obstacles that stand in their way. Therefore, Miller and Dai Long dream of a future together away from Vietnam. As the novel reaches its climax, Miller must make a tough decision: continue to fight for a cause he no longer believes in or betray his fellow legionnaires and follow his heart. The ending is gut wrenching and bittersweet as Miller's and Dai Long's fate is sealed amid the chaos of the 1954 battle at Dien Bien Phu.

**Ho Chi Minh** Peter Neville, 2018-10-03. Ho Chi Minh explores the life of this globally important twentieth-century figure and offers new insights into his lengthy career, including his often forgotten involvement with British intermediaries in 1945-46 and with the United States in 1944-45. Ho was the father of his nation, a major protagonist in the Cold War and anti-colonial struggle, and the promoter of a distinctive Vietnamese form of communism. This biography charts his life from his early years and education in Europe to his establishment of the revolutionary pro-communist movement, the Viet Minh, and his subsequent rise to power. Placing important emphasis on his role as a military organizer while stressing his preference for diplomatic solutions, this book contains detailed analysis of the complex talks with France and failure to prevent the Franco-Viet Minh war in 1946. It also follows Ho's complex relationships with America, China, France, and Russia and explores the Vietnam War and his legacy. In addition to providing extensive coverage of the 1954 Geneva Conference, the rivalry between Ho and First Secretary Le Duan, and the 1968 Tet Offensive, Ho Chi Minh is also the first English language biography of Ho to pay close attention to his attitude to women and their role within the communist party. It is the perfect introduction for students of Vietnamese history and twentieth-century history more broadly.

**Encyclopedia of the Cold War** Ruud van Dijk, William Glenn Gray, Svetlana Savranskaya, Jeremi Suri, Qiang Zhai, 2013-05-13. Between 1945 and 1991, tension between the USA, its allies, and a group of nations led by the USSR dominated world politics. This period was called the Cold War, a conflict that stopped short of a full-blown war. Benefiting from the recent research of newly open archives, the Encyclopedia of the Cold War discusses how this state of perpetual tensions arose, developed, and was resolved. This work examines the military, economic, diplomatic, and political evolution of the conflict as well as its impact on the different regions and cultures of the world. Using a unique geopolitical approach that will present Russian perspectives and others, the work covers all aspects of the Cold War, from communism to nuclear escalation and from UFOs to red diaper babies, highlighting its vast, ranging, and lasting impact on international relations as well as on daily life. Although the work will focus on the 1945-1991 period, it will explore the roots of the conflict starting with the formation of the Soviet state and its legacy to the present day.

## **The Last Valley Dien Bien Phu And The French Defeat In Vietnam** Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic digital era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become apparent than ever. Its capability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is truly remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**The Last Valley Dien Bien Phu And The French Defeat In Vietnam**," written by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound affect our existence. Throughout this critique, we will delve into the book's central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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