

VIETNAM'S FORGOTTEN ARMY

HEROISM AND BETRAYAL IN THE ARVN



ANDREW WESTOUR *Book*
FOREWORD BY SENATOR JIM WEBB

Vietnams Forgotten Army

Nghia M. Vo



Vietnam's Forgotten Army:

Vietnam's Forgotten Army Andrew Wiest, 2009-10 War **The Dictator's Army** Caitlin Talmadge, 2015-07-31 In *The Dictator's Army* Caitlin Talmadge presents a compelling new argument to help us understand why authoritarian militaries sometimes fight very well and sometimes very poorly. Talmadge's framework for understanding battlefield effectiveness focuses on four key sets of military organizational practices: promotion patterns, training regimens, command arrangements, and information management. Different regimes face different domestic and international threat environments, leading their militaries to adopt different policies in these key areas of organizational behavior. Authoritarian regimes facing significant coup threats are likely to adopt practices that squander the state's military power, while regimes lacking such threats and possessing ambitious foreign policy goals are likely to adopt the effective practices often associated with democracies. Talmadge shows the importance of threat conditions and military organizational practices for battlefield performance in two paired comparisons of states at war: North and South Vietnam (1963-1975) and Iran and Iraq (1980-1988). Drawing on extensive documentary sources, her analysis demonstrates that threats and practices can vary not only between authoritarian regimes but also within them, either over time or across different military units. The result is a persuasive explanation of otherwise puzzling behavior by authoritarian militaries. *The Dictator's Army* offers a vital practical tool for those seeking to assess the likely course, costs, and outcomes of future conflicts involving nondemocratic adversaries, allies, or coalition partners.

Tactical Air Power and the Vietnam War Phil Haun, 2024-01-18 A theory of tactical air power explaining US air power effectiveness in Vietnam and the modern air wars that followed **Veteran Narratives and the Collective Memory of the Vietnam War** John A. Wood, 2016-04-25 In the decades since the Vietnam War, veteran memoirs have influenced Americans' understanding of the conflict. Yet few historians or literary scholars have scrutinized how the genre has shaped the nation's collective memory of the war and its aftermath. Instead, veterans' accounts are mined for colorful quotes and then dropped from public discourse, accepted as factual sources with little attention to how memory, no matter how authentic, can diverge from events or are not contextualized in terms of the race, gender, or class of the narrators. *Veteran Narratives and the Collective Memory of the Vietnam War* is a landmark study of the cultural heritage of the war in Vietnam as presented through the experience of its American participants. Crossing disciplinary borders in ways rarely attempted by historians, John A. Wood unearths truths embedded in the memoirists' treatments of combat, the Vietnamese people, race relations in the United States, military male-female relationships in the war zone, and veterans' postwar troubles. He also examines the publishing industry's influence on collective memory, discussing for example the tendency of publishers and reviewers to privilege memoirs critical of the war. *Veteran Narratives* is a significant and original addition to the literature on Vietnam veterans and the conflict as a whole. **Defend and Befriend** John Southard, 2014-07-08 After relatively successful military interventions in Iraq in 1992 and Yugoslavia in 1998, many American strategists believed that airpower and remote

technology were the future of U S military action But America s most recent wars in the Middle East have reinforced the importance of counterinsurgency with its imperative to win hearts and minds on the ground in foreign lands In both Iraq and Afghanistan the U S military has studied and experimented with the combined action platoon CAP concept used from 1965 to 1971 by the Marine Corps in Vietnam Consisting of twelve Marines a medic and dozens of inexperienced local militiamen the American contingent of CAPs lived in South Vietnamese villages where they provided twenty four hour security and daily medical support for civilians and fostered social interaction through civic action projects such as building schools offices and wells Defend and Befriend is the first comprehensive study of the evolution of these platoons emphasizing how and why the U S Marine Corps attempted to overcome the inherent military social and cultural obstacles on the ground in Vietnam Basing his analysis on Marine records and numerous interviews with CAP veterans author John Southard illustrates how thousands of soldiers tasked with counterinsurgency duties came to perceive the Vietnamese people and their mission This unique study counters prevailing stereotypes and provides a new perspective on the American infantryman in the Vietnam War Illuminating the fear felt by many Americans as they served among groups of understandably suspicious civilians Defend and Befriend offers important insights into the future development of counterinsurgency doctrine The Vietnam War Geoffrey Wawro,2024-10-01 The first comprehensive military history of the war in Vietnam The Vietnam War cast a shadow over the American psyche from the moment it began In its time it sparked budget deficits campus protests and an erosion of US influence around the world Long after the last helicopter evacuated Saigon Americans have continued to battle over whether it was ever a winnable war Based on thousands of pages of military diplomatic and intelligence documents Geoffrey Wawro s The Vietnam War offers a definitive account of a war of choice that was doomed from its inception In devastating detail Wawro narrates campaigns where US troops struggled even to find the enemy in the South Vietnamese wilderness let alone kill sufficient numbers to turn the tide in their favor Yet the war dragged on prolonged by presidents and military leaders who feared the political consequences of accepting defeat In the end no number of young lives lost or bombs dropped could prevent America s ally the corrupt South Vietnamese regime from collapsing the moment US troops retreated Broad definitive and illuminating The Vietnam War offers an unsettling resonant story of the limitations of American power **The ARVN and the Fight for South Vietnam** Nghia M. Vo,2021-09-08 With the withdrawal of French forces from South Vietnam in 1955 the U S took an ever widening role in defending the country against invasion by North Vietnam By 1965 the U S had Americanized the war relegating the Army of the Republic of Vietnam ARVN to a supporting role While the U S won many tactical victories it had difficulty controlling the territory it fought for As the war grew increasingly unpopular with the American public the North Vietnamese launched two large scale invasions in 1968 and 1972 both tactical defeats but strategic victories for the North that precipitated the U S policy of Vietnamization the drawdown of American forces that left the ARVN to fight alone This book examines the maturation of the ARVN and the major battles it fought from 1963 to its

demise in 1975 Despite its flaws the ARVN was a well organized and disciplined force with an independent spirit and contributed enormously to the war effort Had the U S Vietnamized the war earlier it might have been won in 1967 1968

Charlie Company's Journey Home Andrew Wiest,2018-10-18 Using countless interviews as well as original diaries and letters Andrew Wiest lays bare the horror of the Vietnam War for those left behind and the enduring battles they must continue to fight long after their loved ones have returned home The human experience of the Vietnam War is almost impossible to grasp the camaraderie the fear the smell the pain Men were transformed into soldiers and then into warriors These warriors had wives who loved them and shared in their transformations Some marriages were strengthened while for others there was all too often a dark side leaving men and their families emotionally and spiritually battered for years to come Focusing in on just one company s experience of war and its eventual homecoming Wiest shines a light on the shared experience of combat and both the darkness and resiliency of war s aftermath

Why South Vietnam Fell Anthony James Joes,2014-10-16 Between 1954 and 1963 President Ngo Dinh Diem against great odds but with U S assistance built a functioning South Vietnamese state But gravely misled by American journalists in Saigon the U S embassy in league with second tier members of the State Department urged certain South Vietnamese generals to stage a coup against Diem resulting in his brutal murder Despite the instability after Diem s murder the South Vietnamese Army performed well during the 1968 Tet Offensive and the 1972 Easter Offensive In proportion to population South Vietnamese Army losses were much greater than American losses Nevertheless the American media ignored South Vietnamese sacrifices and completely misrepresented the consequences of the Tet Offensive The disastrous peace agreement the U S forced on the South Vietnamese in 1973 made continuing American support vital But Congress began to slash aid to South Vietnam so that its soldiers had to fight on with dwindling supplies of fuel ammunition and medicine Under these circumstances the South Vietnamese attempted to regroup their army into the provinces around Saigon an effort that ended in disaster The final chapter reflects on the meaning of the conflict and the tragedy that abandonment by Washington and conquest by Hanoi brought upon the South Vietnamese people An Appendix presents a strategy for preserving a South Vietnamese state with the commitment of a relatively small number of U S forces

Professional Journal of the United States Army ,2008

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