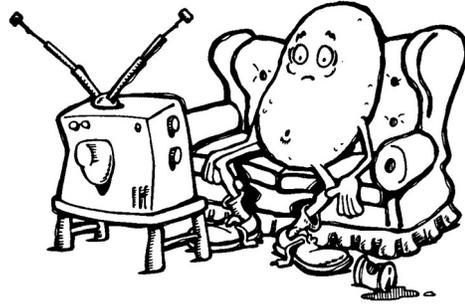


- *Mr. Mohamad stated that the Vietnamese government wanted industry, technology and foreign investment all at once, but had 'no idea' on how to plan for this.*
- *He stated that during his tenure, he saw a one hundred percent gain in the number of motorbikes on the road. He also observed the 'television boom', to the extent that most Vietnamese save for a television before any other big ticket item.*
- *Mr. Mohamad told me that many of the people that he spoke to in the south refer to the North as their "colonial brothers."*



(2) Other observations

- *The Vietnamese welcome visitors to their country. It would appear that they believe that tourism is important for foreign investment. Although awkward in many aspects of dealing with foreigners, they are careful to treat foreigners with respect. It would appear that either they understand the basic concept of attracting tourists, or the government harshly deals with those who jeopardize tourist interest in the country.*
- *Foreign investments seemed to be pouring into the country. Many foreign companies are already represented in Vietnam.*
- *It would appear that the Vietnamese are a determined race. They are energetic and ingenious in their endeavors. It appears that diligence is stressed in all aspects of their society, and that societal norms keep the people in line.*
- *Vietnam appeared to be 'drunk' with reverence for Ho Chi Minh. His pictures and statues are everywhere, and most of the public speakers mentioned his name at least once in their speeches. Reverence for Ho Chi Minh is mandatory by law, and it appeared to me that many of the people are preoccupied with rebuilding their*

country, and pay reverence only when they believe that they must.

(3) Conclusions

- *It would appear that Vietnam has a bright future. The war years have, in effect, created a people that are determined to not only survive, but achieve. The foreign policies that are in place today reflect a growing country.*
- *Although they are seemingly infantile at this stage, Vietnam appears to be going in the direction of developing as an economically and socially powerful country. This, however, will take time.*
- *Vietnam seems to be a Communist country only by name. The economic reforms have made Vietnam a rather free market economy - something that we can safely say Marx never would have claimed as communist in his theories. The government claims to be Communist in its social ideals only."*



7. Cultural Literacy Concepts/Terms The following terms, adapted from The Dictionary of Global Culture, (edited by Kwame Appiah and Henry Gates, Jr., NY: Alfred Knopf, 1997), apply to Vietnam. See this valuable dictionary for further information.

a. Bao Dai (bow di, 1913-1997)

- Born Nguyen Vinh Thuy, ruled Vietnam as the last emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty from 1926-45
- In a final attempt to control the Viet Minh (Ho Chi Minh's political party), Bao Dai allowed the French to reclaim hold on Vietnam
- In 1945, was forced to abdicate and fled to Paris
- Returned four years later
 - When Viet Minh permanently expelled the French in 1954, Bao Dai was exiled to France

b. Cao Dai (kow-DI)

- Vietnamese religious sect founded in the early twentieth century by Ngo Van Chieu

- Fully named Dai Dao Tam Ky Pho Do, it incorporates Far East philosophies with western Christianity and ancient traditions
- Combination strongly appealed to a people exposed to broad beliefs and colonial influences

- Presently roughly 1.5 million South Vietnamese consider themselves Cao Dai

c. Giap, Vo Nguyen (ZAP vo new-win, 1911-)

- Organized the Viet Minh as Commander-in-Chief
- Master of guerrilla warfare who fought the Japanese during WWII, ended French colonization in Vietnam, and defeated United States forces
- Served as deputy prime minister and minister of defense until his retirement in 1982



d. Ho Chi Minh (HOH CHEE MIHN, 1969)

- "Father of his country," founding the Communist party in Vietnam after co-founding the same in France twenty years prior
- Born Nguyen Sinh Cung, Minh left Vietnam in 1911 and traveled the world for thirty years, growing alongside the international Communist movement
- Returned to Vietnam in 1941 and formed the Viet Minh to oust the Japanese
- Under treaty of the Geneva Accords, Vietnam was split into a Communist north and a southern republic

- In 1975, after Communist victory, Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City in his honor

e. Ngo Dinh Diem (NOH DEEN DYEM, 1901-1963)

- In 1954, Diem staged an election and became the first president of South Vietnam
- Anticommunist, anti-French, and against unification with North Vietnam
- Formed a loose alliance with the United States to contain the Communist North
- Severely abused power by placing family members in high ranking positions, and actively promoting Catholicism
- A coup assassinated Diem and his brother in 1963

f. Viet Minh (vee-eht MIHN)



- Common name given to the Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh Hoi (Vietnamese Independence League) founded by the Indochinese Communist Party (ICP) in 1941 under Ho Chi Minh
- Determined to free Vietnam of all foreigners and reunite the split nation
- Guerrilla tactics allowed for widespread recruitment of untrained peasants into the fighting force
 - In 1954, the Viet Minh defeated the French at Diem Bien Phu leading to recognition of Ho Chi Minh's government in Hanoi



8. Resources for Further Study

a. Cross-cultural resources

Ellis, Claire. Culture Shock! Vietnam. (ISBN 1-55868-242-2), Portland, Oregon: Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 1995.

Beg, borrow, or purchase books in this series. Highly recommended by the Overseas Briefing Center, U.S. Department of State.

Jamieson, Neil. Understanding Vietnam. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

Scholarly yet readable treatment of the Vietnam people, culture, history and religion. In "The Traditional Vietnamese View of the World," the author writes, "*In all things, when a proper balance was maintained between yin and yang, harmony was maintained and beneficent outcomes were assured...all foods were believed to have an 'essential nature,' to be hot, warm, cool, or cold. 'Hot' and 'warm' foods were yang, 'cool' and 'cold' food were yin. Diet could thus disrupt or restore harmony between yin and yang.*" (p. 11)

Robinson, Daniel, and Robert Storey. Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit--Vietnam. Berkeley, Calif: Lonely Planet, 1993.

The best series, by far, of readily accessible travel guides. Don't leave for Vietnam without this text.

West, Helen. Insight Guides--Vietnam. Singapore: APA Publications, 1991.

Part of the aesthetically pleasing and helpful Insight series. Beautiful photographs, in National Geographic manner, make this a helpful text.

b. Biography, novels, literature, poetry



Baao Ninh. The Sorrow of War: A Novel of North Vietnam. New York: Pantheon Books, c1993.
⇒ Aiso Library: Vietnamese VIE 895.92-/233 B221 1993

Balaban, John, ed. Vietnamese Folk Poetry. Greensboro, NC: Unicorn Press, 1980.
⇒ Aiso Library: Vietnamese VIE 895.921 C121

A bilingual anthology with over 70 poems and an introduction to the tradition of Vietnamese poetry.

Bouscaren, Anthony Trawick. The Last of the Mandarins: Dien of Vietnam. Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1965.
⇒ Bosun Library: General CT14.G5 B7

Biography of Vietnam's last president, his assassination, and the aftermath.

Duong, Thu Huong. Novel Without a Name. New York: W. Morrow, c1995.
⇒ Aiso Library: Vietnamese VIE 895.92-/-233 D928 1995

Tragic tale of the Vietnam War written by a woman who fought with the North Vietnamese and was later arrested and expelled from the Communist Party for dissident views. Banned in Vietnam, the novel follows a soldier in the Viet Cong, his struggles to remain civilized and true to Buddhism (a peaceful philosophy). The novel utilizes flashbacks to provide history for the main characters.

Grey, Anthony. Saigon. Boston: Little, Brown, 1982.

⇒ Chamberlin Library: FICTION GREY

Novel spans four generations and fifty years of an American in Saigon.

Hayslip, Le Ly. Child of War, Woman of Peace. New York: Doubleday, 1993.

⇒ Chamberlin Library: 959.704 HAYS, 1993

Huynh, Sanh Thong. The Heritage of Vietnamese Poetry. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979.

⇒ Chamberlin Library: 895.9221 HERI

Huynh, Sanh Thong. The Tale of Kieu. New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1983.

⇒ Aiso Library: Vietnamese VIE 895.922 N576t

Since its publication in the early nineteenth century, this long narrative poem has stood unchallenged as the supreme masterpiece of Vietnamese literature. The tale of a young woman forced by circumstance to become a prostitute is often interpreted as a metaphor for the betrayal of principle under duress. A bilingual edition which includes a chapter for historical background.

Lacouture, Jean. Ho Chi Minh: A Political Biography. Random House, [1968].

⇒ Bosun Library: General DS557.A6 L2

Nguyen, Trieu Dan. A Vietnamese Family Chronicle: 12 Generations on the Banks of the Hat River. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1991.

⇒ Aiso Library: Vietnamese VIE 929.2-/-09597 N576 1991

A well-written historical and biographical work. The author translated a compilation of his family history saved through time and added historical and autobiographical facts. Easy to read and well documented. The family history opens as follows: "A tree has countless branches and a dense canopy of leaves, because its roots grow deep into the soil. The water flows out in a multitude of streams and currents, for it has its source a long way back in the mountains. He who inherits the merit acquired by his ancestors for many generations, has children and grand-children in abundance."

Truong, Nhu Tang. A Vietcong Memoir. New York: Vintage Books, 1986, c1985.

⇒ Bosun Library: General CT20.R92 T78 1986

The autobiography of the highest ranking official to defect from Vietnam. Truong fought the United States as one of their most determined adversaries only to find disillusionment and despair at the end of the war.

Walker, Keith. A Piece of My Heart: The Stories of 26 American Women who Served in Vietnam. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1986.

⇒ Bosun Library: General CT32.P53 1986

The stories of nurses, volunteers, and entertainers. Excellent narratives which includes statistics on women who served in Vietnam.

Xuan-Viet. The Nine Dragons Hymn; Ten Poems from Vietnam with Original Texts in Vietnamese. Saigon: Nguoi Viet, 1969.

⇒ Aiso Library: Vietnamese VIE 895.921 N575 1969

c. Military topics



(1) Vietnam war novels

Bunch, Chris. A Reckoning for Kings: A Novel of the Tet Offensive. New York: Atheneum, 1987.

⇒ Chamberlin Library: FICTION BUNCH

Carroll, Gerry. Ghostrider One. New York: Pocket Books, 1993.

⇒ Chamberlin Library: FICTION CARROLL

Halberstam, David. One Very Hot Day; A Novel. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, c1967.

⇒ Chamberlin Library: FICTION HALBER

Moore, Robin. The Green Berets. New York: Crown Publishers [1965].

⇒ Aiso Library: Vietnamese VIE 813.5 M823

Scott, Leonard B. Charlie Mike. New York: Ballantine Books, 1988.

⇒ Chamberlin Library: FICTION SCOTT

Webb, James. Fields of Fire: A Novel. New York: Bantam Books, 1985, c1978.

⇒ Chamberlin Library: FICTION WEBB

(2) General interest

Downs, Frederick. No Longer Enemies, Not Yet Friends. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991.

Account of a former highly decorated combat leader who returns to Vietnam on humanitarian aid missions.

"...his five visits became an extraordinary personal odyssey from hatred and suspicion to a deeper understanding of all human suffering."

Frey, Bill. Letters from 'Nam. New York: Warner Books, 1992.

Letters from an infantryman to family members in the states. Bill Frey was killed in Vietnam during the last weeks of his thirteen month tour.

Hackworth, David. About Face. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1989.

Few books give greater insight into soldierly life during the Vietnam era; few authors generate more controversy that Col (Ret) Hackworth.

McDonough, James. Platoon Leader. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1985.

Warm, compassionate account of infantry platoon leadership. Gives a "gravel level" perspective of life in combat.

Moore, Harold G. and Joseph Galloway. We Were Soldiers Once and Young. New York: Random House, 1992.

Riveting account of America's first major air assault operation in Vietnam--the Ia Drang Valley.

Rutledge, Howard and Phyllis. In the Presence of Mine Enemies. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming Revell, 1977.

Account of Howard Rutledge, POW for seven years, and how spiritual resources enabled him to survive the strains of prison life. Helpful reading for all family members.

Sorley, Lewis. Thunderbolt. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.

Biography of General Abrams, the Chief of Staff of the Army during the latter half of the Vietnam Conflict. Talk to any soldier who knew of General Abrams and you get insight into the positive contribution one leader can make.

Stockdale, James. A Vietnam Experience. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 1984.

Essays compiled by Vice Admiral Stockdale, a POW for seven years. Few books give better treatment of ethical, character building and moral framework for combat issues.

Summers, Harry G. On Strategy--A Critical Analysis of the Vietnam War. New York: Dell, 1982.

Thompson, Ann. Another Kind of War Story. Lebanon, Penn: Ronald Blyler Offset, 1993.

Poems, pictures, letters and narratives by Army nurses assigned in the combat zone during the Vietnam War.

(3) Combat Studies Institute (CSI) Recommendations

Ft. Leavenworth's CSI lists the following under their heading "Vietnam Wars."

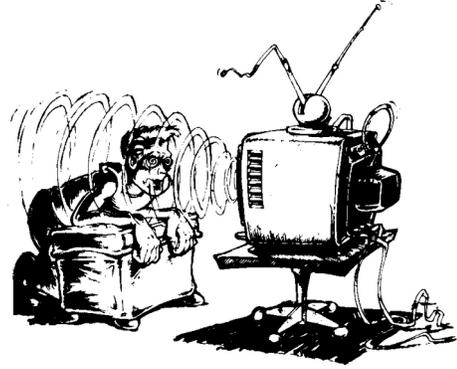
Clarke, Jeffrey J. Advice and Support: The Final Years, 1965-1973. Washington, DC: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1988.

Clodfelter, Mark. The Limits of Airpower: The American Bombing of North Vietnam. New York: Free Press, 1989.

Cunningham, Randy. Fox Two: The Story of America's First Ace in Vietnam. New York: Warner Books, 1989, 1984.

- Davidson, Phillip B. Vietnam at War: The History, 1946-1975. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1988.
- Fall, Bernard B. Hell in a Very Small Place: The Siege of Dien Bien Phu. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1966.
- Fall, Bernard B. Street Without Joy. 4th ed. New York: Schocken Books, 1972, 1964.
- Herrington, Stuart A. Silence Was a Weapon: The Vietnam War in the Villages. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1982.
- Karnow, Stanley. Vietnam: A History. New York: Viking Press, 1983.
- Krepinevich, Andrew F. The Army in Vietnam. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.
- Lewy, Guenter. America in Vietnam. New York: Oxford University Press. 1978.
- Palmer, Bruce. The 25-year War: America's Military Role in Vietnam. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984.
- Peterson, Michael E. The Combined Action Platoons: The U.S. Marines' Other War in Vietnam. New York: Praeger, 1989.
- Pike, Douglas Eugene. PAVN: People's Army of Vietnam. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1986.
- Race, Jeffrey. War Comes to Long An: Revolutionary Conflict in a Vietnamese Province. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1972.
- Sheehan, Neil. A Bright and Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam. New York: Random House, 1988.
- Spector, Ronald H. Advice and Support: The Early years, 1941-1960. Washington, DC: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1983.

d. News articles



"Don't View Vietnam Through a Political Prism." New York Times, 22 Jun 1977, p. A14.

Letters to the editor in response to an Op-Ed article on Vietnam and its lessons.

"U.S. Envoy Arrives in Hanoi, The First Since Saigon's Fall." New York Times, 9 May 1997, p. A1.

Pete Peterson, former POW, is now the United States Ambassador to Hanoi.

Crossette, Barbara. "A New Credo: Make Money, Not War." New York Times, D1.

Account of current enterprise system in Vietnam.

Dahlby, Tracy. "The New Saigon." National Geographic, Apr 1995, p. 60.

Erlanger, Steven. "In Vietnam, 'Hanoi Hilton' Brick Links Past and Future." New York Times, 27 Jun 1997, p. A7.

Account of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's recent trip to Ho Chi Minh City.

Marshall, John. "Novel first to tell experience of Vietnamese in the U.S." Gallery Magazine--Monterey Herald, 10 Aug 1997, p. 10.

Book review of Monkey Bridge, by Lan Cao.

Mydans, Seth. "Nomads of Laos: Last Leftovers of Vietnam War." New York Times, 12 Mar 1997, p. A4.

Account of Hmong refugees in a Saraburi, Thailand monastery. Many helped the CIA during the Vietnam conflict but now face permanent refugee status throughout Southeast Asia.

Mydans, Seth. "Vietnam, a Convert, Pursues Capitalism Devoutly." New York Times, 5 Apr 1996, p. A3.

Religion and capitalism in the city of Thi Cau, a place where an obscure goddess is now the focus of a religious sect.

O'Neill, Thomas. "The Mekong." National Geographic, Feb 1993, p. 2.

Opall, Barbara. "Vietnam, U.S. inch toward closer ties." Army Times, 7 Jul 1997, p. 16.

Schell, Orville. "Tunnels That Run Deep, In Earth and Memory." New York Times, 20 April 1997, p. 31.

Account of the Vietcong's underground passageways near Saigon. Today, the tunnels are a tourist attraction yet an unsettling reminder of the war.

Shipler, David K. "Robert McNamara and the Ghosts of Vietnam." The New York Times Magazine, 10 Aug 1997, p. 30.

"For four days this summer, American generals and policy makers and their adversaries relived the Vietnam War together, this time over a conference table. Some lessons: North Vietnam was not the agent of Soviet or Chinese Communism. There were no dominoes. Healing is easier for the victors than the vanquished."

Spector, Ronald. "Cooking Up a Quagmire." New York Times Book Review, 20 Jul 1997.

Review of Dereliction of Duty--Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam, by H.R. McMaster. Author McMaster states General Maxwell Taylor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1962-1964, consistently "misled John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson about the views of the Chiefs and misled the Chiefs about each President's true intentions."



"Follow Through"

APPENDIX: CHRONOLOGY--VIETNAM, 1945-1975



In many ways, the Vietnam Conflict remains with us. Few Americans who grew to maturity during 1960 - 1975 stand unaffected. The following outline, adapted from "Chronology: Vietnam, 1945-1975," (The Evolution of Modern War, [Ft. Leavenworth, KS: CGSC Syllabus C620, DEC 1992, p. 357], acquaints students with major dates and events of the era.

I. First Indochina War (France in Vietnam, 1945-1956)

1945 Communist-led Viet Minh (VEE-et MIHN) Independence League seizes power under Ho Chi Minh (HOH CHEE MIHN) and establishes "Democratic Republic of Vietnam."

1946 France recognizes Democratic Republic of Vietnam as "free state" within Indochinese Federation and French Union. Viet Minh attack French troops, beginning eight-year Indochina War.

1950 United States announces military and economic aid to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

1954 French stronghold at Dien Bien Phu (DYEN byen FOO) falls.



Dien Bien Phu *"The newly appointed commander of French forces in Vietnam, General Henri Navarre, decided soon after his arrival in Vietnam that it was essential to halt a Viet Minh offensive underway in neighboring Laos. To do so, Navarre believed it was necessary for the French to capture and hold the town of Dien Bien Phu, sixteen kilometers from the Laotian border."*

"Viet Minh strategists, led by Giap, concluded that a successful attack on a French fortified camp, timed to coincide with the peace talks, would give Hanoi the necessary leverage for a successful conclusion of the negotiations.

Accordingly, the siege of Dien Bien Phu began on March 13, by which time the Viet Minh had concentrated nearly 50,000 regular troops, 55,000 support troops, and almost 100,000 transport workers in the area. Chinese aid...reached 1,500 tons per month by early 1954.

The French garrison of 15,000, which depended on supply by air, was cut off by March 27, when the Viet Minh artillery succeeded in making the airfield unusable. An elaborate system of tunnels dug in the mountainsides enabled the Viet Minh to protect its artillery pieces by continually moving them to prevent discovery. Several hundred kilometers of trenches permitted the attackers to move progressively closer to the French encampment. In the final battle, human wave assaults were used to take the perimeter defenses, which yielded defensive guns that were then turned on the main encampment. The French garrison surrendered on May 7, ending the siege that had cost the lives of about 25,000 Vietnamese and more than 1,500 French troops." (Country Study, Vietnam, pp. 57, 58.)

II. Second Indochina War (America in Vietnam, 1955 - 1975)

"'You know you never defeated us on the battlefield,' said the American colonel.

The North Vietnamese colonel pondered this remark a moment. 'That may be so,' he replied, 'but it is also irrelevant.'"

-- (On Strategy, Harry Summers, p. 21)

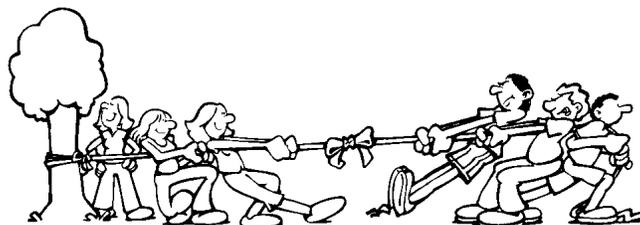
1955 Republic of Vietnam established in South Vietnam with Ngo Dinh Diem (NOH DEEN DYEM) as president.

1956 Last French troops in Vietnam leave. U.S. military advisers train South Vietnamese.



1959 North Vietnam's Central Executive Committee issues Resolution 15, changing its strategy toward South Vietnam from "political struggle" to "armed struggle."

Struggle *"Before discussing the strategy devised by General Giap for use against the Americans, it is necessary to put his thinking into context. His strategy rests on a broad set of military principles devised during the Viet Minh War (and owing much to Chinese thinking), then honed and developed in the Vietnam War. These principles are complex and difficult to deal with in abbreviated form..."*

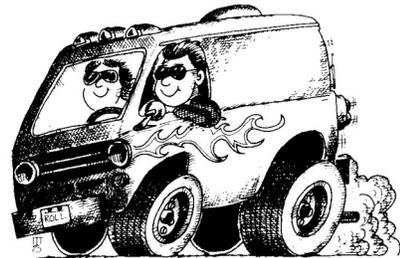


Very briefly, and in oversimplified terms, this basic PAVN [Peoples Army of Vietnam] military doctrine can be described thus: Its essence is dau tranh (dow chang, struggle) of which there are two types: dau tranh vu trang (armed struggle: military action, violence programs) and dau tranh chinh tri (cheeng chee, political struggle: politics with guns).

PAVN cadres in conducting training use the metaphor of the enemy smashed by the hammer of armed struggle on the anvil of political struggle. The point is that dau tranh always is dualistic, the bedrock doctrine being that neither form of struggle can defeat the enemy alone. Only together—in the marriage of violence to politics—can victory be achieved.

The political dau tranh consists of three van or action programs: dan van (zuhn vhun) or action among the people; dich van (zick vhun) or action among the enemy; binh van (bing vhun) or action among the military.

Collectively these three van programs comprise the entire matrix of political struggle, which, combined with armed struggle, encompasses the entire realm of warfare as the Vietnamese Communists called *khoi nghia* (koi knee-ah, general uprising), a social myth."



("Conduct of the Vietnam War: Strategic Factors, 1965-1968," by Douglas Pike, in The Evolution of Modern Warfare, C620, [Ft. Leavenworth, KS: CGSOC, Dec 1992], p. 366.)

1961 United States increases role of military advisers in South Vietnam.

1962 United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) created under General Paul Harkins. United States becomes involved in strategic hamlet program. U.S. helicopter units begin airlifting South Vietnamese troops.

