

# Contents

Old traditions revived	13
Ancestor worship: memorial tablets on the family altar	15
Animism: life in two worlds	18
Taoism: distant paradises and holy mothers	22
Confucianism: cosmic order and moral standards	26
Buddhism: spiritual comfort and way to salvation	29
Pagodas and religious art	34
The community house: shrine for the village's guardian spirit	38
The heroes' temple: pride in freedom and history	41
The Chinese pantheon: enhancement of popular religion	44
Reconstruction: state programme and individual initiatives	47
The Plates: Religious life in Vietnam, sacred buildings and religious art	51
Acknowledgments	197

## *Pictures on previous pages:*

Page 1: Ornamental garden and seven-storey stupa at the Thien Mu pagoda in Hue

Pages 2 and 3: The Ngoc Son *den*, a memorial temple on Hoan Kiem Lake, Hanoi

Pages 4 and 5: Pilgrims' boats on their way to the Huong pagoda, south of Hanoi

Page 6: Statue of Quan Am, the Goddess of Mercy, in the garden of the Pho Minh pagoda, Rach Gia, Mekong Delta

Page 7: Decoration at the entrance to the Tran Hung Dao hero temple, Saigon

Pages 8 and 9: Gateway to the Bich Dong mountain pagoda near Ninh Hai, North Vietnam

Page 10: Buddha sculpture in the Jade Emperor pagoda, Saigon