

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
1. HOW THE VIETNAMESE SEE THE WORLD	1
The Land of Vietnam: Ecology as History / 3	
The People of Vietnam / 6	
The Traditional Vietnamese View of the World / 11	
Vietnamese Society as a System of Yin and Yang / 12	
Traditional Vietnamese Values and Institutions / 15	
The Success and Failure of the Traditional System / 40	
2. CONFRONTATION WITH THE WEST, 1858–1930	42
The West Overwhelms Vietnam / 42	
The Fermentation of Vietnamese Culture, 1908–1932 / 65	
3. THE YIN OF EARLY MODERN VIETNAMESE CULTURE CHALLENGES THE YANG OF TRADITION, 1932–1939	100
Literature Challenges the “Real World” / 104	
The New Poetry / 108	
A New Paradigm: Individualism / 111	
The Battle of the Novels / 117	
The Paradigmatic Battle Continues / 154	
The Psychic Costs of Colonialism and Failed Individualism: A Desperate Generation / 159	
The Darkening of the 1930s / 169	
4. THE END OF COLONIALISM AND THE EMERGENCE OF TWO COMPETING MODELS FOR BUILDING A MODERN NATION, 1940–1954	176
From Polemics to Politics, 1939–1945 / 176	
Returning to the Roots: Literature and Society, 1940– 1944 / 182	
A Fateful Summer, 1945 / 191	



The Democratic Republic of Vietnam, August–October 1945 / 193	
Things Fall Apart in Saigon, 1945 / 197	
From Politics to War, November 1945–December 1946 / 199	
The Resistance and the Intellectuals, 1946–1947 / 205	
The Anticommunist Factions, 1947–1950 / 210	
The “Supervillages” of Vietnam / 213	
The Bao Dai Government and the French, 1948–1954 / 220	
The New <i>Yang</i> of the Resistance / 221	
Dien Bien Phu, 1954 / 225	
The Nationalist Dilemma / 228	
The Polarization into Two Vietnamese States, 1954 / 232	
5. YIN AND YANG IN MODERN GUISE, 1955–1970	234
The Return of Ngo Dinh Diem / 234	
A Coalescence of <i>Yin</i> Forces / 241	
Anxious Souls in the Republic of Vietnam / 246	
The Supervillage of Insurgency / 254	
Setting the Thermostat in the North, 1955–1958 / 257	
The Ideological Foundations in the North, 1958–1968 / 271	
The North and the South: Inverted Images, 1959–1968 / 284	
The War, the Americans, and Vietnamese Society / 292	
Continuity and Change in Values in the South / 296	
Patterns in Chaos / 303	
6. CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN VIETNAMESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY, 1968–1975	307
A Frustrated Vision / 307	
The Development of Urban <i>Yin</i> Subsystems / 318	
Estrangement and Farewell / 338	
7. ANOTHER CYCLE UNFOLDS	357
The Road to Victory / 357	
Resetting the Social Thermostat in the South / 360	
A New <i>Yin</i> Reaction / 371	
A Concluding Thought / 375	
Notes	377
Glossary	397
Bibliography	401
Index	413