

---

# Contents

|                                                                                                                       |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <b>The Contributors</b>                                                                                               | xi   |
| <b>Acknowledgments</b>                                                                                                | xv   |
| <b>Introduction—The Vietnam War: Vietnamese and American Perspectives</b><br><i>Jayne Werner and Luu Doan Huynh</i>   | xvii |
| <b>Part One: The Vietnamese Revolution and Political/Military Strategy</b>                                            |      |
| 1. An Improbable Opportunity: America and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam's 1947 Initiative<br><i>Mark Bradley</i> | 3    |
| 2. Waging Revolutionary War: The Evolution of Hanoi's Strategy in the South, 1959–1965<br><i>William Duiker</i>       | 24   |
| 3. Tet: The 1968 General Offensive and General Uprising<br><i>General Tran Van Tra</i>                                | 37   |
| 4. Hanoi's Strategy in the Second Indochina War<br><i>David W.P. Elliott</i>                                          | 66   |
| 5. Love, War, and Revolution: Reflections on the Memoirs of Nguyen Thi Dinh<br><i>Kristin Pelzer</i>                  | 95   |



## **Part Two: The War from the American Side**

6. U.S. Military Strategy and the Vietnam War  
*George R. Vickers* 113
7. History's Heaviest Bombing  
*James P. Harrison* 130
8. The Strange "Dissent" of Robert S. McNamara  
*George C. Herring* 140
9. "How Do You Know If You're Winning?": Perception and Reality in America's Military Performance in Vietnam, 1965–1970  
*Ronald H. Spector* 152
10. Direct and Indirect Effects of the Movement against the Vietnam War  
*Paul Joseph* 165

## **Part Three: The War in the South and Cambodia**

11. Civil-Military Relations in South Vietnam and the American Advisory Effort  
*Jeffrey Clarke* 187
12. The Seven-Point Proposal of the PRG (July 1, 1971) and the U.S. Reaction  
*Luu Doan Huynh* 198
13. Post-Paris Agreement Struggles and the Fall of Saigon  
*Ngo Vinh Long* 203
14. The Impact on Cambodia of the U.S. Intervention in Vietnam  
*Ben Kiernan* 216

## **Part Four: Retrospective and Postwar Issues**

15. The War That Should Not Have Been  
*General Tran Van Tra* 233
16. The American War in Vietnamese Memory  
*Luu Doan Huynh* 243



|     |                                                                                                  |     |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 17. | The Vietnam War in American Memory<br><i>Marilyn B. Young</i>                                    | 248 |
| 18. | The Antiwar Movement after the War<br><i>David Hunt</i>                                          | 258 |
| 19. | China and Vietnam: Looking for a New Version of<br>an Old Relationship<br><i>Keith W. Taylor</i> | 271 |
|     | <b>Index</b>                                                                                     | 287 |