



Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War: A Political, Social, and Military History

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The Vietnam War was the defining event of recent U.S. history, a tragic struggle that cost the lives of 58,000 Americans and 970,000 Vietnamese, and that is still being debated today. The three-volume *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War*, edited by Spencer Tucker, has been hailed as the most comprehensive reference work on that watershed event. Now Tucker has produced an abridged one-volume edition, a miracle of concision that includes virtually all the entries found in the parent volume, in condensed form.

Here are more than 900 alphabetically arranged entries--plus 39 primary source documents--that illuminate every aspect of the Vietnam War. There are entries on Buddhists, defoliation, post traumatic stress disorder, the fall of Ngo Dinh Diem, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to name just a few. The volume covers military and domestic fronts; air, land, and sea campaigns and battles; weapons, strategies, and tactics; key Vietnamese and American figures; the anti-war movement and international repercussions of the war; and the impact of the war on film, art, literature, and society. The volume also includes important background information, such as the developments that lead to the US involvement in the war as well as postwar Vietnamese history to the present. A highlight of the book is Tucker's extensive coverage of both American *and* Vietnamese perspectives, and he has incorporated numerous entries by Vietnamese contributors.

The three-volume Encyclopedia is the finest source of information available on the Vietnam War. Now, with the one-volume *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War*, everyone can own the definitive reference work on the pivotal event of modern American history.

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Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War: A Political, Social, and Military History From Oxford University Press Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1764955 in Books
- Published on: 2000-06-01
- Format: Abridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.90" h x 1.90" w x 7.10" l, 2.80 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 600 pages



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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Tucker (military history, Virginia Military Inst.) has condensed his highly praised three-volume encyclopedia of the war into one affordable book. It contains more than 900 entries, many by major scholars of the conflict like Robert Brigham, and over 70 key documents. Tucker has condensed intelligently by keeping most of the original entries and eliminating some technical detail; for example, the entry on booby traps is reduced from seven paragraphs to three without losing its essential meaning. In some ways, Tucker's work is superior to its main competitor, Stanley Kutler's Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War (LJ 1/97). Tucker includes more entries on important Vietnamese and more detailed descriptions of military operations, as well as a document section. Kutler's work, however, has very helpful longer essays on such topics as Vietnamese history and the antiwar movement. Libraries owning the three-volume version need not purchase the condensation. But it certainly is an important work that will be of great value to teachers and students of the war. Recommended for public libraries. DAnthony Edmonds, Ball State Univ., Muncie, IN

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Review

"A remarkable resource. As extensive as anything we'll likely see in several years."--*Library Journal*

"Comprehensive, detailed, and highly recommended. This superb reference work provides understanding and perspective on one of the greatest crises in U.S. history. Covers every conceivable aspect."--*Booklist* _

About the Author

Spencer C. Tucker is Professor and holder of the John Biggs Chair in Military History at Virginia Military Institute. A graduate of VMI, he served as a captain in Army Intelligence in 1966-67. He is the author of several books on military history, including *Injured Honor: The Chesapeake-Leopard Affair of June 22, 1807* and *The European Powers in the First World War: An Encyclopedia*. He lives in Lexington, Virginia.

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