A Bibliography for the Study of Vietnam

by

Han-Shen Lin

Two useful geographies of Southeast Asia are Ernest J. G. Dobby, Southeast Asia (7th ed., London: 1960); and Charles A. Fisher, Southeast Asia: A Social, Economic and Political Geography (London: 1964). The best general histories of Southeast Asia are John F. Cady, Southeast Asia: Its Historical Development (New York: 1964); and D. G. E. Hall, A History of Southeast Asia (rev. ed., London and New York: 1964).

Among the very few general popular surveys on Vietnam are; Ann Caddell Crawford, Customs and Culture of Vietnam (Rutland, Vt. and Tokyo: 1966); and Ellen Hammer, Vietnam, Yesterday and Today (New York: 1966).

For the French conquest and administration, see, John Cady, the Roots of French Imperialism in Eastern Asia, (Ithaca, N.Y. 1955), covering the period 1840–1861; Ellen J. Hammer, The Struggle for Indochina (Stanford: 1954); and Donald Lancaster, the Emancipation of French Indochina (London: 1961).

For the Ngo Dinh Diem period, Robert Scigliano, South Vietnam: Nation Under Stress (Boston: 1963) provides a scholarly balanced view. Stephen Pan and Daniel Lyons, Vietnam Crisis (New York: 1966), is favorable to Ngo Dinh Diem and the U.S. commitment in Vietnam. The most useful of the journalists' accounts is The Lost Revolution: U.S. in Vietnam, 1945–1966 (rev. ed., New York: 1966), by Robert Shaplen, who believes Mo Chi Minh might have become a Tito with different handling.

The critics of the American commitment to Vietnam have produced more books than the defenders. Among the more balanced studies is Victor Bator, Vietnam, A Diplomatic Tragedy: Origins of the Unjted States Involvement (Dobbs Ferry: 1965). Hans J. Morgenthau, Vietnam and the United States (Washington: 1965) gives the view of a leading critic. For a scholarly defense of the U.S. commitment with the historical developments leading to it, see Frank N. Trager, Why Vietnam? (New York: 1966). Chester A. Bain's Vietnam, The Roots of Conflict, is a scholarly work of a U.S. government officer with a good bibliography.

The earliest study of the Viet Minh in English is Bernard B. Fall, The Viet Minh Regime, Government Administration in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (Ithaca, N.Y.: 1954). Douglas Pike, Viet Cong: The Organization and Technique of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (Cambridge, Mass: 1966) is a thorough, scholarly analysis of the Communist front operation.

The Communist viewpoint may be found in the Furtive War, the United States in Vietnam and Laos (New York: 1965) by Wilfred B. Burchett, an Australian correspondent for Pravda and other Communist journals. For a significant work by a North Vietnamese leader, see Bo Nguyen Giap, People's War, People's Army: the Viet Cong Instructional Manual for Underdeveloped Countries (New York: 1961).