



## South Vietnamese Soldiers: Memories of the Vietnam War and After

By Nathalie Huynh Chau Nguyen

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**South Vietnamese Soldiers: Memories of the Vietnam War and After** By Nathalie Huynh Chau Nguyen

**"Nguyen's remarkable achievement is her ability to allow the veterans to speak for themselves in this groundbreaking study from that tragic conflict. Summing Up: Essential. All levels/libraries." ? *Choice***

Published on the 40th anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam, this book brings to life the experiences and memories of South Vietnamese soldiers?the forgotten combatants of this controversial conflict.

- \* Relates the stories of South Vietnamese soldiers through a compelling narrative driven by oral histories
- \* Brings the experiences of these soldiers to life for the reader by sharing their compelling firsthand accounts
- \* Draws on a key oral history collection newly established at the National Library of Australia in 2013-2014
- \* Provides fascinating insights into the soldiers' early years, their military service and experiences, and their post-war lives
- \* Conveys the strength of will and resilience that enabled these men and women to endure the hardships of war, the defeat of their armed forces, the loss of their country, and the challenges of becoming refugees and resettling in new lands

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"... an elegant distillation of veterans' testimony which speaks as powerfully to a general as to a specialist readership. Much emerges from strong narrative lines in the book which, without preaching, challenges what many outside the Vietnamese diaspora think they know about the Vietnam War. ... The book has a noteworthy chapter on women's service in the South Vietnamese armed forces and draws on memories of diverse experience across and beyond the span from elite Ranger, Airborne and Marine units to the local-defence elements of the Regional and Popular Forces." - **Australian Outlook (Australian Institute of International Affairs)**

"...welcome addition to the burgeoning literature on the war. ... Nathalie Nguyen's book serves as an important corrective to many of the familiar and damaging allegations." **The Strategist**

"Nguyen's remarkable achievement is her ability to allow the veterans to speak for themselves in this groundbreaking study from that tragic conflict. Summing Up: Essential. All levels/libraries." - **Choice**

#### Review

"Nathalie Huynh Chau Nguyen has made a major contribution not only to the history of the Vietnam War but also to the history of wars and their aftermath. *South Vietnamese Soldiers* is both a scholarly and an emotive account of those who served in the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam. Based on extensive interviews with former service personnel, the book recovers an important dimension of the war, too often distorted or completely overlooked in the extensive literature on the war." (Peter Edwards, Official Historian of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948–1975)

"In a powerful and eloquent book, Nguyen rewrites the South Vietnamese back into their own history and gives them back their voices. This is an important and overdue treatment of the missing dimension of the Vietnam War. Drawing on extensive research and interviews with surviving veterans of the Republic of Vietnam's military, Nguyen restores a critical perspective to the study of the war and offers additional dimensions to our understanding. This often deeply moving study should be read by everyone with an interest in the subject." (Jeffrey Grey, Professor of History, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy)

#### From the Inside Flap

South Vietnam lost more than a quarter of a million soldiers in the Vietnam War, and yet the histories of these men?and women?are largely absent from the vast historiography of the conflict. By focusing on oral histories related by 40 veterans from the former Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, this book breaks new ground, shedding light on an essentially unexplored aspect of the war and giving voice to those who have been voiceless.

The experiences of these former soldiers are examined through detailed firsthand accounts that feature two generations and all branches of the service, including the Women's Armed Forces Corps. Readers will gain insights into the soldiers' early lives, their military service, combat experiences, and friendships forged in wartime. They will also see how life became worse for most in the aftermath of the war as they experienced internment in communist prison camps, discrimination against their families on political grounds, and the dangers inherent in escaping Vietnam, whether by sea or land. Finally, readers will learn how veterans who

saw no choice but to leave their homeland succeeded in rebuilding their lives in new countries and cultures.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ruth McGrath:**

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or even read a book titled South Vietnamese Soldiers: Memories of the Vietnam War and After? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have some other opinion?

#### **Sharon Clayton:**

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#### **Thomas Baxter:**

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