



## Another Vietnam: Pictures of the War from the Other Side

By Tim Page

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### Another Vietnam: Pictures of the War from the Other Side By Tim Page

Since the end of the war over 25 years ago, Vietnam has haunted America. Today, many people remember the war as a series of terrible pictures - taken by courageous civilian and military photographers. But there are other images of the war that we have rarely seen. These are the pictures taken by the other side, the Vietnamese, the enemy. Pictures of a peasant people fighting the most powerful nation on earth - and finally defeating it. In this book, we meet the Vietnamese soldier-photographers who risked their lives to capture their country's struggle in evocative, stunning images. For them, photography was a weapon used to win the war. Nine out of ten Vietnamese photographers were taken by bullets, bombs, dysentery, and malaria. Page returns to understand the spirit and dedication of these men, and to commemorate the sacrifice and loss of both sides. This is a new visual record of the war whose images have become so familiar. Through interviews with these photographers, and through their surprising images, a fresh perspective emerges on the most troubling and divisive foreign war ever fought by the United States.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

The groundbreaking publication *Another Vietnam: Pictures of the War from the Other Side* is an intense collection of images, many never seen before, from the cameras of North Vietnamese photographers. Each included photographer has a chapter highlighting his personal stories and captivating pictures. The stories are riveting and sometimes ironic: one revolutionary photographer falsified identification cards for Communist fighters, another traveled side by side with guerrillas, while another barely escaped a bombing campaign only to be forever haunted by the loss of his film and equipment.

With almost no resources, a serious lack of film, and outdated equipment, these committed photographers used will and determination in order to record history. From film processed under a night sky with homemade chemicals to making one roll of film last for years, each individual tale is a testament to the power of perseverance. Some of the pictures are haunting (a devastated landscape with the intense flare of napalm, an emergency surgery in a mangrove swamp), while others capture a seemingly staged Communist resolve (smiling soldiers with little children, classic hero poses shot from below). This book offers an important pictorial viewpoint and fills in many gaps from the popular Western media coverage of the war. --  
*J.P. Cohen*

#### From Publishers Weekly

Few aspects of the American war in Vietnam have escaped close inspection in this country. So it is startling to see a large, coffee-table book filled with 180 black and white images of that war that have never before been published on these shores. Taken by North Vietnamese photographers, the pictures are a mixture of staged, unabashed propaganda ("I wanted my pictures to be a weapon," says photographer Mai Nam, a longtime Vietnamese Communist Party member) and evocative insights into the way the war appeared from the other side, as when National Liberation Front political leader Ut Mot is shown in an austere underground bunker, light streaming in from a tiny skylight, looking pensive and determined. Accomplished British journalist Page provides running commentary on the war, and the photographers' experiences and reminiscences, particularly those who worked with the Vietcong guerrillas in the South. The book lives up to its billing as a piece of work that will help Americans more fully understand the nation's longest and most controversial overseas war. However, the many photos of smiling North Vietnamese and Vietcong and of captured, wounded and dead South Vietnamese and Americans surely will not warm the hearts of unreconstructed hawks. (Jan.) Forecast: An exhibit featuring more than 150 photos from the book will be held at New York City's International Center of Photography, January-March, and a documentary featuring Page's interviews will air on National Geographic Explorer on MSNBC in January. The book will appeal to the curious and the completist, but may not cross over to greater boomer-based sales.

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#### From Library Journal

Daugherty, a military historian and former editor of the Marine Corps Gazette, and Mattson (The Campaigns of World War II: The Pacific War) open their discussion of the Vietnam conflict with a chapter on its origins at the beginning of World War II. The next ten chapters then deal year by year with America's ten-year formal involvement in Vietnam, considering the tactics used and the implications on the home front. Hundreds of photographs and illustrations complement each chapter, but while this is essentially a

photographic history, the authors have written an excellent narrative of America's longest conflict. The result sets the standard for illustrated histories of the Vietnam War. Recommended for all libraries. Page, a veteran photographer with UPI who was wounded several times in Vietnam, is the author of several books on the conflict there, including Tim Page's *Nam*. His current effort is not a history but instead presents the work of North Vietnamese photographers. The images included here were often used for propaganda purposes, so the reader must look for the real story. A narrative accompanying each photograph gives background on the photographer. Since the North Vietnamese photographers often worked under primitive conditions, most of the photographs are black and white. Still, the book breaks new ground by presenting the images (most never before published) of a former antagonist. This book will interest subject specialists but will have limited appeal in public libraries. Mark Ellis, Albany State Univ., GA

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