

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-71690-1 - *Inventing Vietnam: The United States and State Building, 1954-1968*

James M. Carter

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page vii</i>
1	Introduction: Inventing Vietnam	I
2	The Cold War, Colonialism, and the Origins of the American Commitment to Vietnam, 1945–1954	20
	The End of Colonialism, the Cold War, and Vietnam	21
	Making the World Safe through Development	24
	Intellectuals, Modernization, and the Third World	32
	The State of Vietnam: History, Geography, and Imperialism	37
	Inventing Vietnam: The United States and State Building	42
3	“The Needs Are Enormous, the Time Short”: Michigan State University, the U.S. Operations Mission, State Building, and Vietnam	46
	Collective Security and Crafting Consensus	49
	“The Needs Are Enormous, the Time Short”: Michigan State University in Vietnam	53
	Conclusion	79
4	Surviving the Crises: Southern Vietnam, 1958–1960	82
	The American Mission and Building Vietnam	84
	Inventing Vietnam and the Politics of Aid	95
	<i>My-Diem</i> and the Rise of the Insurgency	105
	Conclusion	111

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-71690-1 - Inventing Vietnam: The United States and State Building, 1954-1968

James M. Carter

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

5	“A Permanent Mendicant”: Southern Vietnam, 1960–1963	113
	Southern Vietnam in the Decade of Development	114
	Counterinsurgency, Strategic Hamlets, and the Militarization of U.S. Policy	117
	The Political Economy of State Building	129
	Conclusion: Political Collapse and the Fall of Diem	143
6	A Period of Shakedown: Southern Vietnam, 1963–1965	149
	“Stable Government or No Stable Government”: Rescuing Southern Vietnam from the Vietnamese	150
	“The Construction Miracle of the Decade”: The Military Buildup and Inventing Vietnam	155
	“The Works of Peace”: The Mekong Delta and the Politics of War	165
	“Long Since . . . Dependent on U.S. Aid”	174
	Conclusion	177
7	The Paradox of Construction and Destruction: Southern Vietnam, 1966–1968	181
	“RMK-BRJ Is Changing the Face of South Viet Nam”	182
	“Not Much More Than a Drop in the Bucket”: Refugees, Pacification, and the “Other War” in Southern Vietnam	205
	“A National Symphony of Theft, Corruption, and Bribery”	219
	Conclusion	228
	Epilogue: War, Politics, and the End in Vietnam	232
	The Tet Offensive	240
	Leaving Vietnam Undone	242
	<i>Bibliography</i>	249
	<i>Index</i>	263