

Less Than Victory

The first book of its kind, *Less Than Victory* explores both the impact the Vietnam War had on American Catholics, and the impact of the nation's largest religious group upon its most controversial war. Through the 1960s, Roman Catholics made up one-quarter of the population and were deeply involved in all aspects of war, in particular debates on its morality. In this book, Steven J. Brady argues that American Catholics introduced the moral, as opposed to the prudential, argument about the war earlier and more comprehensively than other groups. The Catholic debate on morality was three cornered: Some saw the war as inherently immoral, others as morally obligatory, while others focused on the morality of the means – napalm, torture, and free-fire zones – that the US and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam were employing. These debates presaged greater Catholic involvement in war and peace issues, provoking a shift away from traditional ideas of a just war across American Catholic thinking and dialogue.

Steven J. Brady is Associate Professor of History and International Affairs at The George Washington University. He is the author of *Chained to History: Slavery and US Foreign Relations to 1865*, and *Eisenhower and Adenauer: Alliance Maintenance under Pressure*.

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American Catholics and the Vietnam War

Steven J. Brady

The George Washington University



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For
Wilson D. (Bill) Miscamble, CSC
Valued Mentor and Dear Friend

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Abbreviations

AFV	American Friends of Vietnam
DRV	Democratic Republic of Vietnam
GVN	Government of Vietnam
MSUG	Michigan State University Vietnam Advisory Group
NC	National Catholic Welfare Council News Service (NC)
<i>NCR</i>	<i>National Catholic Reporter</i>
NCWC	National Catholic Welfare Council