

#### Vietnam's Lost Revolution

Vietnam's Lost Revolution employs newly-released archival material from Vietnam to examine the rise and fall of the Special Commissariat for Civic Action in the First Republic of Vietnam, and in so doing, reassesses the origins of the Vietnam War. A cornerstone of Ngô Đình Diệm's presidency, Civic Action was intended to transform Vietnam into a thriving, modern, independent, noncommunist Southeast Asian nation. The author juxtaposes Diệm's revolutionary plan with the conflicting and competing visions of Vietnam's postcolonial future held by other indigenous groups; in doing so, he shows how the government failed to gain legitimacy within the peasantry, ceding the advantage to the communist-led opposition and paving the way for the American military intervention in the mid-1960s. This book provides a richer and more nuanced analysis of the origins of the Vietnam War in which internal struggles over national identity, self-determination, and even modernity itself are central.

Geoffrey C. Stewart is an assistant professor of history at the University of Western Ontario. His research focuses on the intersection of decolonization with the Cold War in the developing world. He specializes in the history of Vietnam's Wars, twentieth century international relations, and the United States in the world. He has published in the *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* and written book reviews for H-Diplo, *Cross-Currents* and the *Journal of Asian Studies*.



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# Vietnam's Lost Revolution

Ngô Đình Diệm's Failure to Build An Independent Nation, 1955–1963

**GEOFFREY C. STEWART** 

University of Western Ontario





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For Michelle



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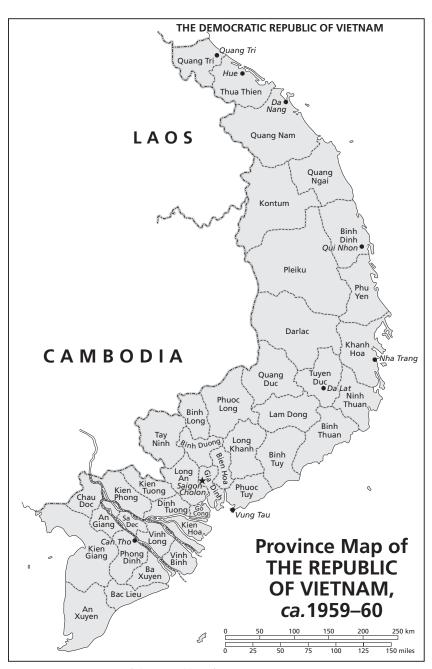


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MAP I Province map of the Republic of Vietnam, ca. 1959-1960