

## 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*

Contents

<i>Illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Maps</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
Introduction	I
1 A Temporary Expedient: The Origins of Civic Action in Vietnam	11
2 Nationalism and Welfare Improvement in the Republic of Vietnam	39
3 Revolution, Community Development and the Construction of Diệm’s Vietnam	88
4 “Bettering the People’s Conditions of Existence”: Civic Action and Community Development, 1957–1959	129
5 Civic Action and Insurgency	162
6 The Strategic Hamlet Program and Civic Action in Retreat	192
Conclusion: Vietnam’s Lost Revolution	233
<i>Bibliography</i>	242
<i>Index</i>	255

Illustrations

1	Ngô Đình Diệm reading the proclamation of the Republic of Vietnam, 1955. Bettmann, Getty Images	<i>page</i> 17
2	Operational structure of the Special Commissariat for Civic Action	51
3	Ngô Đình Nhu, adviser and brother of President Ngô Đình Diệm, 1963. Photo by Larry Burrows, The LIFE Picture Collection, Getty Images	97
4	Organizational structure of the National Community Development Plan	114
5	Organizational structure of Kiều Công Cung’s community development plan	146
6	Another bridge built (through community development). Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections	157
7	Minister of Civic Action Ngô Trọng Hiếu with the Revolutionary Guard. Vietnam Center and Archive, Texas Tech University	206
8	Vietnamese working in a field of plants that is fenced in by a sharp wooden spiked fence. Vietnam Center and Archive, Texas Tech University	215

Maps

1	Province map of the Republic of Vietnam, ca. 1959–1960	<i>page</i> xiii
2	Territory with Civic Action mobile groups as of October 1955 overlaid on a province map of the Republic of Vietnam ca. 1959–1960	59
3	Territory with Civic Action mobile groups as of June 1957 overlaid on a province map of the Republic of Vietnam ca. 1959–1960	140



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xi

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