Shawn McHale explores why the communist-led Resistance in Vietnam won the anticolonial war against France (1945–54), except in the South. He shows how broad swaths of Vietnamese people were uneasily united in 1945 under the Viet Minh Resistance banner, all opposing the French attempt to reclaim control of the country. By 1947, Resistance unity had shattered and Khmer-Vietnamese ethnic violence had divided the Mekong Delta. From this point on, the war in the south turned into an overt civil war wrapped up in a war against France. Based on extensive archival research in four countries and in three languages, this is the first substantive English-language book focused on southern Vietnam’s transition from colonialism to independence.

Shawn F. McHale is Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, George Washington University. His first book, Print and Power: Confucianism, Communism, and Buddhism in the Making of Modern Vietnam (University of Hawaii Press, 2004), was a finalist for the Benda Prize in Southeast Asian Studies.
The First Vietnam War

*Violence, Sovereignty, and the Fracture of the South, 1945–1956*

Shawn F. McHale

*George Washington University, Washington DC*
Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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## Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANOM</td>
<td>Archives Nationales d’Outre-Mer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>Conseiller Politique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRV</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECPAD</td>
<td>L’Établissement de Communication et de Production Audiovisuelle de la Défense, Ministère de la Défense (Ivry-sur-Seine, France)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCI</td>
<td>Haut-Commissariat en Indochine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICP</td>
<td>Indochinese Communist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAC</td>
<td>National Archives of Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARA</td>
<td>National Archives and Records Administration (College Park Maryland, USA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTHNV</td>
<td>Phủ Thụ Hiển Nam Việt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSC</td>
<td>Résidence Supérieure au Cambodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHD</td>
<td>Service Historique de la Défense (Vincennes, France)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPCE</td>
<td>Service de Protection du Corps Expéditionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMDC</td>
<td>Unités Mobiles de Défense de la Chrétienté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNA-II</td>
<td>Vietnamese National Archives (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)</td>
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