

nixon adopts a policy of vietnamization

nixon adopts a policy of vietnamization as a pivotal turning point in the Vietnam War, aiming to extricate the United States from the prolonged conflict while preserving South Vietnam's sovereignty. This strategic shift, announced by President Richard Nixon in 1969, involved a gradual withdrawal of American troops coupled with an intensified effort to strengthen the South Vietnamese military and government. The policy aimed to achieve "peace with honor," a complex objective that would test the resilience of both nations and redefine America's role in Southeast Asia. This article delves into the origins, implementation, challenges, and ultimate legacy of Vietnamization, exploring how Nixon's approach sought to navigate the treacherous waters of war and diplomacy. We will examine the key components of this policy, its impact on the ground, and the international reactions it elicited, ultimately providing a comprehensive understanding of this crucial phase of the Vietnam War.

The Genesis of Vietnamization: Shifting Strategies

The decision for President Nixon to adopt a policy of Vietnamization emerged from a confluence of factors, including growing domestic anti-war sentiment, a perceived stalemate on the battlefield, and a desire to redefine American foreign policy objectives. The Johnson administration's heavy reliance on American military might had failed to deliver a decisive victory, leading to mounting casualties and significant economic strain. Nixon, inheriting this complex situation, recognized the need for a new approach that could satisfy the American public's desire for disengagement while avoiding the appearance of defeat. The concept of shifting the burden of fighting to the South Vietnamese themselves became the cornerstone of this evolving strategy.

Domestic Pressures and the Call for Peace

The late 1960s were marked by widespread protests and increasing public disillusionment with the Vietnam War. The Tet Offensive of 1968, while a military defeat for the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army, had a profound psychological impact on the American populace, exposing the gap between official pronouncements of progress and the grim reality of the conflict. This growing anti-war movement put immense pressure on the Nixon administration to find a way out of Vietnam. Vietnamization was, in part, a response to these domestic clamors for peace and a recognition that continued large-scale American involvement was politically unsustainable.

The Limits of American Military Intervention

By the time Nixon took office, it was becoming increasingly clear that a purely military solution, heavily dependent on American forces, was elusive. The protracted nature of the war, the effectiveness of guerrilla warfare tactics employed by the enemy, and the unwavering resolve of North Vietnam presented formidable challenges. Military analysts and political strategists alike began to question the long-term viability of a strategy centered on American troop presence. Vietnamization was conceived as a means to leverage existing American investments in training and equipping the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and gradually transfer combat responsibilities.

Nixon's "Peace with Honor" Mandate

Richard Nixon campaigned on a promise to end the Vietnam War, but crucially, he also pledged to do so in a manner that would uphold American credibility and avoid a humiliating withdrawal. This "peace with honor" objective was central to his foreign policy vision. Vietnamization was designed to be the vehicle through which this delicate balance could be achieved. It was not simply about leaving; it was about leaving in a way that allowed South Vietnam to defend itself and prevented the perceived domino effect of communist expansion in Southeast Asia. This nuanced approach aimed to satisfy both the desire for peace and the need for national pride.

Implementing Vietnamization: The Core Components

The policy of Vietnamization was not a monolithic strategy but rather a multifaceted approach that involved several key operational and diplomatic components. The central idea was to empower the South Vietnamese forces to take over the primary combat roles, allowing for a phased and orderly withdrawal of U.S. troops. This transfer of responsibility was accompanied by significant military aid and a strategic reorientation of the conflict. The success of Vietnamization hinged on the ability of the ARVN to effectively counter the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army, a prospect that faced considerable skepticism from the outset.

The Gradual Withdrawal of U.S. Troops

The most visible aspect of Vietnamization was the steady reduction of American military personnel in South Vietnam. Nixon announced a series of troop withdrawals, beginning in the summer of 1969. This was not a sudden exodus but a carefully managed process, timed to coincide with the perceived strengthening of ARVN capabilities. The pace of these withdrawals was often influenced by battlefield developments and domestic political considerations. Each announcement of a troop reduction was met with both hope for an end to the war and concern about the future security of South Vietnam.

Strengthening the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)

A critical pillar of Vietnamization was the comprehensive effort to bolster the training, equipment, and leadership of the ARVN. This involved providing advanced weaponry, tactical training, and financial assistance. The goal was to transform the ARVN from a force largely reliant on American support into a self-sufficient fighting entity capable of defending its territory. However, challenges such as corruption within the South Vietnamese government, issues with troop morale and leadership, and disparities in combat effectiveness persisted, complicating these efforts.

Expanding and Modernizing South Vietnamese Air Power and

Infrastructure

Beyond ground forces, Vietnamization also encompassed efforts to build up the South Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) and improve its logistical and infrastructural capabilities. This included providing modern aircraft, training pilots and maintenance crews, and enhancing air bases and communication systems. The objective was to enable South Vietnam to conduct its own air support missions and maintain crucial supply lines, reducing its dependence on American air assets and logistical support as U.S. ground troops departed.

The Role of Pacification and Civic Action Programs

While military strength was a primary focus, Vietnamization also incorporated strategies aimed at winning the hearts and minds of the South Vietnamese population. Pacification programs, designed to secure rural areas from Viet Cong influence, and civic action initiatives, intended to improve living conditions and governmental services, were seen as vital to undermining enemy support and building a stable South Vietnamese state. These programs aimed to demonstrate the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Saigon government, a crucial element in the long-term success of the policy.

Challenges and Criticisms of Vietnamization

Despite its well-intentioned aims, the policy of Vietnamization was met with significant challenges and drew considerable criticism from various quarters. The inherent difficulties in transforming an allied army into a self-sufficient fighting force, coupled with the persistent strength of the enemy and the complexities of the political landscape, created a precarious situation. Skepticism about the ARVN's capabilities and concerns about the ultimate outcome of American withdrawal cast a long shadow over the policy's implementation.

Questionable Effectiveness of the ARVN

One of the most persistent criticisms of Vietnamization was the perceived limitations of the ARVN. While efforts were made to improve its fighting capacity, issues of leadership, corruption, troop morale, and battlefield effectiveness continued to plague the South Vietnamese forces. Many observers doubted whether the ARVN could truly stand on its own against the determined North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong, especially after the withdrawal of direct American combat support.

Escalation of the War in Other Regions

While Nixon sought to extricate the U.S. from the ground war in Vietnam, his administration also authorized controversial actions that expanded the conflict. The secret bombing of Cambodia and Laos, aimed at disrupting enemy supply lines, led to increased instability in those regions and further fueled anti-war sentiment within the United States. These actions were seen by critics as a

contradiction to the stated goal of de-escalation and withdrawal.

The My Lai Massacre and Public Outrage

The revelation of the My Lai Massacre in 1968, which came to light in 1969, profoundly shocked the American public and further eroded support for the war. While not directly a consequence of Vietnamization, the incident highlighted the brutal realities of the conflict and raised serious questions about the conduct of American troops, further complicating the administration's efforts to present a positive narrative for withdrawal and transition. It underscored the moral and ethical quandaries inherent in the protracted war.

The Prolonged Nature of the Conflict

Ultimately, Vietnamization did not lead to a swift end to the war. While U.S. troop levels decreased significantly, the conflict continued for several more years, with substantial American airpower and financial aid remaining in place. The Paris Peace Accords, signed in 1973, eventually led to the full withdrawal of U.S. forces, but the war itself would drag on until the fall of Saigon in 1975, an outcome that many viewed as a failure of the Vietnamization strategy to secure a lasting peace for South Vietnam.

The Legacy of Vietnamization

The policy of Vietnamization left an indelible mark on American foreign policy, military strategy, and the collective memory of the Vietnam War. Its implementation and ultimate outcome continue to be debated by historians and policymakers. The experience shaped subsequent U.S. interventions and influenced the nation's approach to protracted conflicts, serving as both a cautionary tale and a subject of ongoing analysis regarding the complexities of nation-building and exit strategies.

Impact on American Foreign Policy Doctrine

Vietnamization contributed to a shift in American foreign policy thinking, leading to a greater emphasis on supporting local forces and avoiding large-scale, direct military interventions. The doctrine of "Vietnamization" itself became a shorthand for transferring responsibility and sought to learn lessons from the perceived overextension of American power. This shift influenced later administrations' approaches to conflicts in different regions of the world.

The Fall of Saigon and Perceptions of Failure

The eventual fall of Saigon to North Vietnamese forces in April 1975 was widely seen as a definitive

end to the Vietnam War and, for many, a symbol of the ultimate failure of Vietnamization to achieve its objectives. Despite years of American involvement and the efforts to build up the ARVN, South Vietnam could not sustain itself independently. This outcome led to widespread introspection about the war's costs and the effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy decisions.

Enduring Debates and Lessons Learned

The legacy of Vietnamization continues to fuel debates about the efficacy of military aid, the challenges of nation-building, and the ethical considerations of military intervention. Historians and political scientists still analyze Nixon's strategy, weighing its successes against its failures, and examining the long-term consequences for Southeast Asia and the United States. The policy serves as a critical case study in understanding the complexities of prolonged warfare and the challenges of disengagement.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was Nixon's primary goal in adopting the policy of Vietnamization?

Nixon's primary goal was to gradually withdraw U.S. troops from Vietnam while strengthening the South Vietnamese military (ARVN) to fight the war independently, thereby allowing for a peaceful exit for American forces.

How did Vietnamization differ from previous U.S. strategies in Vietnam?

Unlike previous strategies that focused on direct American military intervention and combat, Vietnamization shifted the burden of fighting onto the South Vietnamese, with the U.S. providing training, equipment, and air support.

What were the key components of the Vietnamization policy?

The key components included accelerating the training and equipping of the ARVN, gradually withdrawing U.S. troops, and continuing air and logistical support for South Vietnam.

What was the intended timeline for U.S. troop withdrawals under Vietnamization?

There wasn't a strict, fixed timeline. Withdrawals were intended to be gradual and dependent on the ARVN's demonstrated ability to take over combat operations, which led to a protracted and fluctuating withdrawal process.

Did Vietnamization successfully end the war for the United States?

Vietnamization ultimately led to the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops in 1973 with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords. However, it did not prevent the eventual fall of South Vietnam to North Vietnam in 1975.

What were some criticisms of the Vietnamization policy?

Criticisms included the belief that it was a slow and insufficient withdrawal, that the ARVN was not adequately prepared to fight without significant U.S. support, and that it prolonged the war while still involving American casualties.

How did the policy of Vietnamization affect domestic opposition to the war in the United States?

While it was intended to appease anti-war sentiment by reducing troop presence, the protracted nature of the withdrawals and continued U.S. involvement (including bombings) meant that anti-war protests continued and, in some cases, intensified.

What was the role of "peace with honor" in Nixon's Vietnamization strategy?

Nixon aimed for a "peace with honor," which meant withdrawing U.S. troops in a way that preserved American credibility and avoided a complete defeat, despite the ongoing conflict and the eventual outcome.

Did Vietnamization involve any expansion of the war, despite the troop withdrawals?

Yes, controversially, Vietnamization was accompanied by secret bombings of Cambodia and Laos, and the incursion into Cambodia in 1970, which widened the conflict and fueled domestic opposition.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to Nixon's policy of Vietnamization, with brief descriptions:

1. *The Necessary War: A Reinterpretation of the Vietnam War*

This book challenges conventional wisdom about the Vietnam War, arguing that Nixon's Vietnamization policy, while controversial, was a logical and perhaps necessary step given the political realities of the time. It examines the strategic rationale behind shifting the burden of combat to South Vietnamese forces. The author likely explores the domestic pressures and international context that shaped this decision.

2. *No More Vietnams? The War of the Future and the Past*

This title suggests a comparative analysis of the Vietnam War and its aftermath, focusing on how Vietnamization influenced subsequent American foreign policy. It delves into whether the lessons

learned from the gradual withdrawal and handover of responsibility prevented future costly interventions. The book may explore the long-term consequences of the strategy on regional stability and American credibility.

3. *Vietnamization's Ghost: America's Unfinished Business in Southeast Asia*

This work likely investigates the lingering effects of the Vietnam War and Nixon's Vietnamization policy on Vietnam and its neighbors, as well as on American society. It may explore the successes and failures of the handover process and the enduring human and political costs. The "ghost" metaphor suggests a focus on unresolved issues and ongoing repercussions.

4. *The Nixon Doctrine and the Limits of American Power*

This book would likely focus on the broader foreign policy framework within which Vietnamization was conceived – the Nixon Doctrine. It would analyze how the doctrine aimed to reduce direct American military involvement by encouraging allies to assume more responsibility for their own defense. The book probably examines the limitations and unintended consequences of this shift in American grand strategy.

5. *The Long Road Home: Soldiers and Civilians After Vietnamization*

This title indicates a focus on the human element of the war, exploring the experiences of American soldiers and Vietnamese civilians during and after the implementation of Vietnamization. It would likely address the psychological and societal impacts of the prolonged conflict and the strategy of gradual withdrawal. The book could offer personal narratives and historical analysis of the war's lasting imprint.

6. *South Vietnam's Last Stand: The Army of the Republic of Vietnam and the Failure of Vietnamization*

This book would critically assess the effectiveness of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) in taking over combat operations under Vietnamization. It likely examines the internal strengths and weaknesses of the ARVN, as well as the support and limitations provided by the United States. The title suggests a focus on the ultimate failure of the policy to secure South Vietnam's independence.

7. *Peace With Honor? Nixon, Kissinger, and the Vietnam Endgame*

This title points to an in-depth examination of the diplomatic and military strategies employed by Nixon and his National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger to end the Vietnam War. It would likely explore how Vietnamization was used as a tool to negotiate a settlement and achieve "peace with honor." The book probably analyzes the motivations, calculations, and consequences of their approach.

8. *America's Waning Shadow: The Politics of De-escalation in Vietnam*

This work would likely delve into the political motivations behind Nixon's decision to pursue Vietnamization and de-escalation. It would explore the domestic opposition to the war, the desire to disengage American troops, and the complex political maneuvering involved. The book may analyze how the policy was perceived both domestically and internationally.

9. *The Unraveling of an Empire: Vietnamization and the Specter of Defeat*

This title suggests a broad historical perspective, viewing Vietnamization not just as a military policy but as a symptom of a larger shift in American global engagement. It might argue that the policy represented an acknowledgment of limits to American power and an attempt to manage an increasingly unwinnable conflict. The book could explore how this period contributed to a reassessment of America's role in the world.

Nixon Adopts A Policy Of Vietnamization

Nixon's Vietnamization: A Strategic Shift and its Enduring Legacy

Write a comprehensive description of the topic, detailing its significance and relevance with the title heading: Nixon's adoption of the Vietnamization policy in 1969 marked a pivotal turning point in the Vietnam War, shifting the focus from direct American military involvement to empowering South Vietnamese forces to assume responsibility for combat operations. This strategic shift, while aimed at achieving a graceful exit for the U.S. and preventing a communist takeover, had profound and lasting consequences for Vietnam, the United States, and the broader geopolitical landscape, sparking debate and analysis that continues to this day. Its impact on American foreign policy, the war's human cost, and the enduring legacy of the conflict all remain subjects of intense scrutiny and scholarly research.

Ebook Title: Vietnamization: Nixon's Strategy, its Consequences, and its Continuing Relevance

Ebook Outline:

Introduction: Overview of the Vietnam War and the context leading to Vietnamization.

Chapter 1: The Genesis of Vietnamization: Analyzing the factors that propelled Nixon to adopt this new strategy. Exploration of the political climate, public opinion, and the limitations of previous approaches.

Chapter 2: The Strategic Implementation of Vietnamization: Detailed examination of the practical aspects of the policy: troop withdrawals, military training of South Vietnamese forces (ARVN), and the expansion of the war into neighboring countries like Cambodia and Laos.

Chapter 3: Domestic and International Reactions to Vietnamization: Exploring the responses of the American public, the anti-war movement, Congress, and international actors to Nixon's policy. Analysis of the impact on the Cold War.

Chapter 4: The Military and Political Outcomes of Vietnamization: Assessment of the effectiveness of the policy in achieving its stated goals. Analysis of the military successes and failures of the ARVN, and the ultimate outcome of the war.

Chapter 5: The Long-Term Consequences and Legacy of Vietnamization: Examination of the lasting impact of Vietnamization on the United States, Vietnam, and the global political order. Discussion of its influence on subsequent U.S. military interventions.

Conclusion: Synthesis of the key arguments and conclusions drawn throughout the ebook. A concise summary of the significance of Vietnamization and its ongoing relevance.

Explanation of Outline Points:

Introduction: This section will provide necessary background on the Vietnam War, setting the stage for the discussion of Vietnamization. It will cover the escalation of the war under previous administrations and the growing dissatisfaction in the U.S.

Chapter 1: This chapter dives into the reasons behind Nixon's decision, examining the political pressures, public opinion shifts, and the limitations of the previous military strategies. It will explore Nixon's "peace with honor" goal.

Chapter 2: This chapter focuses on the practical aspects of implementing Vietnamization, detailing troop withdrawals, the training and equipping of the ARVN, and the expansion of the war into neighboring countries. It will also address the crucial role of air power.

Chapter 3: This chapter analyzes the reactions to Vietnamization from various stakeholders, including the American public, the anti-war movement, Congress, and international communities, highlighting the complexities of the policy's impact.

Chapter 4: This chapter evaluates the military and political successes and failures of Vietnamization, assessing whether it achieved its intended goals. It will discuss the ARVN's performance and the eventual fall of Saigon.

Chapter 5: This chapter explores the lasting effects of Vietnamization on the U.S., Vietnam, and the world. It will discuss its impact on American foreign policy and military strategy in subsequent conflicts.

Conclusion: This section will summarize the key findings, emphasizing the significance of Vietnamization and its continued relevance to understanding U.S. foreign policy and the legacy of the Vietnam War.

Vietnamization: Nixon's Strategy, its Consequences, and its Continuing Relevance

(Introduction)

The Vietnam War, a protracted and deeply divisive conflict, reached a critical juncture in 1969 with the inauguration of Richard Nixon's presidency. Facing mounting anti-war sentiment at home and a seemingly intractable military stalemate in Vietnam, Nixon unveiled a new strategy: Vietnamization. This policy aimed to gradually withdraw American combat troops while simultaneously building up the capacity of the South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) to assume primary responsibility for fighting the communist North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. This shift marked a significant departure from the previous policy of direct American military intervention and had profound consequences for the war's trajectory and its enduring legacy.

(Chapter 1: The Genesis of Vietnamization)

Several factors converged to shape Nixon's decision to adopt Vietnamization. The escalating cost of the war in both human lives and financial resources fueled growing public opposition. The Tet Offensive of 1968, while a military defeat for the North Vietnamese, shattered public confidence in the Johnson administration's claims of progress and intensified calls for an end to the war. Nixon, aware of these pressures, sought a way to extricate the U.S. from the conflict while avoiding a humiliating defeat. He believed that Vietnamization offered a path to achieving "peace with honor." This strategy also aligned with his broader foreign policy goals of détente with the Soviet Union and a reassessment of America's global commitments.

(Chapter 2: The Strategic Implementation of Vietnamization)

The implementation of Vietnamization involved a complex interplay of military, political, and economic strategies. A phased withdrawal of American combat troops began, accompanied by increased military aid and training for the ARVN. The U.S. provided advanced weaponry, logistical

support, and extensive training programs designed to enhance the ARVN's combat effectiveness. This process, however, was not without its challenges. The ARVN, despite receiving substantial U.S. support, suffered from significant weaknesses, including a lack of experience, inadequate leadership, and low morale. Furthermore, Nixon's administration expanded the war into Cambodia and Laos, secretly bombing these countries in an effort to disrupt North Vietnamese supply lines, a move that further inflamed anti-war protests and generated controversy.

(Chapter 3: Domestic and International Reactions to Vietnamization)

Vietnamization generated mixed reactions both domestically and internationally. While some Americans welcomed the prospect of troop withdrawals, the anti-war movement remained highly critical, arguing that the policy was merely a prolonged extension of the war under a different guise. The expansion of the war into Cambodia and Laos fueled further protests and heightened skepticism towards the administration's claims of progress. Internationally, Vietnamization was viewed with varying degrees of skepticism and concern. Soviet Union and China continued their support for North Vietnam, while other nations expressed doubts about the long-term viability of the strategy.

(Chapter 4: The Military and Political Outcomes of Vietnamization)

The military and political outcomes of Vietnamization were ultimately mixed. While the U.S. successfully withdrew its troops, the ARVN proved incapable of preventing the North Vietnamese from eventually conquering South Vietnam. The ARVN's lack of combat readiness and political will, coupled with the continuous infiltration of North Vietnamese forces and the Viet Cong's guerrilla tactics, led to the steady erosion of South Vietnam's defenses. The eventual fall of Saigon in 1975 demonstrated the failure of Vietnamization to achieve its primary objective of securing a non-communist South Vietnam.

(Chapter 5: The Long-Term Consequences and Legacy of Vietnamization)

Vietnamization had profound and long-lasting consequences. The war's human cost was immense, with millions of Vietnamese civilians and soldiers killed or wounded. The U.S. experienced a period of national soul-searching and re-evaluation of its foreign policy, leading to greater public scrutiny of military interventions. Vietnamization's failure contributed to the waning of American global dominance and a shift in the international balance of power. The policy's impact is still debated, shaping discussions around interventionism, military strategy, and nation-building. Its failures informed subsequent U.S. foreign policy decisions, particularly regarding military interventions in other countries.

(Conclusion)

Nixon's Vietnamization policy represents a pivotal moment in the history of the Vietnam War and American foreign policy. While it succeeded in withdrawing American combat troops, it ultimately failed to prevent the communist takeover of South Vietnam. The policy's legacy continues to shape debates about the limits of military intervention, the challenges of nation-building, and the importance of understanding the complexities of international conflicts. Vietnamization serves as a powerful reminder of the unforeseen consequences that can arise from even well-intentioned strategies and the enduring importance of careful planning and execution in international relations.

FAQs:

1. What were the primary goals of Vietnamization? To gradually withdraw U.S. troops while empowering South Vietnamese forces to fight the war.
2. Was Vietnamization a success or a failure? A complex issue; while U.S. troops were withdrawn, the policy ultimately failed to prevent the communist victory.
3. What role did the ARVN play in Vietnamization? The ARVN was intended to become the primary fighting force, but it proved inadequate.
4. How did Vietnamization impact public opinion in the U.S.? It intensified anti-war sentiment for some, while others saw it as a necessary step towards ending the war.
5. What was the impact of the secret bombing of Cambodia and Laos? It fueled domestic opposition and damaged the U.S.'s international image.
6. What were the long-term consequences of Vietnamization for Vietnam? The unification of Vietnam under communist rule and its lasting political and social consequences.
7. How did Vietnamization impact U.S. foreign policy? It led to greater caution and scrutiny regarding future military interventions.
8. What lessons can be learned from Vietnamization? The limitations of military solutions to complex political problems and the importance of understanding local contexts.
9. How does Vietnamization relate to contemporary debates about military intervention? It informs debates about the effectiveness and ethical implications of foreign military engagement.

Related Articles:

1. The Tet Offensive and its Impact on the Vietnam War: An analysis of the turning point in the war.
2. The My Lai Massacre and its effect on American public opinion: Discusses the war crime and its effect on the war's image at home.
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4. The Role of Air Power in the Vietnam War: Explores the significance of air power in both the U.S. and North Vietnamese strategies.
5. The Anti-War Movement in the United States: Discusses the powerful influence of protests on the Vietnam War.
6. The Domino Theory and its influence on U.S. foreign policy: Explores the theory that fueled American involvement in Vietnam.
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8. The South Vietnamese Army (ARVN): Strengths and Weaknesses: A detailed assessment of the ARVN's capabilities and shortcomings.

9. Post-War Vietnam: Challenges and Reconstruction: Explores the difficulties faced by Vietnam after the war's end.

nixon adopts a policy of vietnamization: *Losing Binh Dinh* Kevin M. Boylan, 2016-12-12 Americans have fought two prolonged battles over Vietnam—one in southeast Asia and one, ongoing even now, at home—over whether the war was unnecessary, unjust, and unwinnable. Revisionist historians who reject this view have formulated many contra-factual scenarios for how the war might have been won, but also put forward one historically testable hypothesis—namely that the war actually was won after the 1968 Tet Offensive, only to be thrown away later through a failure of political will. It is this “Lost Victory” hypothesis that Kevin M. Boylan takes up in *Losing Binh Dinh*, aiming to determine once and for all whether the historical record supports such a claim. Proponents of the “Lost Victory” thesis contend that by 1972, President Richard Nixon's policy of “Vietnamization” had effectively eliminated South Vietnamese insurgents, “pacified” the countryside, and prepared the South Vietnamese to defend their own territory with only logistical and financial support from Americans. Rejecting the top-down approach favored by Revisionists, Boylan examines the facts on the ground in Binh Dinh, a strategically vital province that was the second most populous in South Vietnam, controlled key transportation routes, and contained one of the nation's few major seaports as well as the huge US Air Force base at Phu Cat. Taking an in-depth look at operations that were conducted in the province, Boylan is able to uncover the fundamental flaw in the dual objectives of “Vietnamization” and “Pacification”—namely, that they were mutually exclusive. The inefficiency and corruption of the South Vietnamese government and armed forces was so crippling that progress in pacification occurred only when Americans took the lead—which, in turn, left the South Vietnamese even more dependent on US support.

nixon adopts a policy of vietnamization: *Air Power and the Ground War in Vietnam* Donald J. Mrozek, 2002 Dr. Donald J. Mrozek's research sheds considerable light on how the use of air power evolved in the Vietnam War. Much more than simply retelling events, Mrozek analyzes how history, politics, technology, and the complexity of the war drove the application of air power in a long and divisive struggle. Mrozek delves into a wealth of original documentation, and his scholarship is impeccable. His analysis is thorough and balanced. His conclusions are well reasoned but will trouble those who have never seriously considered how the application of air power is influenced by factors far beyond the battlefield. Whether or not the reader agrees with Mrozek, the quality of his research and analysis makes his conclusions impossible to ignore. John C. Fryer, Jr. Brigadier General, United States Air Force Commander, Center for Aerospace Doctrine, Research and Education

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nixon adopts a policy of vietnamization: Making Twenty-First-Century Strategy Dennis M. Drew, Donald M. Snow, 2010-05 This new work defines national security strategy, its objectives, the problems it confronts, and the influences that constrain and facilitate its development and implementation in a post-Cold War, post-9/11 environment. The authors note that making and implementing national strategy centers on risk management and present a model for assessing strategic risks and the process for allocating limited resources to reduce them. The major threats facing the United States now come from its unique status as the sole remaining superpower against which no nation-state or other entity can hope to compete through conventional means. The alternative is what is now called asymmetrical or fourth generation warfare. Drew and Snow discuss all these factors in detail and bring them together by examining the continuing problems of making strategy in a changed and changing world. Originally published in 2006.

nixon adopts a policy of vietnamization: Ending the Vietnam War Henry Kissinger, 2003-02-11 Now, for the first time, Kissinger gives us in a single volume an in-depth, inside view of the Vietnam War, personally collected, annotated, revised, and updated from his bestselling memoirs and his book *Diplomacy*. Many other authors have written about what they thought happened—or thought should have happened—in Vietnam, but it was Henry Kissinger who was there at the epicenter, involved in every decision from the long, frustrating negotiations with the North Vietnamese delegation to America's eventual extrication from the war. Here, Kissinger writes with firm, precise knowledge, supported by meticulous documentation that includes his own memoranda to and replies from President Nixon. He tells about the tragedy of Cambodia, the collateral negotiations with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, the disagreements within the Nixon and Ford administrations, the details of all negotiations in which he was involved, the domestic unrest and protest in the States, and the day-to-day military to diplomatic realities of the war as it reached the White House. As compelling and exciting as Barbara Tuchman's *The Guns of*

August, Ending the Vietnam War also reveals insights about the bigger-than-life personalities—Johnson, Nixon, de Gaulle, Ho Chi Minh, Brezhnev—who were caught up in a war that forever changed international relations. This is history on a grand scale, and a book of overwhelming importance to the public record.

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probe deep into the decisionmaking leading to escalation of military action in Vietnam. The failure of Vietnam could be laid at the door of American foreign policy, they said, but the decisions that led to the failure were made by presidents aware of the risks, clear about their aims, knowledgeable about the weaknesses of their allies, and under no illusion about the outcome. The book offers a picture of a steely resolve in government circles that, while useful in creating consensus, did not allow for alternative perspectives. In the years since its publication, *The Irony of Vietnam* has come to be considered the seminal work on the Vietnam War.

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history.

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developing countries conducted the research on which the essays on this and subsequent volumes are based. Dr Frederick Bird from Concordia University in Montreal directed the overall research project.

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