

THE VIETNAM WAR

A FILM BY KEN BURNS & LYNN NOVICK



A PROGRAMMING GUIDE FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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The Vietnam War: About the Film

In an immersive narrative, Ken Burns and Lynn Novick tell the epic story of the Vietnam War as it has never before been told on film. Visceral and immersive, the series explores the human dimensions of the war through revelatory testimony of nearly 80 witnesses from all sides—Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as combatants and civilians from North and South Vietnam.

Ten years in the making, the series includes rarely seen, digitally re-mastered archival footage from sources around the globe, photographs taken by some of the most celebrated

photojournalists of the 20th century, historic television broadcasts, evocative home movies and secret audio recordings from inside the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations. The Vietnam War features more than 100 iconic musical recordings from the greatest artists of the era and haunting original music from Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross, as well as the Silk Road Ensemble featuring Yo-Yo Ma.

The film consists of 10 parts. Please be aware that the film contains profanity, brief nudity and graphic violence, and is rated TV-MA. The 10 parts include:

Episode One: "Déjà Vu" (1858–1961), RUNNING TIME: 1:26:46

After a long and brutal war, Vietnamese revolutionaries led by Ho Chi Minh end nearly a century of French colonial occupation. With the Cold War intensifying, Vietnam is divided in two at a conference among several nations in Geneva. Communists in the north aim to reunify the country, while America supports Ngo Dinh Diem's untested regime in the south.

Episode Two: "Riding the Tiger" (1961–1963), RUNNING TIME: 1:27:58

President Kennedy inspires idealistic young Americans to serve their country and wrestles with how deeply to get involved in South Vietnam. As the increasingly autocratic Diem regime faces a growing communist insurgency and widespread Buddhist protests, a grave political crisis unfolds.

Episode Three: "The River Styx" (January 1964-December 1965), RUNNING TIME: 1:59:27

With South Vietnam in chaos, hardliners in Hanoi seize the initiative and send combat troops to the south, accelerating the insurgency. Fearing Saigon's collapse, President Johnson escalates America's military commitment, authorizing sustained bombing of the north and deploying ground troops in the south.

Episode Four: "Resolve" (January 1966-June 1967), RUNNING TIME: 1:58:56

Defying American airpower, North Vietnamese troops and materiel stream down the Ho Chi Minh Trail into the south, while Saigon struggles to "pacify the countryside." As an antiwar movement builds back home, hundreds of thousands of soldiers and Marines discover that the war they are being asked to fight in Vietnam is nothing like their fathers' war.

Episode Five: "This Is What We Do" (July 1967-December 1967), RUNNING TIME: 1:30:00

American casualties and enemy body counts mount as Marines face deadly North Vietnamese ambushes and artillery south of the DMZ and Army units chase an elusive enemy in the central highlands. Hanoi lays plans for a massive surprise offensive, and the Johnson Administration reassures the American public that victory is in sight.

Episode Six: "Things Fall Apart" (January 1968-July 1968), RUNNING TIME: 1:29:18

On the eve of the Tet holiday, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces launch surprise attacks on cities and military bases throughout the south, suffering devastating losses but casting grave doubt on Johnson's promise that there is "light at the end of the tunnel." The president decides not to run again, and the country is staggered by assassinations and unrest.

Episode Seven: "The Veneer of Civilization" (June 1968—May 1969), RUNNING TIME: 1:52:25 Public support for the war declines, and American men of draft age face difficult decisions and wrenching moral choices. After police battle with demonstrators in the streets of Chicago, Richard Nixon wins the presidency, promising law and order at home and peace overseas. In Vietnam, the war goes on and soldiers on all sides witness terrible savagery and unflinching courage.

Episode Eight: "The History of the World" (April 1969-May 1970), RUNNING TIME: 1:53:40

With morale plummeting in Vietnam, President Nixon begins withdrawing American troops. As news breaks of an unthinkable massacre committed by American soldiers, the public debates the rectitude of the war, while an incursion into Cambodia reignites antiwar protests with tragic consequences.

Episode Nine: "A Disrespectful Loyalty" (May 1970-March 1973), RUNNING TIME: 1:54:23

South Vietnamese forces fighting on their own in Laos suffer a terrible defeat. Massive U.S. airpower makes the difference in halting an unprecedented North Vietnamese offensive. After being re-elected in a landslide, Nixon announces Hanoi has agreed to a peace deal. American prisoners of war will finally come home—to a bitterly divided country.

Episode Ten: "The Weight of Memory" (March 1973-Onward), RUNNING TIME: 1:51:57

While the Watergate scandal rivets Americans' attention and forces President Nixon to resign, the Vietnamese continue to savage one another in a brutal civil war. When hundreds of thousands of North Vietnamese troops pour into the south, Saigon descends rapidly into chaos and collapses. For the next 40 years, Americans and Vietnamese from all sides search for healing and reconciliation.

Viewing Considerations

Given how divisive the war was when it was being fought, it should come as no surprise that its very history has been profoundly unsettled as well; there remains little consensus about what transpired in Vietnam, let alone why. Indeed, as historian and project advisor Edward Miller observes, "In some respects, Americans remain as divided over the war and its meaning as they were during the 1960s and 1970s."

The Vietnam War documentary series is grounded in a substantial body of humanities scholarship that offers a complex, multi-dimensional understanding of this transformational time in American history. The film does not seek to find a single interpretive lens through which to understand the war. Documentary film as a medium is uniquely suited for presenting a story with divergent perspectives, allowing a range of viewpoints to be placed side by side for audiences to consider and interpret. The film acknowledges and builds its narrative around the enormous complexity of its subject and embraces as an essential part of its story the profound differences and disagreements that tore apart lives and nations.

At the heart of the storytelling are interviews with nearly 80 men and women who experienced the war firsthand, including service members, journalists, civilians, protesters, diplomats, intelligence officers and prisoners of war, among many others, from the United States as well as from North and South Vietnam. Thanks to an extraordinary level of cooperation from highly placed Vietnamese officials, the filmmakers were given access to a



much wider range of Vietnamese witnesses than has previously been available to foreign journalists or filmmakers, and many speak surprisingly openly about some of the most difficult and formerly taboo aspects of the war.

The diverse Vietnamese voices in the film also help facilitate a broader exploration of Vietnamese culture and history, which is critical to understanding the story of the war. No historians appear on camera in *The Vietnam War* unless they were involved personally as witnesses or participants in the story. The filmmakers did, however, work closely with historical advisors at every stage of the film—from selecting subjects and preparing for interviews to crafting the script and working with visuals—to ensure accuracy and to situate the individual stories in the context of the best scholarship about the war.

This is an ideal time to be engaging in this subject. With the passage of time, many participants in the war—civilians as well as leaders, Vietnamese as well as Americans—are now willing to look back and reflect on their experiences. Declassified archival materials—including presidential documents and recordings, post-Cold War archives abroad and Vietnamese archival sources made accessible in the wake of political and economic reforms in the 1980s and 1990s—have made possible a much deeper and more nuanced understanding of political and diplomatic dimensions of the war. The result has been a body of new scholarship that

transcends the divides that previously made meaningful discussion about the war difficult and often impossible.

In addition to utilizing new scholarship, the filmmakers also conducted new research in museums and archives as well as in the extensive interviews they conducted for the film. Working with Vietnam-based producers and research staff, the filmmakers expended substantial time and resources in uncovering new information about the war that in itself constitutes a *de facto* archive, and will inform future scholarship. The series is the first major documentary treatment of the history of the Vietnam War since *Vietnam: A Television History*, which was broadcast on PBS in 1983, soon after the end of the war. Groundbreaking at the time, the series focused largely on the "top down" geo-political, diplomatic and military history of the conflict. A new assessment of the subject is overdue.

The Vietnam War offers an opportunity to see aspects of American history that may be familiar to many viewers—civil rights struggles and the Cold War, cultural shifts in post-WWII America and stories of presidential power, for instance—through a fresh perspective. Key events in 20th-century history will be refracted through the lens of our nation's experience in Vietnam, while the story of the war will, in turn, be seen through the prism of broader themes in American history and culture.

Themes

Through a detailed, multi-sided, emotionally powerful and historically nuanced telling of the epic history of the Vietnam War, a host of themes in the humanities emerge in the film.

Colonialism, imperialism, nationalism and the Cold War: The Vietnam War is generally understood as a manifestation of post-WWII Cold War geopolitics, but the film's narrative places it as well in the broader story of imperialism, post-colonialism and emerging nationalism, as it played out in the particularly complex history of Vietnam.

The nature of leadership: While the film's depiction of combat is largely told by those who experienced it on the ground, much of the narrative also revolves around the political and military leaders who directed the conflict. In the U.S., the film focuses primarily on three presidents—John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon—providing an intimate view of American leadership and politics. In North Vietnam, the film traces the communist leadership in the years after World War II, notably the careers of Ho Chi Minh and Le Duan. In the South, it follows the stories of a series of troubled leaders, with particular attention to the careers of Ngo Dinh Diem, Nguyen Cao Ky and Nguyen Van Thieu.

Military history: The war was fought without a conventional front line, and engaging an enemy in guerilla warfare challenged U.S. military resources and knowledge. The tactics of both sides in the war in Vietnam were not static, but evolved during the United States' time there, as the film's depictions of numerous military engagements reveal. The war was fought during a time of a vast build-up of nuclear arms, and its history cannot be understood outside of the global tensions between the U.S. and its communist enemies in the U.S.S.R. and China and an arms race that threatened to destroy the world.

Propaganda, **truth and creation of media**: Control of information is central to the exercise of political power and to the waging of war, and exploring how the Vietnam War

was represented in the U.S., as well as in North and South Vietnam, is essential for understanding its history. The film explores the competing narratives of the war by media and governments, both in the United States and Vietnam.

Diversity, class and ethnicity: The Vietnam War offers a powerful lens for examining issues of class, race and ethnicity during an especially volatile time in U.S. history. The armed services were filled by members of the largest generation in American history, but the military did not represent a true cross-section of that generation, with disproportionate representation among troops from working class and poor backgrounds. The film examines the experiences of African American, Latino and Asian American combatants, and how those experiences evolved during the course of the conflict, as well as the class and ethnic make-up of those who actively opposed the war.

Vietnam itself was also an enormously diverse culture, not just between North and South, but among class, region and religion. The 30 Vietnamese interview subjects in the film reflect a cross-section of Vietnamese society, and their range of experiences illustrate the diversity and complexity of the small nation in which the war took place.

The changing American cultural landscape: The Vietnam War took place during a time of explosive change in American culture, and the backdrop of generational conflict and changing attitudes toward sex, drugs, music and the nature of authority is a frequent and recurring theme in the film.

Religion, ethics and morality: As with all wars, the conflict in Vietnam raised profound ethical questions, from the perspectives of soldiers, leaders and civilians alike, on both sides. Ethical and moral themes are raised explicitly in many key moments in the film, including depictions of several atrocities committed by both sides, and discussions of dehumanizing or racially charged language in defining one's enemies. Interviewees reflect on some of the most challenging moral questions a person can face: What does it mean to take another life, and how does that ethical equation change when the life that is taken is for a cause one does not believe in? When does one sacrifice for the greater good? How can we understand and live with loss?

Beyond the moral issues of waging war are powerful questions of the obligations of citizenship, when to obey the government and when to stand up and oppose a war. For many combatants, the war manifested itself in medical and psychological conditions that would affect them for decades after combat came to an end.

Building Partnerships

Community partners are vital to strengthening outreach and engagement efforts for your library's screenings and programs; they can also make the programs themselves more rich and meaningful. It is critical for buy-in, interest and program content accuracy to involve members of your community in planning your programs and events.

Get your partners to the table early and rely on their expertise. Work with them to provide advice and guidance on your library's program plans and engagement activities; invite them to serve as local experts on panels (or suggest representatives to do so), ensuring diverse points-of-view in the discussion; and collaborate with them to reach a new audience of potential program attendees.

Cultivate partners with different perspectives, experiences and expertise pertaining to the Vietnam War. Reach out to as many organizations as possible to maximize conversations about The Vietnam War and work with these partners to build an impactful campaign around the film and affiliated library programming. Begin your outreach by connecting with institutions or organizations such as colleges and universities, state humanities councils, arts organizations, veterans' organizations, Vietnamese-American organizations,

local history museums, conscientious objectors to the war and civic groups.

Involve veterans and veterans' organizations in your planning process. Vietnam veterans are in communities across the United States. Find them through VA medical centers, the American Legion, or your local Veterans of Foreign Wars or Veterans of the Vietnam War posts. Tell them about the project and ask how they would like to get involved. Engage them as partners so they can contribute to the structure of your engagement programming in a way that will be meaningful for fellow veterans.

Involve local Vietnamese-American and other immigrant groups. Providing space for those who survived the war is crucial to preserving history and honoring voices; remember that the Vietnam War affected the people of Vietnam, of course, but also those of neighboring countries. Many U.S. communities today are also home to survivors of more recent conflicts. This film gives you an opportunity to explore connections between refugees from Cuba, Syria, Iran, Somalia or other countries connected to modern-day U.S. military operations.

Remember, you do not need a huge budget to come up with meaningful programming. Make use of community resources to craft a program series that will engage and excite your community.

Tips for working with partner organizations

- **Be respectful** of language differences. Listen carefully to veteran organization and Vietnamese language, noting correct acronyms, spellings and pronunciations.
- **Develop shared goals** with partners around outreach and engagement activities. Encourage all partners to have consistent messaging.
- Identify needs within the partner organizations and in the larger veterans' and/ or immigrant communities. Tailor programs and screenings to meet the needs of these groups.
- **Have voices of people** who experienced this war firsthand represented at and in your programs.
- Always be respectful of communication with all partners and don't hesitate to initiate dialogue.

Supporting Those with PTSD

Veterans and survivors of war may experience PTSD symptoms when watching the film, listening to a lecture or retelling their stories about the Vietnam War. Library staff should be familiar with PTSD symptoms, such as sudden confusion, anger, frustration, fear and sadness, and when possible, have counselors on hand. The National Center for PTSD provides resources to individuals seeking PTSD care for themselves or loved ones: 1-877-WAR-VETS (1-877-927-8387).

What is PTSD?

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can occur after you have been through a traumatic event, such as the trauma of a war. During a traumatic event, you think that your life or others' lives are in danger. You may feel afraid or feel that you have no control over what is happening around you. Symptoms of PTSD may occur in the weeks and months following an event, and chronic forms of PTSD can persist for years.

There are four types of symptoms of PTSD, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

- Reliving the event through flashbacks or nightmares
- Avoiding situations that remind you of the event
- Negative changes in beliefs and feelings, including fear, guilt or shame
- Feeling jittery or always on the lookout for danger, which may be paired with trouble concentrating or sleeping

Below are a few tips for being mindful of people with PTSD in your screenings and programs:

- In your promotional materials, consider including a caveat that film excerpts and discussions may trigger anxiety or anger, especially for those with PTSD.
- A skilled program facilitator should acknowledge that the film screening or program might cause intense feelings and anxiety for those that served in or survived the war.
- Turn to your partners and identify counselors and behavioral health specialists for the event. Have your facilitator acknowledge their presence at the top of the event, and let people know that they are there to provide extra support if needed.

The film contains graphic images and loud sounds of war, so you may want to provide seating farther away from speakers and the film screen for those requiring a less intense experience. A program attendee or presenter may need to leave the space altogether; consider providing a separate space that people can move to if they get uncomfortable, such as another room where they may take a moment for themselves or speak to a counselor.

For additional information and resources, visit:

- National Center for PTSD, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/PTSD-overview
- National Institute of Mental Health
 www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd
- Working with Trauma Survivors: What Workers Need to Know,
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/provider-type/responders/working-with-trauma-survivors.asp
- VA National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans Trauma-Informed Care Fact Sheet www.va.gov/homeless/nchav/docs/Trauma-Informed-Care-Fact-Sheet.pdf



Related Feature Films and Documentaries

Screening feature films as companion programming to *The Vietnam War* series can open new lines of inquiry and exploration for your patrons. Viewing multiple films allows program participants to view the war through a variety of lenses; to consider the impact of significant historical events upon popular culture; and to discuss the ways in which reality is portrayed through film. It is also interesting to consider how the Vietnam War is portrayed in Hollywood over the years and to see how filmmakers have adapted the story of the war as new facts have come to light over time.

Dozens of feature films are set in the Vietnam War era. Selecting the right films for your community will depend on the purpose of the screening. Questions to ask yourself when selecting feature films may include:

- Does this film focus on an aspect of the war that your library would like to highlight in its programming (e.g. veterans' issues, a specific battle, etc.)?
- Do the reviews indicate that this film is worth screening, and does it portray a realistic depiction with good acting and a strong storyline?
- How easily can you obtain public performance rights? If it is an older film, is it readily available on DVD or online streaming?
- What is the rating and length of the film? Does it fit within your library's screening guidelines?



Some of the films portray the war itself, others focus on life on the homefront, and still others deal with the returning veterans and the war's impact on their lives both short- and long-term. Screening a few films in conjunction with *The Vietnam War* will allow you to compare and contrast and highlight certain themes, fostering deeper discussion and insights.

Providing a complete list of films on the war is not possible in this guide, but the annotated list below (as well as the links to other web resources starting on page 28 of this guide) will provide a starting point.

Feature Films

Air America (1990/R/113 MINUTES)

www.imdb.com/title/tt0099005

This movie is more lighthearted than most Vietnam films, but it still tackles tough themes and issues such as antiwar protests and the opium trade. The storyline is an adaptation of the 1979 nonfiction book by Christopher Robbins that chronicled the CIA-financed airline that transported weapons and supplies into Cambodia and Laos throughout the war. The film is worth showing due to the unusual topic that highlights an often-overlooked aspect of the war.

Apocalypse Now [1979/R/153 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0078788

Francis Ford Coppola's iconic war film adapts the story of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, shifting its setting to the Vietnam War. The film tells the story of Captain Benjamin Willard, who is sent on a dangerous mission into Cambodia to assassinate a renegade colonel.

Boat People [1982/R/109 MINUTES/CHINESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0084807

Boat People, the third film by Hong Kong filmmaker Ann Hui in her "Vietnam trilogy," was ranked eighth in the list of 103 best Chinese-language films in the past 100 years by the Hong Kong Film Awards during their 2005 ceremony. This film is depicted from the viewpoint of a Japanese photojournalist who visits Vietnam after the fall of Saigon and chronicles the plight of the Vietnamese people once the war has ended and the communist takeover is under way.

Born on the Fourth of July [1990/R/145 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0096969

A biopic that recounts the story of Ron Kovic, a gung-ho American patriot who returns from Vietnam paralyzed from the waist down. Feeling abandoned and scorned for serving his country, he becomes an antiwar activist. As Roger Ebert states in his 4-star review (www.rogerebert.com/reviews/born-on-the-fourth-of-july-1989), "A film like Oliver Stone's Born on the Fourth of July is an apology for Vietnam, uttered by Stone, who fought there"

Birdy [1984/R/120 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0086969

Matthew Modine and Nicolas Cage star as Birdy and Al in this often-overlooked feature film about returning vets. This film provides a unique portrait of the enduring power of friendship as well as a study of both the emotional and physical scars that haunted Vietnam veterans upon their return home.

Casualties of War [1989/R/113 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0097027

Based on a 1969 article by Daniel Lang for *The New Yorker*, this Brian De Palma film starring Sean Penn and Michael J. Fox recounts the real-life events that occurred in 1966 on what is known as the Incident on Hill 192. It is graphic in its depiction of the kidnapping, raping and murder of a young Vietnamese woman by a group of American soldiers. The film is told via a series of flashbacks by a veteran.

Coming Home [1978/R/126 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0077362

Winner of three Oscars as well as numerous other awards, this film stars Jane Fonda, Jon Voigt and Bruce Dern. *Coming Home* was released in the early years of the post-Vietnam War era. It is both the story of a complex love triangle and of two men returning to the USA who are confused, disillusioned and changed in ways they never imagined.

The Deer Hunter [1978/R/183 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0077416

Considered by many to be among the most iconic war films ever made, this 1978 classic starring Robert De Niro won five Oscars (including Best Picture) for how it portrayed the fighting in Vietnam as well as its impact on the lives of Americans in small towns. Clocking in at just over three hours, the film's length makes it challenging to watch in one sitting, but the rewards are worth the sustained effort. It should be noted that *The Deer Hunter* came out the same year as *Coming Home* (www.imdb.com/title/tt0077362), which also won multiple Academy Awards.

Full Metal Jacket [1987/R/216 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0093058

Stanley Kubrick's widely renowned Full Metal Jacket follows a platoon of Marines through their training and experiences in the Tet Offensive.

Good Morning, Vietnam [1987/R/121 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0093105

This classic feature film starring Robin Williams was released in 1987. The story—in which an irreverent Armed Forces Radio Service DJ makes waves when stationed in Vietnam-is loosely based on the experiences of radio personality Adrian Cronauer.

The Green Berets [1968/G/142 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0063035

One of the first feature film to be made about the Vietnam War, The Green Berets stars John Wayne. Released on July 4, 1968, while the war was still under way, the film was roundly criticized as little more than propaganda; the tone of the film is more in tune with patriotic World War II films than with the Vietnam War films produced in the 1970s and onwards. The Green Berets tells the story of the soldiers of the Special Forces and is based on the novel by Robin Moore. If this film were to be screened, it should be done so with a scholar ready to lead discussion afterwards and with articles such as this one in The Guardian (www.theguardian.com/film/2014/jul/11/thegreen-berets-reel-history-john-wayne-vietnam-war) or this review by Roger Ebert (www.rogerebert. com/reviews/the-green-berets-1968) as source materials.

Green Dragon [2001/PG-13/115 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0229002

This unique film tells the story of Vietnamese refugees who were resettled at Camp Pendleton just a few weeks before the war in Vietnam came to an end. The movie, starring Patrick Swayze, explores the refugees' emotions and how they cope with change.

Hamburger Hill [1987/R/110 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0093137

A realistic and, at times, very brutal film that tells the story of what is considered to be one of the bloodiest battles during the war, the 10-day siege in May 1969 to gain control of Hill 937 in the A Shau Valley of Vietnam.

Heaven & Earth [1993/R/160 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0107096

The final film in Oliver Stone's trilogy about Vietnam follows a Vietnamese woman's painful odyssey from a peaceful childhood in a peasant village to a lifetime of upheaval both in Vietnam and the U.S. It is based on Le Ly Hayslip's memoirs, Child of War, Woman of Peace and When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman's Journey from War to Peace.

Jacob's Ladder [1990/R/113 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0099871

In this psychological horror movie, protagonist Jacob has survived Vietnam and is now back

home in New York City living a nightmare. The memories of both his wartime demons, as well as the accidental death of his son, continue to terrorize him. Haunted and suffering from a severe case of dissociation, he must work at deciphering real life from his dreams and delusions.

Platoon [1986/R/120 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0091763

Oliver Stone's antiwar *Platoon* is the first in a trilogy of Vietnam War films, followed by *Born* on the Fourth of July and Heaven & Earth. The film details the struggles of a young recruit in Vietnam who confronts the horrors of war.

Rescue Dawn [2006/PG-13/120 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0462504

Christian Bale portrays a fighter pilot that is shot down over Laos during a secret mission and becomes a prisoner of war of the Viet Cong. Based on the true story of Dieter Dengler, who was one of only seven American soldiers that ever managed to escape a POW camp during the war and live to tell about his harrowing experiences.

We Were Soldiers Once [2002/R/138 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0277434

A portrayal of the first major battle of the war, this film is based on the book *We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young* by Hal Moore, the lieutenant colonel who led 400 of his men into battle at Landing Zone X-Ray in Ia Drang Valley in November 1965, and by Joseph Galloway, the civilian reporter and photographer who accompanied them. Filming that feels like a documentary at times makes this film gritty and realistic.

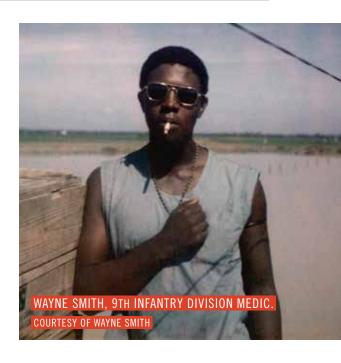
Great Vietnam War films: More helpful lists

- 10 Great Vietnam War Films compiled by the BFI www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/news-bfi/lists/10-great-vietnam-war-films
- The Best and Worst Movies about the Vietnam War by ThoughtCo. www.thoughtco.com/best-and-worst-vietnam-movies-3438699
- Best Vietnam War Movies compiled by AMC www.amc.com/movie-guide/top-vietnam-war-movies
- 10 Notable Movies about the Vietnam War from USA Today www.usatoday.com/story/life/movies/2012/11/08/ten-notable-movies-about-vietnam/1657967

Documentaries

Screening additional documentaries as companion programming can be risky; given the depth and breadth of The Vietnam War. be careful not to overload your audience with documentary content. If you do wish to screen additional documentaries, seek out options that may relate directly to your audience, add to the theme of a scholar-led discussion, or allow you to show shorter clips to enhance or contrast with clips from The Vietnam War.

Documentary films about the Vietnam War are numerous; the earliest were made while the conflict was under way and frequently captured both the war and protests. One of the earliest documentaries is Eugene S. Jones' A Face of War (www.imdb.



com/title/tt0169885), a feature-length account, released in 1968, of a single day's activities of a group of U.S. soldiers in Vietnam. This film is currently not available for screening, but clips can be found on YouTube. Another documentary on YouTube, this one from North Vietnamese war photographers' perspectives, is Vietnam's Unseen War (www.youtube.com/watch?v=-X_PPI_j6M4).

Purchasing additional documentaries for your collection to create displays or viewing lists would be very beneficial as a means of passive programming. Participants may wish to follow up on their own by viewing other documentaries at home. Being prepared with a list of other documentaries available in your collection or online would be a way to engage the community in furthering their knowledge about this era. Here are a few to consider:

Daughter from Danang

[2002/NR/83 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0303281

Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam

[1987/PG-13/84 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0092851

Hearts and Minds (1974/R/112 MINUTES)

www.imdb.com/title/tt0071604

In the Year of the Pig [1968/NR/103 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0064482

Last Days in Vietnam [2014/NR/98 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt3279124

Regret to Inform (1998/NR/72 MINUTES)

www.imdb.com/title/tt0181786

Return with Honor

[1998/NR/101 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0176093

The Camden 28

[2007/NR/83 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0808190

Vietnam in HD (2011/TV SERIES/6 EPISODES)

www.imdb.com/title/tt2109059

Vietnam: The Ten Thousand Day War

[1980/TV SERIES/26 EPISODES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0174323

Winter Soldier

[1972/NR/96 MINUTES]

www.imdb.com/title/tt0204058



Lectures and Panel Discussions

One of the first questions to ask when planning a public presentation, regardless of topic, is how can you foster an engaging learning space that is welcoming and inclusive. This can be especially challenging when the discussion topic is controversial or sensitive. Although it has been more than 40 years since the reunification of Vietnam or fall of Saigon, depending on whom you ask, memories still bring up raw emotions for some. It is important to bring in experts and scholars who can present historical facts and speak neutrally about the subject.

It is as equally important to bring in different voices and those who have firsthand experiences with the topic. Providing space for those who have survived the war is crucial in preserving history and honoring voices. As portrayed in *The Vietnam War* documentary, Americans who fought this war, had family who fought, or those who protested also played an important role in this part of history.

To find suitable lecturers or panelists, contact your local university for scholars who are experts in American wars or U.S. history to discuss the United States' role in the Vietnam War. Most universities also have an Asian or Asian-American Studies Department, and many of the professors will have curriculum or content on the war to present to a public audience. If there are Vietnamese organizations, media outlets, schools, churches or temples in your community, contact them to seek guest speakers. Don't forget Asian-led organizations and organizations of color for expert speakers.

There are several ways to integrate expert voices into your Vietnam War programming. Your library can host a screening of an episode, or series of episodes, with a lecture or panel conversation after each viewing. If you're hosting an exhibition, you can have an opening reception with a keynote or panel. You can choose a book or several books for your own Let's Talk About It reading and scholar-led discussion series (www.programminglibrarian.org/articles/ lets-talk-about-it-reading-and-discussion-series). You can have a public performance (storytelling, theater, music, etc.) and have a panel discussion afterwards. You can even host a public debate and discussion on various topics.

Some ideas for lecture topics

- North and South Vietnam: A Country Divided
- Ho Chi Minh: Revolutionist or Guerilla Warlord?
- The Kennedy/Johnson Years
- Nixon and Watergate
- Vietnamese Refugee Experience or Southeast Asian Refugee Experience
- **Vietnam Veterans**
- The African American and Latino Experience During the Vietnam War
- The Antiwar Movement
- The Burning Monk: Buddhism During the Vietnam War
- **Progression of the Viet Cong:** From Ho Chi Minh to Le Duan
- From Nguyen Sinh Cung to Ho Chi Minh
- **Post-Traumatic Stress in the Military**
- Music from the Vietnam War Era
- The Ho Chi Minh Trail
- **Hmong Involvement in the Vietnam War**
- The Secret War in Laos
- Vietnam's Forgotten Cambodian War: The Rise of Khmer Rouge
- Letters between Martin Luther King and Thich Nhat Hanh
- My Grandfather's War: Generational Perspective of the Vietnam War
- Tet and the Impact of the Tet Offensive
- Agent Orange and the Environmental Movement
- U.S. Responsibility to War Refugees
- **In-Fighting While at War:** Is It Ever Right to Oppose Your Government in Wartime?
- How Should the U.S. Make Decisions about Entering Foreign Conflicts?
- Healing a Nation: How a Nation Came Together (or Didn't) after the Vietnam War

Tips for your lecture or panel discussion

- Regardless of format, topic or style, it is vital to have speakers and/or moderators that are skilled in facilitation and who can help defuse conversations that may become confrontational or heated. Managing PTSD symptoms in program participants is similar to managing a program with difficult conversations, but understanding the symptoms (www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/post-traumatic-stressdisorder-ptsd) will help the facilitator better manage the emotions in the room.
- Be prepared for possible last-minute cancellation from a speaker because of anxiety due to PTSD.
- A little organization goes a long way. The Lancaster University has an extensive public lecture planning checklist (http://bit.ly/2tXZJBq) to help with basics of planning an event.
- Setting ground rules for your discussion can help keep participants respectful and the conversation on track. Essential Partners offers a list of sample ground rules for discussion (www.whatisessential.org/sites/default/files/SampleGroundrules.pdf).

Exhibitions

Exhibitions provide a unique way to open a window into the Vietnam War. From treasures that express the richness of Southeast Asian culture, to signage that reflects the passion of antiwar groups like Students for a Democratic Society, there is no bound to the topics that can be explored.

Libraries, archives and museums often utilize their own artifacts and ephemera for exhibitions. However, one of the best ways to harvest meaningful content is by cultivating materials from the general public. Veterans, their families, Vietnamese-American organizations, antiwar groups and cultural, historical and veterans' organizations are ideal contacts for "crowdsourcing" your way into a terrific exhibit.

Exhibitors can also take advantage of images, sound recordings and documents that are in the public domain and available through various websites, including the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University (www.vietnam.ttu.edu) and the Library of Congress' Prints and Photographs Online Catalog (www.loc.gov/pictures).

An essential aspect to displaying content is interpretation. Because most exhibits are passive by nature, the written word takes the place of the curator's voice. Try to mold your interpretation to the type of audience you think you are going to attract. Accordingly, address the content and scope of the display through a posted mission statement and write meaningful descriptions that are timely, accurate and devoid of jargon. This will answer any would-be questions while also limiting confusion. Also, in the spirit of collaboration and accuracy, be sure to engage donors and subject experts when assigning the most appropriate descriptions to individual items.

Borrowing items from an outside organization or individual requires a loan agreement that should spell out the length, goals (perhaps through an "exhibition plan"), security conditions

and specific terms of the exhibit. Legal counsel should carefully scrutinize any document consummating the loan of items. Lastly, ensure any items borrowed are covered—either by your library's current insurance or a special rider during the display term—to protect your library from the unexpected.

Keep in mind that small, well-presented exhibits are better than large, unwieldy ones. Less can truly be more in this regard, with subject matter, placement and overall design being the primary determinants of visitor satisfaction.

Because many exhibits incorporate items that are older and more ephemeral in nature, archival principle dictates a maximum display period of three months, mainly out of concern for light damage. A viable workaround is to simply photocopy or photograph unique two- and three-dimensional items to serve as surrogates and extend the workable lifespan of the exhibit.

While locating your exhibit at a central location is acceptable, consider allowing other locations or branches within your system to present their own displays around the general theme. This will increase the impact of your own exhibit and bring further attention to any accompanying programming. It is also possible for branches or systems of any size to seek out various traveling exhibits that relate to the Vietnam War. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's The Wall That Heals half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (www.vvmf.org/ twth-request) or the National Archives' Picturing Nam exhibit (www.archives.gov/files/exhibits/ nates/files/picturing-nam.pdf) are two examples.

An organization's social media presence or a pre-existing digital platform (e.g. OCLC's CONTENTAM) present additional venues for exhibition. While providing an extra avenue for access, virtual exhibits offer a safer way to present items that might be deemed irreplaceable. What's more, leveraging social media to show excerpts of an exhibit can draw visitors in to view the physical one, in addition to attending any connected programs.

For more ideas and best practices, visit:

- **University Libraries: University of Washington** www.lib.washington.edu/about/news/exhibits/guidelines
- **ALA Programming Librarian: Curating and Cultivating Exhibitors** www.programminglibrarian.org/blog/curating-and-cultivating-exhibitors

Oral History Projects

One of the easiest and more cost-effective ways to capture historic content on the Vietnam War, or any topic, is to start an oral history project.

As illustrated in the film, the most powerful expression of historical truth comes from the voices of those who were actually there. American and Vietnamese veterans of the war, Vietnamese refugees and immigrants, and civilians who either supported or opposed the war are all communities ideal for interviewing.

Start by contacting community groups (e.g. Vietnam Veterans of America, local Vietnamese cultural organizations) and describing your vision. Doing so will help you build a relationship with the organization while also giving you control over the number of interested interviewees. Also, in the case of veterans groups, because almost all require DD 214 proof of service documentation for entry, you have a built-in system for vetting the background of potential interviewees.



It's common for oral history projects to have interviewees fill out a questionnaire prior to the formal interview session; this enables the interviewer to better understand each person's experiences and craft questions accordingly. The exercise of completing the document also helps the interviewee organize their memories and construct answers beforehand.

Many of those who lived through the Vietnam era took photographs or saved ephemera. If possible, use these items to enhance the interview's video rendering, dropping in images in where relevant. (That said, audio-only sessions can be equally powerful.)

When conducting the interview, choose a private and quiet spot. You may be covering sensitive topics, so confer with the interviewee prior to the formal interview on what not to address. This will allow you to lay out a clear road map for discussion that will be comfortable for you both.

A project's bare necessities include a video camera and tripod or audio recorder, video editing software and at least one person committed to managing the project. Required forms include a questionnaire and release/informed consent document. If you have access to legal counsel, it's advisable to run your questionnaire and video/audio release drafts by them for vetting.

Use your volunteers. The transcription of interviews and the editing of sessions—even the set-up and take-down of production equipment—are ideal ways to leverage volunteer talent.

When the interview is complete and rendered into either video or audio files, you have the ability to post it to a dedicated video website like YouTube. You can also burn DVD copies of the interview for both the interviewee and his or her family. It is recommended that born-digital copies of the interview be rendered to storage in an external hard drive. Transcribed physical copies as well as DVDs should be cataloged accordingly and considered for archiving.

Another great way to share and preserve your interviews is by sending them to the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress. There you can also see oral histories from various organizations, thus enabling you to pick up production ideas for enhancing your own interviews. For access and submission guidelines, visit www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html.

Depending on the comfort level of the interviewee(s), it may also be possible to conduct a "live" oral history before a library audience, allowing you to simultaneously offer a program and record an interview. One ideal way to do so is to have an interviewer, who has developed questions in concert with the subject, conduct the interview while also moderating questions presented by the audience.

For more oral history ideas and best practices, visit:

- The Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University www.vietnam.ttu.edu/oralhistory
- Vietnamese American Oral History Project http://ucispace.lib.uci.edu/handle/10575/1614
- **Oral History Association** www.oralhistory.org/
- **Smithsonian Institution** http://folklife-media.si.edu/docs/folklife/interviewing_guide/InterviewingGuide.pdf
- **StoryCorps Vietnam Oral Histories** https://storycorps.org/?s=vietnam&type=listen
- ALA Programming Librarian: Oral History @ Your Library: A Beginner's Guide www.programminglibrarian.org/learn/oral-history-your-library-beginners-guide

Music Programs and Concerts

Music has always played a significant role in American military campaigns to unify the nation and rally the American peoples' support. The musical scores in the documentary offer a narrative of emotion and mood that reverberates from the rainforests of Vietnam to the living rooms of the United States.

In the United States, the social movements of the '60s rebelled against the political and societal norms of previous generations. They raised the awareness for many individual Americans to fight for their freedom and democracy by collectively demanding from their government transparency, truth, equality and liberty. The decade was in a revolution, making it difficult to assess if the music mirrored life or if life influenced the music.

The Vietnam War soundtrack includes music from recording artists that personified the tempestuous decade, including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, Simon & Garfunkel, Janis Joplin, Ben E. King, Phil Ochs, Donovan, Johnny Cash, Barry McGuire, Buffalo Springfield, The Byrds, Otis Redding, Santana, Joni Mitchell, Nina Simone, The Temptations, Booker T. and the M.G.s, Pete Seeger and more.

The decade of the 1960s in America witnessed a paradigm shift in the consciousness of its citizens that was reflected in the music of the era. The rise of the Black Power Movement galvanized African American recording artists in solidarity to protest the treatment of African Americans in the United States. Recording artists like James Brown gave rise to funk and soul music that resonated with defiance, resistance and acceptance, becoming a rallying cry for African Americans to expressed their self-worth and value in songs like Brown's "Say It Loud—I'm Black and I'm Proud." Meanwhile, folk artists like Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger and Joni Mitchell penned songs about the social and political unrest that resonated with many young college students who were concerned about what was happening in the country.

Music tells the story about the differences and disagreements of the Vietnam War. Just as the documentary builds its narrative around the complexity of the war, the music transverses the social landscape of the 1960s, revealing snippets at a time in history of a nation's consciousness torn apart. The music that defined the decade continues to transcend in telling the story of the United States' most bitter and divided conflict.

Library music programs offer patrons the opportunity to connect to the music of this era through cultural immersion and scholarly exploration. This is a great pathway for library engagement and outreach to your community for discussions on diversity and equality using the medium of music as the storyteller.

Build relationships with local musicians for a concert performance or schedule musical events around a Summer of Love theme, using Woodstock as a framework. Host musical sit-ins and open mic night at the library covering songs of protest. Invite scholars to speak about the social and political undertones of music to help better understand its influence.

The following resources may be helpful in your program planning:

MUSIC

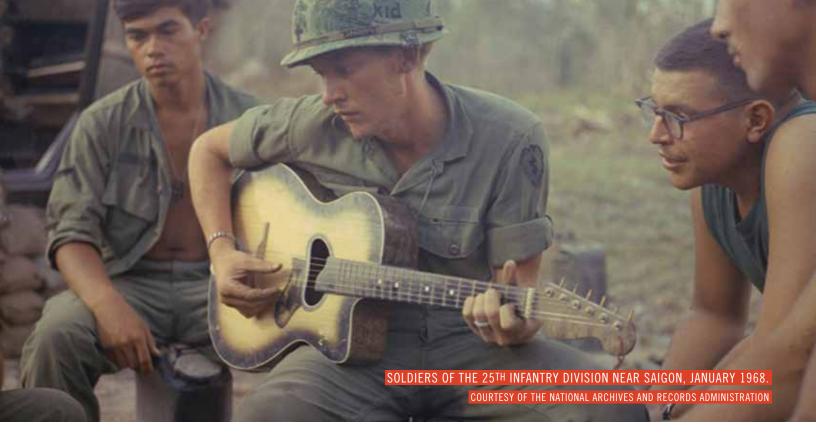
- General Edward G. Lansdale collection of Vietnam War songs, 1962–1977
 https://lccn.loc.gov/2012655208
- Next Stop Is Vietnam: The War on Record, 1961–2008 https://lccn.loc.gov/2012617913
- The Vietnam Veterans Oral History and Folklore Project http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/fishlm/folksongs
- The Twenty Best Vietnam Protest Songs www.cfr.org/blog-post/twenty-best-vietnam-protest-songs

FILM

 ABC Scope: The Viet Nam War, Part 53, The Singing Soldier American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. https://lccn.loc.gov/70701360

BOOKS

- We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War by Doug Bradley and Craig Werner, 2015
- Songs of the Vietnam Conflict by James E. Perone, 2001



Art Projects and Programs

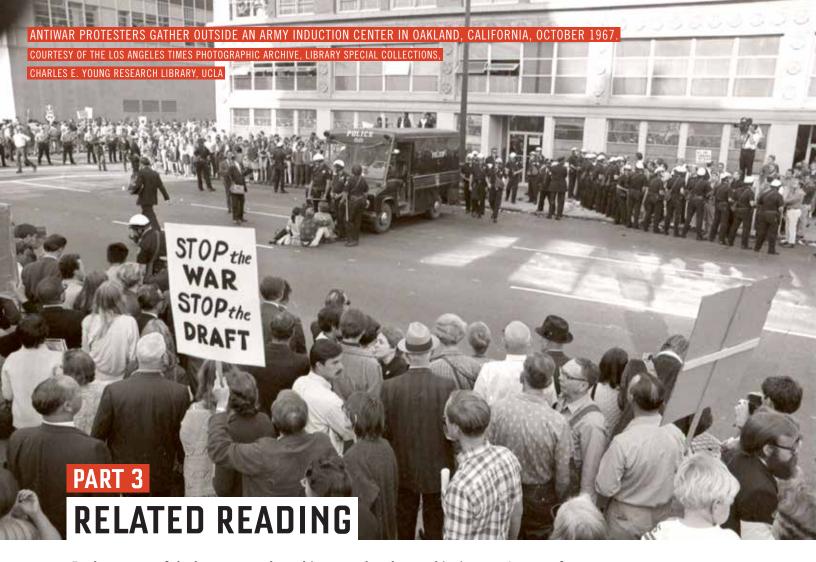
The Vietnam War gives viewers a glimpse of the juxtaposition between Eastern and Western culture and bridges art and history in telling the story about the Vietnam War. In addition to music programs, your library has an opportunity to explore this era in American history, as well as Vietnamese culture, through the arts. Cultural programming that celebrates the rich histories of Vietnamese and American culture during the 1960s, expressed through the mediums of dance, crafts and other art forms, can engage a broad audience.

Your library can offer workshops in macramé, tie-dye design, beaded art work, yarn art and Vietnamese folk-art projects. Consider offering classes in poetry, song writing, sculpture, painting and dance. Create a film festival event centered around Vietnamese culture. Host a travel excursion and invite members from the community to come to this social event, where they will explore the country of Vietnam at various stations in the library. Afterwards, serve a potluck of Vietnamese food. Invite local quilters to teach and then create a memory quilt to honor local veterans lost in the war.

You can also host an art exhibition with work from professional artists or work created locally, either during a library program or by local veterans and other makers. Collaborate with local art guilds, cultural associations, federal agencies and institutions of higher education to obtain images for an art exhibition in the library. Contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs public relations officer to inquire about displaying veterans' projects from their Creative Arts Therapy collection. Another resource for exhibiting art created by veterans is the National Veterans Art Museum (www.nvam.org).

For more ideas, visit:

 U.S. Army Vietnam Combat Artist Program http://pie.midco.net/vietwarart/vietart1.html



Books are one of the best ways to learn history and understand its impact. As part of a program, your library can have a community read-in, a book club or an author lecture. Invite local churches, senior centers, youth groups, immigrant associations or veterans' clubs to hold discussions at their locations, too. Consider adding to your collection with this selected list of books, fiction and nonfiction for different ages and reading levels.

Adult Readers

Non-Fiction

- 10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War by Philip Caputo, 2005
- After Sorrow: An American Among the Vietnamese by Lady Borton, 1995
- The Best and the Brightest by David Halberstam, 1993
- The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir by Thi Bui, 2017
- The Blood Road: The Ho Chi Minh Trail and the Vietnam War by John Prados, 2000
- Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans by Wallace Terry, 1985
- Boat People: Personal Stories from the Vietnamese Exodus 1975–1996 by Carina Hoang,
 2013
- A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam by Neil Sheehan, 1989
- Buddha's Child: My Fight to Save Vietnam by Nguyen Cao Ky and Marvin Wolf, 2002

- The Cat from Hue: A Vietnam War Story by John Laurence, 2002
- Catfish and Mandala: A Two-Wheeled Voyage through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam by Andrew X. Pham, 2000
- Cauldron of Resistance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and 1950s Southern Vietnam by Jessica M. Chapman, 2013
- Chickenhawk by Robert Mason, 2005
- Dispatches by Michael Herr, 1991
- The Eaves of Heaven: A Life in Three Wars by Andrew X. Pham, 2008
- The Girl in the Picture: The Story of Kim Phuc, the Photograph, and the Vietnam War by Denise Chong, 2001
- Hell in a Very Small Place: The Siege of Dien Bien Phu by Bernard B. Fall, 2002
- History of VietNam—Origin of Vietnamese People by Anh Tran Pham, 2015
- Ho Chi Minh: A Life by William J. Duiker, 2001
- Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the Vietnam War by Mark Bowden, 2017
- The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir by Kao Kalia Yang, 2008
- The Life We Were Given: Operation Babylift, International Adoption, and the Children of War in Vietnam by Dana Sachs, 2010
- The Lost Mandate of Heaven: The American Betrayal of Ngo Dinh Diem, President of Vietnam by Geoffrey Shaw, 2015
- The Lotus Eaters by Tatjana Soli, 2010
- Misalliance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and the Fate of South Vietnam by Edward Miller, 2013
- Nam: The Vietnam War in the Words of the Men and Women Who Fought There by Mark Baker, 2001
- Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War by Viet Thanh Nguyen, 2016
- The Odyssey of Echo Company: The 1968 Tet Offensive and the Epic Battle to Survive the Vietnam War by Doug Stanton, 2017
- Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora by Andrew Lam, 2005
- The Prison Diary of Ho Chi Minh by Ho Chi Minh, 1971
- The Ravens: Pilots of the Secret War of Laos by Christopher Robbins, 2000
- A Rift in the Earth: Art, Memory and the Fight for a Vietnam War Memorial by James Reston, Jr., 2017
- A Rumor of War by Philip Caputo, 1977
- The Sacred Willow: Four Generations in the Life of a Vietnamese Family by Duong Van Mai Elliott, 2000
- Steel My Soldiers' Hearts: The Hopeless to Hardcore Transformation of U.S. Army, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry, Vietnam by David H. Hackworth and Eilhys England, 2003
- The Unwanted: A Memoir of Childhood by Kien Nguyen, 2002
- Vietnam: A History by Stanley Karnow, 1983
- The Vietnam Reader: The Definitive Collection of Fiction and Nonfiction on the War (1998) by Stewart O'Nan, 1998
- Vietnam: The Ten Thousand Day War by Michael MacLear, 1981
- A Vietnam War Reader: American and Vietnamese Perspectives by Michael Hunt,
- Voices from Vietnam by Charlene Edwards, 2002

- The War Cradle: The Untold Story of Operation Babylift by Shirley Peck-Barnes, 2000
- We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young: Ia Drang—The Battle That Changed the War in Vietnam by Harold G. Moore and Joseph L. Galloway, 2004
- What It Is Like to Go to War by Karl Marlantes, 2011
- When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A
 Vietnamese Woman's Journey from War to Peace
 by Le Ly Hayslip, 1993
- Where the Ashes Are: The Odyssey of a
 Vietnamese Family by Qui Duc Nguyen, 2009

Fiction

- The 13th Valley by John M. Del Vecchio, 1999
- Blue Dragon, White Tiger by Van Dinh Tran, 1983
- Crossing the River by Nguyen Huy Thiep, 2002
- Dog Soldiers by Robert Stone, 1974
- Fields of Fire by James Webb, 2001
- The Gangster We Are All Looking For by Le Thi Diem Thuy, 2004
- The General Retires and Other Stories by Nguyen Huy Thiep, 1993
- Going After Cacciato by Tim O'Brien, 1999
- Grass Roof, Tin Roof by Dao Strom, 2003
- Home Before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam by Lynda Van Devanter, 2001
- The Lotus and the Storm by Lan Cao, 2014
- Love Like Hate by Linh Dinh, 2008
- Matterhorn by Karl Marlantes, 2009
- Monkey Bridge by Lan Cao, 1998
- No Passenger on the River by Tran Van Dinh, 1989
- Novel Without a Name by Duong Thu Huong, 1995
- Once Upon a Mulberry Field by C.L. Hoang, 2014
- Paco's Story by Larry Heinemann, 2005
- Paradise of the Blind by Duong Thu Huong, 2002
- The Quiet American by Graham Greene, 2004
- She Weeps Each Time You're Born by Quan Barry, 2015
- The Short-Timers by Gustav Hasford, 1983
- The Sorrow of War: A Novel of North Vietnam by Bao Ninh, Phan Thanh Hao (Translator), 1996
- The Sympathizer: A Novel by Viet Thanh Nguyen, 2015
- The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien, 1998
- Tree of Smoke by Denis Johnson, 2007



- Up Country by Nelson DeMille, 2002
- We Should Never Meet by Aimee Phan, 2005

Young Readers

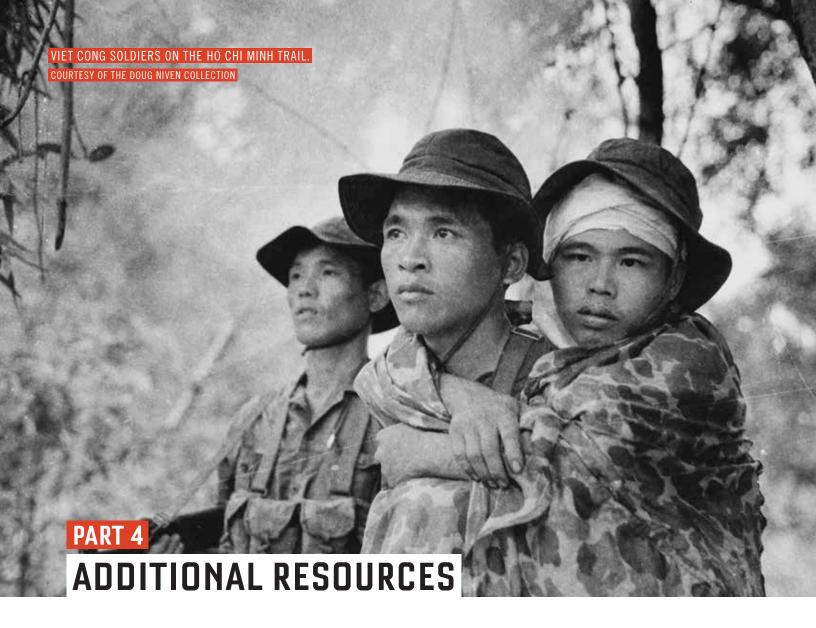
Though The Vietnam War is for mature audiences, it is still possible to plan reading and discussion programs, or highlight books in your collection, that will engage younger readers without viewing the film.

Middle-Grade and Young Adult

- Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata, 2007
- The Dragon Prince: Stories and Legends from Vietnam by Thich Nhat Hanh, 2003
- Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy by Andrea Warren, 2004
- Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai, 2011
- The Journal of Patrick Seamus Flaherty: United States Marine Corps, Khe Sanh, Vietnam, 1968 by Ellen Emerson White 2002
- The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam by Huynh Quang Nhuong, 1986
- Little Cricket by Jackie Brown, 2004
- Lost in the War by Nancy Antle, 1998
- Onion Tears by Diana Kidd, 1993
- Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam by Walter Dean Myers, 2002
- Shooting the Moon by Frances O'Roark Dowell, 2008
- Summer's End by Audrey Couloumbis, 2007
- Water Buffalo Days: Growing Up in Vietnam by Huynh Quang Nhuong, 1999
- Where Have All the Flowers Gone?: The Diary of Molly MacKenzie Flaherty, Boston, Massachusetts, 1968 by Ellen Emerson White, 2002

Children

- Angel Child, Dragon Child by Michele Maria Surat, 1989
- Children of the Dragon: Selected Tales from Vietnam by Sherry Garland, 2001
- Going Home, Coming Home by Truong Tran, 2003
- Grandfather's Dream by Holly Keller, 1994
- The Lotus Seed by Cherry Garland, 1993
- Sweet Dried Apples: A Vietnamese Wartime Childhood by Rosemary Breckler, 1996
- Ten Mice for Tet by Cynthia Weil and Pegi Deitz Shea, 2003
- Tet: The New Year by Kim-Lan Tran, 1993
- Two Lands, One Heart: An American Boy's Journey to His Mother's Vietnam by Jeremy Schmidt, 1995
- The Walking Stick by Maxine Trottier, 2012
- The Wall by Eve Bunting, 2005
- Vietnam A to Z: Discover the Colorful Culture of Vietnam! by Elka K. Ray, 2012
- Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories by Phuoc Thi Minh Tran, 2015



General Overviews

Official PBS Webpage

http://pbs.org/vietnamwar

The official PBS site for *The Vietnam War* film provides a robust interactive experience, including additional educational tools.

America in Vietnam

http://ehistory.osu.edu/books/aiv

Full text of the 1991 book by Dr. John Guilmartin, published by Military Press, distributed by Outlet Book Company, Inc, a Random House Company.

History Channel: The Vietnam War

www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war

Contains biographies of leaders such as Richard Nixon and Ho Chi Minh and articles on the causes and results of the war, the role of women, the Tet Offensive, antiwar protests and the defoliation campaign. An excellent mix of videos, photo galleries, audio and text.

Pritzker Military Museum: Vietnam War: A Half-Century On

www.pritzkermilitary.org/explore/vietnam-war

Key battles, interactive maps and oral histories of soldiers.

Digital History: The Vietnam War as History

www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/active_learning/explorations/vietnam/vietnam_menu.cfm Designed as an online textbook to support teaching American history, this website pulls together a variety of primary sources to promote discussion of key issues: inquiry-based, interactive modules designed to give students the opportunity to conduct research, analyze primary sources and draw their own conclusions.

American Experience: Last Days in Vietnam

www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/lastdays

Web companion to the 2015 American Experience television special, which focused on the fall of Saigon and the experiences of refugees and those left behind.

Perry Castaneda Map Collection: Vietnam

www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/vietnam.html

From one of the premier map collections in the country, highly detailed physiological, political and military maps of Vietnam and the region, including major cities.

Tom Pilsch Vietnam War Web Resources

www.tom.pilsch.com/Vietnam.html

Extensive collection of links emphasizing battles, strategy and weaponry.

Resources for Veterans and Their Families

Lifeline for Vets, (888) 777-4443

https://nvf.org/veterans-request-assistance

Connects callers to other veterans of America's armed forces. This hotline is "vets serving vets" and provides assistance to veterans and their friends and families.

National Center for PTSD, (877) WAR-VETS (927-8387)

www.ptsd.va.gov/public/where-to-get-help.asp

Provides resources to individuals seeking PTSD care for themselves or loved ones.

Veterans Crisis Line, (800) 273-8255

www.veteranscrisisline.net

Connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat or text.

The Mission Continues

www.missioncontinues.org

Empowers veterans facing the challenge of adjusting to life at home to find new missions.

American Legions

www.legion.org

Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the American Legion currently has about 2.4 million members in 14,000 posts worldwide.

VFW-Veterans of Foreign Wars USA

www.vfw.org

Fosters camaraderie among U.S. veterans of overseas conflicts.

Archives and Documents

Texas Tech University: Vietnam Center and Archive

www.vietnam.ttu.edu

The Vietnam Center and Archive collects and preserves the documentary record of the Vietnam War and supports and encourages research and education regarding all aspects of the American Vietnam experience.

National Archives Vietnam War Research

www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/vietnam-war.html

Overview of all National Archives records on Vietnam: casualty and POW/MIA lists, online exhibits from the Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon presidential libraries, maps, Medal of Honor recipients and more.

National Security Archive: Declassified CIA Documents

http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB284

The Central Intelligence Agency participated in every aspect of the wars in Indochina, political and military. The six volumes of formerly secret histories document CIA activities in South and North Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in unprecedented detail, shedding light on aspects of the CIA's work that were not well known or were poorly understood.

Wilson Center Digital Archive

http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/87/vietnam-war

Chronologically arranged collection of declassified documents from 1956 to 1997.

Michigan State University Vietnam Group Archive

http://vietnamproject.archives.msu.edu

Images and data that provides insight of Vietnam's "social and economic history and the transition from colonial to post-colonial states."

Naval History and Heritage Command Tonkin Gulf Page

www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/t/tonkin-gulf-crisis.html

Excellent overview, documents collection and analysis of a major turning point in the South Asia conflict.

Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; Yale Law School, The Avalon Indochina

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/indoch.asp

A collection of State Department documents available online from Yale University Law School.

Soldiers' Stories

The Virtual Wall

www.virtualwall.org

Photos, bios and remembrances of fallen veterans, searchable by name, hometown, date of death or military unit. Has list of educational resources, including web pages for military units.

Library of Congress Vietnam War Veterans History Project

www.loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-vietnam50.html

Interviews representing a wide variety of branches, service locations and military roles; collectively, they illuminate the dramatic—and ongoing—effects of the war on those who participated. Searchable by name, keyword, military division, state of residence and soldier's ethnicity. Some audio, some video.

The Oral History Project, Texas Tech University: Vietnam Center and Archive

www.vietnam.ttu.edu/oralhistory/interviews

Nearly 1,000 interview audios and transcripts.

Dartmouth Vietnam Project Oral Histories

www.dartmouth.edu/~dvp

Approximately 70 oral histories collected and transcribed by the Dartmouth community. Links to oral history collections as well as to published oral histories.

Ancestry.com Vietnam War: U.S. Military Casualties

http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3095

Database of more than 110,000 names of soldiers who died during the Vietnam War. Searchable by name, birth date, military rank, service branch, battalion or squadron, casualty type, marital status, race and gender. Searchable for free through many local public libraries.

Open Vault: The Vietnam Collection

http://openvault.wgbh.org/collections/vietnam/interviews

Vietnam: A Television History was a landmark documentary series produced by WGBH. This collection contains archival footage and interviews with American soldiers and government officials and Vietnamese civilians and officials.

Vietnam War. Awards and Decorations of Honor

http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8847

More than 80,000 awards and decorations of honor awarded to U.S. and Allied foreign military personnel during the Vietnam War. Searchable for free through many local public libraries.

Vietnam War: A Memoir—The Tet Offensive

https://vwam.com//tet.html

A historical website offering information about the Tet Offensive.

View from Vietnam: Vietnamese Stories

Another Vietnam: Photos from the Winning Side

http://mashable.com/2016/02/05/another-vietnam-photography/#I5RK2ZftVGqA

The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong had hundreds of photographers of their own who documented every facet of the war under the most dangerous conditions. Almost all were self-taught and worked for the Vietnam News Agency, the National Liberation Front, the North Vietnamese Army or various newspapers.

Teaching the "American War": Looking at the War in Vietnam through Vietnamese Eyes

http://resources.primarysource.org/warinvietnam

These primary source activities—designed to complement topics that are traditionally covered from U.S. perspectives—prompt students to consider the war through the eyes of the Vietnamese.

UCLA Library Guide to Vietnamese Films about the Vietnam War

http://guides.library.ucla.edu/c.php?g=180400&p=1191256

Lists Vietnamese films in the UCLA collection that provide information related to the Vietnam War.

Viet Stories: Vietnamese American Oral History Project

http://sites.uci.edu/vaohp

Documents the histories and legacies of first-generation Vietnamese Americans and their memories of life in Vietnam, the Vietnam War and the displacement and resettlement of refugees. Aims to change the misperceptions of Vietnamese American refugees and examines the impact of refugee resettlement policies on multi-generations.

Vietnam War as Seen by the Victors

http://theatIn.tc/2w55ONN

Moving article from The Atlantic with reflections from North Vietnamese soldiers and civilians.

The Homefront: Protests and Counter-Culture

History.com: War Protests

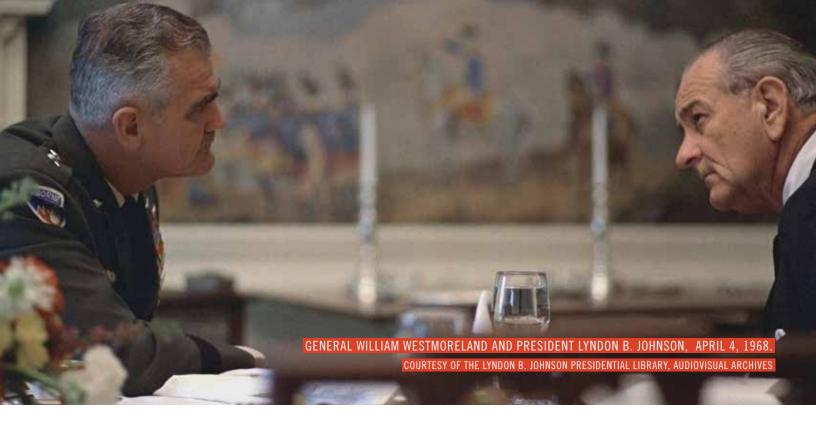
www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/vietnam-war-protests

Collection of interviews and video on the Vietnam antiwar movement.

Antiwar and Radical History Project: Vietnam

http://depts.washington.edu/antiwar/vietnam_intro.shtml

Terrific primary source collection of news clippings, photos and interviews with students, GIs and draft resisters. From the Pacific Northwest Antiwar and Radical History Project.



Pacifica Radio/Berkeley Social Activism Sound Recording Anti-Vietnam War Project

www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/pacificaviet.html

The UC Berkeley Social Activism Sound Recording Project Collection of primary source media resources related to social activism and activist movements in California in the 1960s and 1970s. Recordings and transcripts are interspersed into a Vietnam War timeline from 1960 to 1975.

Chicago 7 (or 8) Trial

http://famous-trials.com/chicago8

Illustrated overview of the trial and its aftermath, with maps, transcripts, audio clips and photos.

Report of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest

https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED083899

Full text of the 418-page document from September 1970. Covers student protest in the 1960s, the black student movement, university and law enforcement response to campus disorder, university reform and Kent State and Jackson State.

Kent State University: Learn about the History of May 4

www.kent.edu/may-4-1970

Kent State University provides an account of the shootings that took place there on May 4, 1970.

Slate: Personal Remembrances of Kent State

 $www.slate.com/blogs/behold/2013/05/04/may_4_1970_the_kent_state_university_shootings_told_through_pictures_photos.html$

Interview with Carole Barbato, Kent State witness and curator of the May 4 Visitors Center at Kent State.

Jackson State University Shootings

www.may41970.com/Jackson%20State/jackson_state_may_1970.htm

Ten days after Kent State, two students were shot dead during antiwar protests on the campus of all-black Jackson State University. This website covers that lesser-known tragedy.

Gibbs/Green Tragedy at Jackson State

www.jbhe.com/2012/05/remembering-the-tragic-shooting-at-jackson-state

The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education shares an account of the shootings at Jackson State.

Agent Orange

Agent Orange Record

www.agentorangerecord.com

Comprehensive guide to the history, science, usage and legacy of the notorious defoliant.

A project of the War Legacies Project, which works to address the long-term health, environmental and socio-economic impacts of war.

Department of Veteran Affairs Agent Orange Page

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations
Official guide to Agent Orange usage and effects from the VA.

National Center for Biotechnology Information: Veterans and Agent Orange

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK195090

Reviews recent peer-reviewed scientific reports concerning associations between health outcomes and exposure to chemicals in the herbicides used in Vietnam.

Women in the War

This is Vietnow: Women of the War

www.vietnow.com/military-women-of-the-vietnam-war

Article on both American and Vietnamese women who served, with a bibliography.

Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation

www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org

Video of verse, prose and music performed each year at the memorial by women who served in support of the Armed Forces in a variety of occupations around the world. Men who knew their sisters in war also share their stories.

Cultural Influences: Films, Music, Literature

Wellesley College: Films on the Vietnam War

http://academics.wellesley.edu/Polisci/wj/Vietnam/vietfilms.html

Divided into documentaries on the war, documentaries on the antiwar movement, feature films, films on the wars in Cambodia and Laos, and films on Vietnam today.

Vietnam War in Film

www.questia.com/library/communication/media-studies/film/vietnam-war-in-film From The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th ed. Includes descriptions and previews from 10 books on the war in film.

Sounds of Vietnam

www.manchu.org/sounds

To most Americans, the Vietnam War has a rock and roll soundtrack. Troops listened to Sony radios, Akai stereos and Teac tape decks, and new troops arrived weekly with the latest records from the states. Many of the sound clips were recorded on a reel-to-reel recorder in Vietnam.

Vietnam War Song Project

https://rateyourmusic.com/list/JBrummer/vietnam-war-song-project-1 Thorough collection of audio files and reference guides to songs of the era.

Best Literature About the Vietnam War

www.goodreads.com/list/show/208.Best_Literature_About_the_Vietnam_War Chosen by readers, 245 works of fiction and nonfiction related to the war.

Vietnam War in Literature

www.questia.com/library/literature/literary-themes-and-topics/vietnam-war-in-literature Thoughtful article from Questia on the role of Vietnam War literature, with a bibliography (with previews) of several source guides.

Latinos and African Americans in the War

African American Involvement in the Vietnam War

Political cartoons, audio excerpts of speeches and articles on the dual fronts of the civil rights movement at home and the war overseas.

The Invisible Force: Latinos at War in Vietnam

https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2015/05/25/the-invisible-force-latinos-at-war-in-vietnam Profile from KQED news in California of Tomas Sandoval, who has extensively researched the Latino American experience in Vietnam.

Chicano Moratorium

www.youtube.com/watch?v=famNeiosTVk

On August 29, 1970, citizens of East L.A. came together to voice their dissent against the Vietnam War in a "Chicano Moratorium." Loyola Marymount film student Tom Myrdahl shot this documentary, capturing the events that unfolded as law enforcement and protesters clashed in and around Laguna Park.

On Two Fronts: Latinos and Vietnam

http://ontwofrontsmovie.com

Examines the Latino experience during a war that placed its heaviest burden on working-class

youth. During the Vietnam War Latinos began asking for the first time, what is the true cost of war and the appropriate price of citizenship?

My Lai

Scene of the Crime: Seymour Hersh and My Lai

www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/03/30/the-scene-of-the-crime

The journalist who broke the story of the massacre returns to interview participants and survivors.

45 Years After My Lai, A Generation Is Lost

http://wapo.st/2vhIEY6

Survivors recall lost family and friends from My Lai in this *Washington Post* article by British journalist Simon Speakman Cordall.

Report of Department of the Army Review of the Preliminary Investigations into the My Lai Incident

www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/Peers_inquiry.html

This collection provides the results of General Peers' investigation of the "My Lai incident"—the report, witness testimonies, exhibit materials and U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command statements.

Was My Lai Just One of Many Massacres?

www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-23427726

The My Lai massacre is often held to have been an aberration, but investigative journalist Nick Turse examines evidence that war crimes, such as "Speedy Express," were committed by the U.S. military on a far bigger scale.

POW and MIA

Library of Congress POW/MIA Database and Documents

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/pow

This database contains 160,884 records: official correspondence, reports and any other information related to POWs and MIAs.

POW Network Biographies

www.pownetwork.org/bios.htm

Organized by a POW/MIA support organization; provides as much information as possible on the circumstances surrounding each soldier's disappearance.

MIA Facts

http://www.miafacts.org

Comprehensive compilation of primary sources, research and conspiracy theories related to Vietnam soldiers missing in action.

Refugees

United Nations High Commission on Refugees: Vietnam

www.unhcr.org/en-us/protection/operations/50001e799/viet-nam-fact-sheet.html Stories and statistics from the lifesaving refugee program.

Vietnamese Boat People: Living to Tell the Tale

www.theguardian.com/global/2016/mar/20/vietnamese-boat-people-survivors-families A family looks back on their unlikely survival.

Remembering the Fall of Saigon and Vietnam's Mass "Boat People" Exodus

www.thedailybeast.com/remembering-the-fall-of-saigon-and-vietnams-mass-boat-people-exodus Carina Hoang, author of Boat People: Personal Stories, recalls her family's escape from Vietnam.

The Vietnamese Boat People

http://adst.org/2014/07/the-vietnamese-boat-people

From the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, an analysis of the diplomatic crisis posed by South Vietnamese refugees.

Vietka: Archives of the Vietnamese Boat People

www.vietka.com

Harrowing first-person narratives of the experiences of the "boat people."

The Doomed First Flight of Operation Babylift

www.npr.org/2015/04/26/402208267/remembering-the-doomed-first-flight-of-operation-babylift NPR story on the first attempt to airlift Vietnamese children after the fall of Saigon.

Operation Babylift

www.atlasobscura.com/articles/after-the-vietnam-war-america-flew-planesfull-of-babies-back-to-the-us

Reminiscences, with stunning photos, from participants in the airlift of Vietnamese babies.

The Wall

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

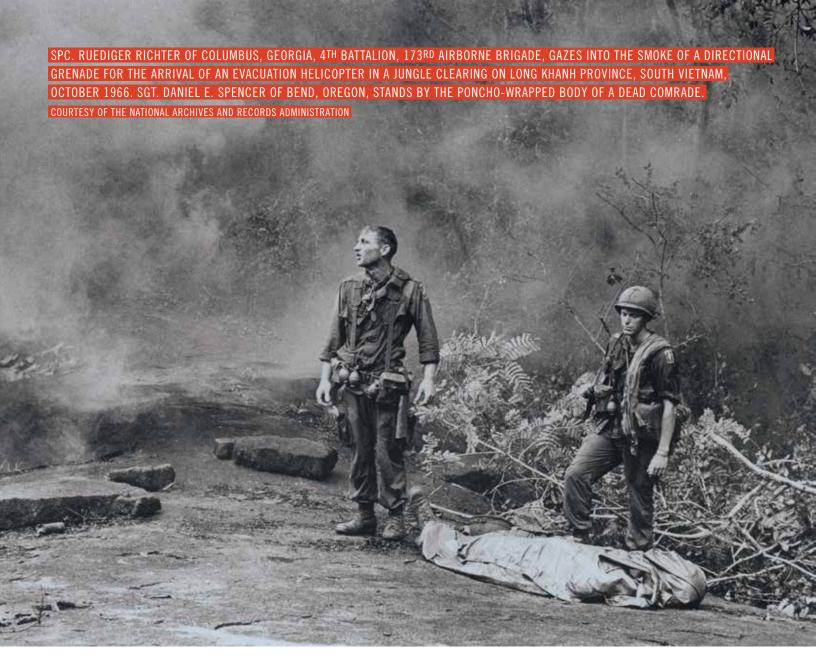
www.vvmf.org

Official site for the memorial wall, with photos, stories and lists of names.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Founder: The Wall Almost Never Got Built

www.npr.org/2015/04/30/403034599/vietnam-veterans-memorial-founder-monumentalmost-never-got-built

Interview with Jan Scruggs on his struggle to build the Vietnam Memorial.



The Wall USA

http://thewall-usa.com

The Wall USA is a nonprofit endeavor dedicated to honoring those who died in Vietnam, maintained by veterans of the 4th Battalion 9th Infantry Regiment. Includes photos, poetry, statistics on the wall and an extensive list of Vietnam memorials across the country.

The Remarkable Story of Maya Lin's Vietnam Veterans Memorial

www.biography.com/news/maya-lin-vietnam-veterans-memorial
Overview of Lin's design for the memorial and the controversy that resulted.

Never Forget: A Memorial Like No Other

http://bit.ly/2vmnM0w

Insightful look at the controversy over the wall and what it says about attitudes toward war and remembrance.

THE VIETNAM WAR PRODUCTION CREDITS: The Vietnam War is a production of Florentine Films and WETA, Washington D.C. Directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. Written by Geoffrey C. Ward. Produced by Sarah Botstein, Lynn Novick and Ken Burns.

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ABOUT WETA: WETA Washington, DC, is one of the largest producing stations of new content for public television in the United States. WETA productions and co-productions include PBS NewsHour, Washington Week, The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize, The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, Latino Americans and The Italian Americans; documentaries by filmmaker Ken Burns, including The Civil War, Baseball, The National Parks: America's Best Idea, The Roosevelts: An Intimate History and The Vietnam War; and productions by Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., including Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Season Three), Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise and Africa's Great Civilizations. WETA presentations include Martha Stewart's Cooking School, Pati's Mexican Table, Sara's Weeknight Meals, Globe Trekker and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood. Sharon Percy Rockefeller is president and CEO. The WETA studios and administrative offices are located in Arlington, Virginia. More information on WETA and its programs and services is available at www.weta.org. On social media, visit www.facebook.com/wetatvfm on Facebook or follow @WETAtvfm on Twitter.

ABOUT ALA: The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with approximately 58,000 members in academic, public, school, government and special libraries. ALA's mission is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

THIS PROGRAMMING GUIDE was created by ALA's Public Programs Office and WETA, with special assistance from the following librarian advisors: Janie Hermann, James Scott, Coi Vu, Lesley Williams and Janice Young.



THERE IS







NO SINGLE TRUTH







IN WAR





