

Apart from the documents, the book reproduces several photos and political cartoons, and includes a three-page time line, a short bibliography, and a comprehensive index. As a documentary source-book, this is a very successful effort.

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William Dudley, ed. *The Vietnam War: Opposing Viewpoints*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, Inc., 1998. Pp. 284. Paper, \$12.96; ISBN 1-56510-700-4.

Books of "readings" invariably reflect the attitudes of the editors who select and shape the materials to be included in the book. That in itself is a reason to be cautious in using such books as texts, particularly in a course dealing with the complex historical events that make up the American-Vietnamese war of the 1960s and 1970s. William Dudley and his colleagues on the staff of Greenhaven Press have chosen thirty-two selections of varying length, organized them in for-or-against pairings in six chapters, and introduced each chapter with a short preface. Dudley is not a professional historian, but the book, one in a series in the "opposing viewpoints" format, is competently manufactured with an excellent glossary, chronology, and bibliography, the latter including many of the most important books dealing with the Vietnam War.

My problem with this book is its brevity. By comparison, the standard book in this field, edited by Robert J. McMahon, runs 647 pages and includes 105 documents and 36 essays arranged in fifteen chapters. Both Dudley and McMahon have presented their selections accurately, but Dudley excluded material about the way the war was actually fought on both sides. Rather than the chapter on "Protesters and Soldiers," two chapters--one on dissent and its impact and the other on the troops on both sides--would have given a more balanced picture of the conduct of the war. This is particularly relevant because the book is intended for a "young adult audience," one inherently unfamiliar with the issues and the complexities of the Vietnam war.

Because of the format, the brief selections cannot provide sufficient explanations of complicated events. For example, the maneuvering in Geneva that accompanied America's commitment first to France, then to South Vietnam, is touched on in several chapter prefaces and can be found with the help of the index in several viewpoints, but without a substantial knowledge of the period the student will not be able to make the connection or assess importance. Likewise, the important issues of the 1968 Tet offensive and comparative data on the opposing military forces get little attention. Added to this problem is the absence of traditional notes to reveal sources of statistics or information in the chapter and viewpoint prefaces that are presented as facts. Happily, the writing is clear and historically correct in most instances.

With regard to balance, surely the selection "Sending American Troops to Cambodia is Immoral?" is not the only alternative position to the selection "Sending American Troops to Cambodia is Necessary," but the editors suggest as much with their format. Another format problem is that it is not clear where the editorial portion of each viewpoint ends and the selection itself begins because the author of the original document is listed before the editorial remarks. There are some illustrations, short excerpts, and maps that make the book more useful in the classroom. Dudley and his colleagues have retitled selections and have added subtitles to parts of the selections for "clarity."

A knowledgeable teacher could use this book effectively, along with a good text and classroom comment, but I would use the McMahon book of readings along with a short text by Duiker, Hess, or Herring rather than this book. [Robert J. McMahon, ed., *Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam*, 2d ed. (Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath, 1995, pbk); William J. Duiker, *The Communist Road to Power in Vietnam*, 2d ed. (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1996, pbk); Gary R. Hess, *Vietnam and the United States: Origins and Legacy of War* (Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1990, pbk); and George C. Herring, *LBJ and Vietnam: a Different Kind of War* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994)].

The First Division Museum at Cantigny

John F. Votaw

James S. Olson and Randy Roberts, eds. *My Lai: A Brief History with Documents*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998. Pp. xiv, 222. Cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 0-312-17767-4. Paper, \$7.50; ISBN 0-312-14227-7.

No issue has more divided Americans in recent decades than the Vietnam War, and the painful reminder of the My Lai Massacre stills haunts the nation today. Charlie Company's murder of almost 400 noncombatants shocked a public already polarized by the government's growing credibility gap following the Tet Offensive. When Seymour Hersh's articles first appeared in November 1969, many people refused to believe that American soldiers could perpetrate such a heinous crime on civilians, but others were quick to point out that atrocities routinely had been carried out by both sides in the protracted Southeast Asian war. Ron Haeberle's graphic photographs of the massacre, which were published in *Life* magazine during the following month, further fueled the debate and led to creation of the Peers Commission to conduct a thorough investigation.

This book, a volume in the highly successful Bedford Series in History and Culture, offers the full story of My Lai through a reprinting of key press releases, eyewitness testimonies, and editorial articles. Sixty-eight primary documents describe the background to the massacre, assault on the village, cover-up, testimonies from