

Publications

BOOKS & REVIEWS

The following is a list of books and publications authored, edited or translated by members of the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans. Help NCVA by purchasing books and other products by using the links below. Jackie Bong Wright

Autumn Cloud: From Vietnamese War Widow to American Activist Le Thi Thu Van, whose first name translates as Autumn Cloud, was born in 1940 in Cambodia, where her affluent Vietnamese parents lived. She and her large family, like millions of other southern Vietnamese, were profoundly affected by the wars and civil unrest that buffeted Southeast Asia for most of the next four decades: the Japanese occupation during World War II; the First Indochina War from 1945 to 1954, which ended with the humiliating French defeat at Dien Bien Phu; and the American war, which began incrementally in the mid-'50s, peaked in the late-'60s and ended ingloriously with the Communist victory in 1975. Le Thi Thu Van's family suffered in many ways during these momentous events. The family fortune was lost; one sister abandoned the family to devote her life to the Communist revolution; a brother was killed in the American war; another brother did not survive the Communist postwar "re-education" camps. The author married a reform-minded South Vietnamese politician; he was assassinated, probably by the Vietcong. She was left with three young children. Le Thi Thu Van tells three stories in this smoothly written autobiography: her own, her family's and Vietnam's. The most effective sections are the straightforward depictions of the many and varied events of the author's life and her explanations of Vietnamese society and culture. The least successful are the sketchy historical sections and the author's staunchly anti-Communist analyses of the reasons behind the American defeat. Overall, though, the author shows very well how Le Thi Thu Van went from "being an innocent girl to a sophisticated wife, an unexpected widow, and finally a professional woman," known on three continents as Jackie Bong Wright. Bui Diem

Vietnamese Economy and Its Transformation to an Open Market System Incorporating current research and extensive technical analysis by leading economists from both the United States and Vietnam, this collection of original papers seeks to clarify what further steps are needed so that Vietnam can flourish. It analyzes the dramatic transformation of Vietnam's economy during the 1990s and its prospects for the future as the pace of reform has slowed. The three main sections of the book discuss Vietnam's turbulent history, recent economic reforms, and the country's emerging role in the world economy and geopolitics. Individual chapters examine a myriad of issues, including specific reforms in agriculture, banking, and tax policy, as well as the attempts to create a business-oriented legal structure, the development of foreign trade and a viable balance of payments, and U.S. policy reactions to Vietnam's development in the last decade.

In the Jaws of History Active in the Vietnamese nationalist movement, the nephew of Emperor Bao Dai's short-termed prime minister Tran Trong Kim, founder of the Saigon Post, and ultimately South Vietnam's ambassador to the United States, Bui Diem was both a participant in and observer of the post-World War II struggles of Vietnam. Though well written and at times illuminating, his perspective is seldom self-critical and often reveals how detached he was from the decision-making process. This may not be the most satisfying historical expose but it does serve to illustrate his central point: that when the Americans sent in troops they took over the war, exhibiting a blatant disregard of South Vietnamese interests (culminating in the forced acceptance of the Paris Accords).

Vietnam as History: Ten Years after the Paris Peace Accords A compact authoritative "Vietnam reader" featuring work by some of the best scholars who are now re-examining the war. Contributors to the volume include Richard Betts, Larry Berman, Douglas Blaufarb, Herbert Y. Schandler, Paul Miles, Edwin Simmons, Richard Hunt, George C. Herring, Peter Rodman, Stanley Falk, Bui Diem, Douglas Pike, Stanley Karnow, Alan Gropman, Allan E. Goodman, Vincent Demma, Samuel Popkin, Harry G. Summers, Jr., Russell F. Weigley, Robert E. Osgood, John Mueller, Lawrence W. Lichty and others. Co-published with The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Nguyen Manh Hung

Vietnam: Facing the Challenge of Integration This article presents a review of major