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## Who Is The Enemy?

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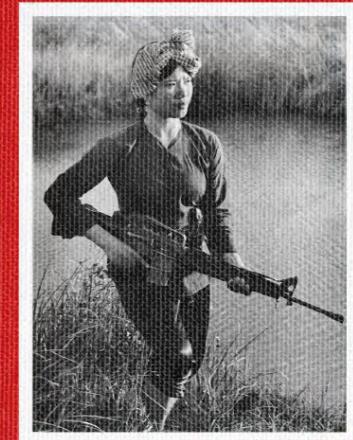
This project is a hardback book proposal on the Vietnam War. It includes striking imagery paired with a sober black and white design on the inside to represent the good and evil of war. The imagery on the cover reflects the suggestive nature of the title.

# Alexa Holt



# Who

# Is



# The

# Enemy?

## THE BEGINNING - 1955

Vietnam, a nation in Southeast Asia on the eastern edge of the Indochinese peninsula, had been under French colonial rule since the 19th century. During World War II, Japanese forces invaded Vietnam. To fight off both Japanese occupiers and the French colonial administration, political leader Ho Chi Minh—inspired by Chinese and Soviet communism—formed the Viet Minh, or the League for the Independence of Vietnam.

Following its 1945 defeat in World War II, Japan withdrew its forces from Vietnam, leaving the French-educated Emperor Bao Dai in control. Seeing an opportunity to seize control, Ho's Viet Minh forces immediately rose up, taking over the northern city of Hanoi and declaring a Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) with Ho as president. Seeking to regain control of the region, France backed Emperor Bao and set up the state of Vietnam in July 1949, with the city of Saigon as its capital. Both sides wanted the same thing: a unified Vietnam. But while Ho and his supporters wanted a nation modeled after other communist countries, Bao and many others wanted a Vietnam with close economic and cultural ties to the West.

The Vietnam War and active U.S. involvement in the war had begun in 1954, though ongoing conflict in the region had stretched back several decades. After Ho's communist forces took power in the north, armed conflict between northern and southern armies continued until the northern Viet Minh's decisive victory in the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in May 1954. The French loss at the battle ended almost a century of French colonial rule in Indochina. The subsequent treaty signed in July 1954 at a Geneva conference split Vietnam along the latitude known as the 17th Parallel (17 degrees north latitude), with Ho in control in the North and Bao in the South of Vietnam. The treaty also called for nationwide elections for reunification to be held in 1956. In 1955, however, the strongly anti-communist politician Ngo Dinh Diem pushed Emperor Bao aside to become president of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam (GRV), often referred to during that era as South Vietnam.

With the Cold War intensifying worldwide, the United States hardened its policies against any allies of the Soviet Union, and then by 1955 President Dwight D. Eisenhower had pledged his firm support to Diem and South Vietnam. With training and equipment from American military and the CIA, Diem's security forces cracked down on Viet Minh sympathizers in the south, whom he derisively called Viet Cong (or Vietnamese Communist), arresting some 100,000 people, many of whom were brutally tortured and executed.

By 1957, the Viet Cong and other opponents of Diem's repressive regime began fighting back with attacks on the government officials and other targets, and by 1959 they had begun engaging the South Vietnamese army in various fire-fights across the south of the country.



Photographed at the top are three young guerrillas wearing grenades at their belts, preparing to fight the encroaching Viet Minh forces in the Red River Delta, Northern Vietnam, 1954.



Taken at the Battle of Ia Drang, on November 15th, 1965, is an American GI dashing across the clearing to load the body of a comrade aboard the waiting Huey helicopter.

## PROMINENT FIGURES

Ngô Đình Diệm (January 3, 1901 - November 2, 1963) served as the President of the Republic of Vietnam from 1955 until his death in 1963. A zealous Catholic, Diệm had studied at Maryknoll seminary in New Jersey and at a Belgian Benedictine monastery. Then returning to Vietnam in the wake of the Geneva Accords in 1954, he was appointed Prime Minister under the government of Bao Dai. With U.S. support, Diệm became President of the Republic of Vietnam in 1955. Diệm served as president for most of the next decade, holding the office as a massive influx of American aid redefined the conflict between the southern Republic of Vietnam and the northern Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Diệm was heavily criticized by his contemporaries in Vietnam and in the United States for his notable corruption.

A great deal of the aid sent to Diệm's government was often used for his own personal use, and the development of an effective South Vietnamese military progressed slowly. Additionally, Diệm proved widely unpopular throughout his nation for his nepotism, iron fist, and religious persecution. Diệm promoted members of his family to high government postings, making his brother head of South Vietnam's infamous secret police force, and often favored policies that benefited the Catholic Vietnamese minority over the Buddhist majority. His de-facto first lady (as Diệm remained a bachelor his whole life) was his brother's spouse, popularly known as Madame Nhu. Madame Nhu was reviled throughout Vietnam for her elitism and cruel indifference to the Vietnamese people. Her comments on the "barbaric" protests of self-immolating Buddhist monks stained the Diệm presidency. By 1963, as the crisis over the persecution of Buddhism shook the Diệm government, numerous army officers planned and executed a coup against Diệm. Diệm and his brother were killed on November 2, 1963.

Another prominent Vietnamese figure was Nguyễn Văn Thiệu (April 5, 1923 - September 29, 2001) served as President of the Republic of Vietnam from 1967 until 1975. Thiệu was a western officer, having served with the French during the First Indochina War, trained in the U.S., and converted to Catholicism. Thiệu took part in the 1963 coup against President Diệm, and was a member of the military junta which led the nation after his death. In 1965, Thiệu became the figurehead for the junta government, developing a system of power shared with Nguyen Cao Kỳ, the head of the South Vietnamese air force. A bitter rivalry between the two men resulted in their competition for the presidency in 1967. Thiệu won the office, though the election was far from fair. Thiệu made a few attempts at removing corrupt officials and initiating reform, but was also quick to crush the dissent and amassed a vast personal fortune through illicit means. He was re-elected president in 1971 after running unopposed and led the Republic of Vietnam through the American withdrawal.

The Official Presidential head-shot of Ngô Đình Diệm taken back in 1955 which is when he was elected.



A Viet Cong Guerrilla stands guard in the Mekong Delta. She was only 24 years old but had been widowed twice. Both her husbands were soldiers.

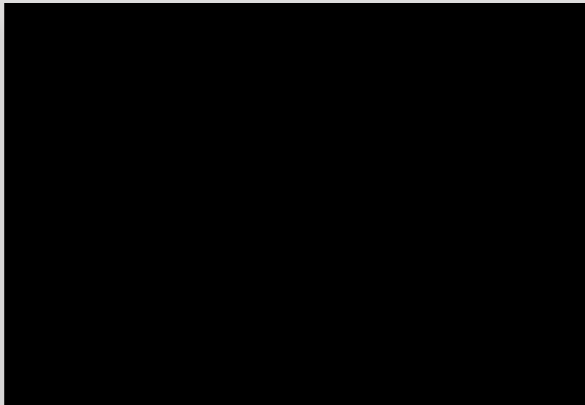
Bottom right is a US GI soldier crouched in the tall grass reeds in the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam. The tall grass making this the perfect cover for an enemy ambush.

Below is a photograph taken of another US GI soldier watching over a group of Vietnamese women and children after their village and homes have been destroyed.



# Alexa Holt

## Who Is The Enemy?



# WHO IS THE ENEMY

THE VIETNAM WAR  
BY ALEXA HOLT

Approved by the  
Library of Congress  
for the National Endowment for the Humanities  
under the provisions of the National Endowment for the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended.

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# WHO IS THE ENEMY

THE VIETNAM WAR  
BY ALEXA HOLT



This book is dedicated to all of the brave soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War. It is a tribute to their courage and sacrifice, and to the peace that we all desire. It is a book that should be read by all who care about the world and the future of our country.

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### A BRIEF HISTORY

The Vietnam War was a protracted conflict that pitted the communist government of North Vietnam and its ally the Soviet Union, against the government of South Vietnam and its ally the United States. It began as a struggle for independence from French rule, and later as a civil war between North and South Vietnam. The war ended in 1975 with the fall of Saigon and the reunification of the country under communist rule.



### THE BEGINNING - 1955

After the Geneva Accords of 1954, Vietnam was divided into two halves. The north was controlled by the communist government, and the south by the anti-communist government. The United States supported the south, while the Soviet Union supported the north. The war began in 1955 when the north launched an invasion of the south.

The war continued to escalate as the United States increased its military presence in the south. In 1965, the U.S. began a large-scale bombing campaign against North Vietnam. The war became a major political and social issue in the United States, leading to widespread protests and a growing anti-war movement.

### PROMINENT FIGURES

Key figures in the Vietnam War include Lyndon B. Johnson, who escalated the war; Hubert H. Humphrey, who opposed it; and the many soldiers who fought and died. The war also saw the rise of the anti-war movement, led by figures like Martin Luther King Jr.

The war had a profound impact on the United States and the world. It led to the Vietnam Veterans' Administration, which provides support for veterans and their families. The war also led to the development of the anti-war movement, which played a significant role in the end of the war.

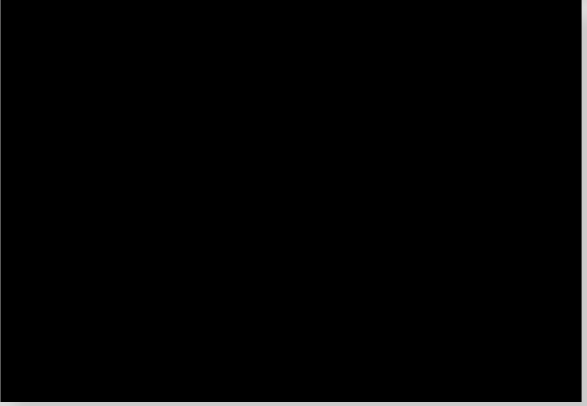
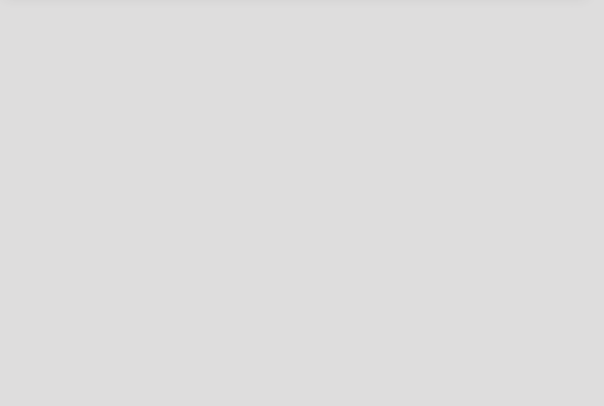


The war also had a significant impact on the culture and society of the United States. It led to the development of the anti-war movement, which played a significant role in the end of the war. The war also led to the development of the Vietnam Veterans' Administration, which provides support for veterans and their families.



### THE END - 1975

In January 1975, the United States and South Vietnam withdrew their forces from Vietnam. The communist government of North Vietnam entered the city of Saigon, and the war ended. The war had a profound impact on the United States and the world, and its legacy continues to be felt today.

## Slug by Hollie McNish

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This is a Live brief set by Little Brown Books to design a cover for the poet Hollie McNish's new book called Slug and other things I've been told to hate. I took an illustrative approach drawing my own typography to create a unique composition.





A collection of 68 Artists work, along with the Contributors Essay's and Artists words.

Fine Art 2023

PRINTERS  
David White

DESIGN  
Chloe Larkin  
Sam Hoyle

The Editors Note

As we begin to see the future of art, we are excited to see the work of our contributors. It is a pleasure to see the work of our contributors, and we are excited to see the work of our contributors. It is a pleasure to see the work of our contributors, and we are excited to see the work of our contributors.

Good luck  
Bradley Dukes & Suzanne Hill  
The Editors

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# 2023 Fine Art Publication Proposal

The Unknowing... 01

It's in these times that we are most creative, not that we are the importance of the Arts is recognized as fundamental to our health and well-being. The last few years have had a lasting impact on students and staff alike. But it is not just the creative skills that are our practitioners have gathered to support themselves at this time but all those other skills like resilience, a fine art practice. Skills of creative problem solving, evidence, critical thinking, initiative, iteration, organizing, flexibility, experimentation and iteration. This time for us has a different thinking and exploring different research methods, dialogues, bringing the connections between learning, teaching and research together and using your experience to add a few more skills to the mix, including resilience, reflection, evaluation and critical analysis but also most importantly, playfulness and so much fun.

So, I want to tell you a little about what I have been doing over the last couple of years, in terms of researching my own practice, a story about drawing up, playing and having fun. During the UK Lockdown and days of isolation, I researched my own practice, a story about drawing up, playing and having fun. During the UK Lockdown and days of isolation, I researched my own practice, a story about drawing up, playing and having fun. During the UK Lockdown and days of isolation, I researched my own practice, a story about drawing up, playing and having fun.

Contributors Block

Richard Lewis Smith

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Contributors Block

The Unknowing... 02

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The Artist's Book

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