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To Oppose Any Foe: The Legacy Of U.S. Intervention In Vietnam



Synopsis

To Oppose Any Foe is a compilation of essays on the historical, legal, and contemporary legacy of the Vietnam War that challenges much of the conventional wisdom surrounding that watershed conflict. The book addresses the aftershocks and consequences of America's ill-fated intervention in Vietnam, from the Cambodian killing fields to nation-building in Somalia to evolving legal thinking on war crimes. The last U.S. helicopter left Saigon over three decades ago, but the Vietnam War still haunts the American memory. It lingers as one of America's most stinging foreign policy failures, prompting numerous attempts to draw lessons from the experience. These essays demonstrate that the idealism underlying the Vietnam War, which was trumpeted by President John F. Kennedy's inaugural pledge to "oppose any foe" of liberty, resonates to this day as America engages in another "long, twilight struggle" against global terrorism in the post-September 11 world.

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Customer Reviews

The Vietnam War has influenced policy ideas and political alignments, historiography and international law scholarship. And so, 30 years after the last American helicopter left Saigon, fresh thinking on "what it all means" is still, remarkably, in order. "To Oppose Any Foe" is just such a rethink. In presenting its novel challenges to the conventional wisdom about Vietnam, "To Oppose Any Foe" has something for everyone, from the historian and historically-minded layman to the military strategist and legal scholar. That there can exist such opposing views is certainly a parallel to the scholarship developing around our current war. Let us hope that the practical legacy of Iraq,

both for the people of that nation and for American policy, will not be similarly comparable to that of Vietnam.

I'm glad I bought this book. It covers a range of interesting, esoteric, and ultimately contemporarily resonant topics in a sophisticated yet approachable way--with just the right amount of detail. Some essays are better than others, but I guess that's to be expected. Buy it.

Informative, well researched, scholarly, but clearly has a subterranean agenda. Combat soldiers off all branches were perched a bit differently, as were their families at home. It is unfortunate that war is not scholarly, were it so there would be more books and less bullets.

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