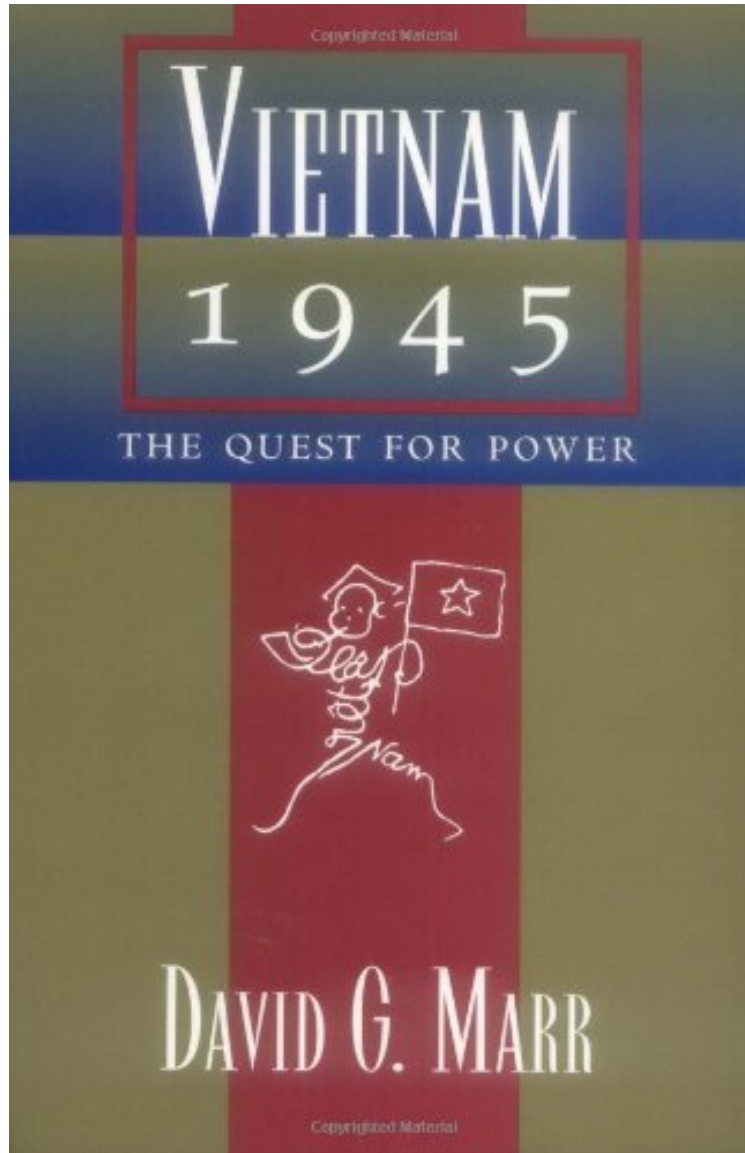


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Von David G. Marr

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Von David G. Marr : Vietnam 1945: The Quest for Power (Philip E. Lilienthal Book) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vietnam 1945: The Quest for Power (Philip E. Lilienthal Book):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Summary of relevent issues in Marrs detailed history.Von dh427@alaska.net / J.D. HarmonScholar and Vietnam historian, David G. Marr has created a work of epic scope in his finely tuned account of the year that saw the end of

World War II and defined the postwar world. The detailed study of Allied, Japanese, and Vietnamese involvement during the war and in the postwar maneuver for dominance in Vietnam, is essential for the reader who seeks to probe the politics of a cold war struggle that continued to rage for thirty years of land war in Southeast Asia. France was occupied by Nazi Germany in the spring of 1940 while Axis power, Japan, prepared to invade Vietnam in September. With its seaports, airbases, and overland transportation routes, along with its abundant natural resources and rice belts, Vietnam was crucial to Japan's war effort. In Vietnam a French colonial government had ruled its Indochinese Union, exploiting Vietnam's natural resources and manipulating its economy for close to one hundred years. Fearful of losing its colonial possession entirely by force, the French collaborated with Japanese military forces that allowed a functional French colonial administration to sustain the machinations of government in Vietnam from 1942 to 1945. The Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA, began covert operations in Vietnam in the spring of 1943, working directly with respected and admired communist-nationalist, Ho Chi Minh. Substantial research, eye-witness analysis, photographs, and extensive footnotes support Marr's account of Ho's newly formed Viet Minh forces working with OSS "Deer Team" operatives to achieve Allied war goals and oppose the Japanese war effort. The year 1945 is to Vietnam what 1776 is to the United States; it marks the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam headed by Ho Chi Minh. Ho made it clear to his US friends that his primary aim was not to promote communism but to achieve independence and self-determination for Vietnam. All Americans who knew him personally saw him first as a nationalist and second as a communist. Japan seized power entirely in Vietnam from a French colonial administration 9 March 1945. Vietnamese leaders saw the ousting of the French as a window of opportunity. By the end of July with Japan on the brink of defeat, members of the Viet Minh, Indochinese Communist Party, and associated nationalists seized history in what was termed the "August Revolution." A tidal wave of revolutionary and nationalist zeal for independence swept the country. On 2 September Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in a public address to a nation unified in its desire for independence, quoting from the United States' Declaration of Independence, "these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." Ho concluded his speech with: "Vietnam has the right to enjoy freedom and independence, and in fact has become a free and independent country. The entire Vietnamese people are determined to mobilize all their physical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property, in order to safeguard their freedom and independence." Roosevelt opposed colonial aggression and returning Vietnam to France after the war stating that colonialism was dead. Before Roosevelt could enact US foreign policy regarding Indochina he died. The US State Department had little knowledge of or policy regarding Indochina. France's Provisional President, Charles DeGaulle, stated that if the US did not help France in Indochina, then France might be forced into the Soviet orbit. Only the US had a solvent economy at the close of WWII. The US believing France to be crucial in Europe in opposing Soviet expansionism, fully funded DeGaulle in taking back Vietnam from the Vietnamese. While DeGaulle organized a French Expeditionary Force to land, US ships transported British and Indian troops to seize control. Shipping, arms, uniforms, and provisions were supplied by the US. Contrary to orders from Allied Command, British General Douglas Gracey upon arrival 6 September, maintained surrendered yet armed Japanese troops for internal security. Great Britain had her own colonies in Asia to put in order, hence, a vested interest in seeing colonial possessions regained. The newly formed government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was efficiently evicted from office. Eventually a French Expeditionary Force arrived and took over with business as usual, imprisonment and massacre. Mr. Marr's text comes alive with first-hand accounts from participants in the extraordinary arena that was 1945. Marr writes of the summer OSS "Deer Team" met with Ho and the Viet Minh. Ho wanted to chat about the US, its history, political ideals, and US support of free, popular governments throughout the world. Team member, Rene' Defourneaux, from New York recalls Ho's arguing in broken English: "Your statesmen make eloquent speeches about helping those with self-determination. We are self-determined. Why not help us. Am I any different from Nehru, Quezon, even your George Washington? Was not Washington considered a revolutionary? I too want to set my people free." With Ho Chi Minh's apparent affinity for the US, for democratic political ideals, and for American friends in the OSS, along with his desire and hopes for a US alliance and support in achieving Vietnamese independence, Marr makes evident that the US had the future of an emerging self-governing Vietnam in the palm of its hand at the close of WWII. The subsequent French and US involvement in Vietnam remains one of the most misled and tragic affairs of the twentieth century.

Kurzbeschreibung 1945: the most significant year in the modern history of Vietnam. One thousand years of dynastic politics and monarchist ideology came to an end. Eight decades of French rule lay shattered. Five years of Japanese military occupation ceased. Allied leaders determined that Chinese troops in the north of Indochina and British troops in the South would receive the Japanese surrender. Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, with himself as president. Drawing on extensive archival research, interviews, and an examination of published memoirs and documents, David G. Marr has written a richly detailed and descriptive analysis of this crucial moment in Vietnamese history. He shows how Vietnam became a vortex of intense international and domestic competition for

power, and how actions in Washington and Paris, as well as Saigon, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh's mountain headquarters, interacted and clashed, often with surprising results. Marr's book probes the ways in which war and revolution sustain each other, tracing a process that will interest political scientists and sociologists as well as historians and Southeast Asia specialists. *Pressestimmen*"A winning combination of scholarly tome and readable history. . . . Marr tells this extremely complicated story very well, backing up his sharp analysis with mountains of supporting factual evidence. . . . Meticulous and objective, an indispensable document for understanding the roots of American involvement in Vietnam."--"Kirkus sKurzbeschreibung1945: the most significant year in the modern history of Vietnam. One thousand years of dynastic politics and monarchist ideology came to an end. Eight decades of French rule lay shattered. Five years of Japanese military occupation ceased. Allied leaders determined that Chinese troops in the north of Indochina and British troops in the South would receive the Japanese surrender. Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, with himself as president. Drawing on extensive archival research, interviews, and an examination of published memoirs and documents, David G. Marr has written a richly detailed and descriptive analysis of this crucial moment in Vietnamese history. He shows how Vietnam became a vortex of intense international and domestic competition for power, and how actions in Washington and Paris, as well as Saigon, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh's mountain headquarters, interacted and clashed, often with surprising results. Marr's book probes the ways in which war and revolution sustain each other, tracing a process that will interest political scientists and sociologists as well as historians and Southeast Asia specialists.