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# SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE



To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture

NEWSLETTER # 2

DECEMBER 2008

**A COUNTRY STAYS ALIVE WHEN ITS CULTURE IS ALIVE.**

- SACEI Newsletter updates you on the latest news about Vietnamese-America.
- It serves as a link between SACEI members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

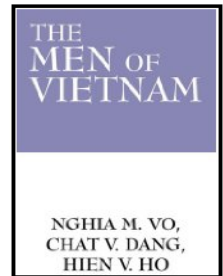
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## Forum #4: The Men of Vietnam

The Men of Vietnam is released this month. It contains three sections: Essays, Poetry, and Music. We are glad to present a review of Traditional Vietnamese Music with songs written by Dr. Nguyen Thanh Long.



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## Dr. Nguyen De



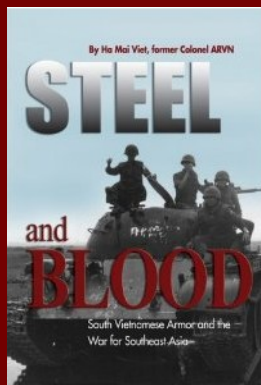
Mitochondria DNA

Dr. Nguyen De has presented Mitochondrial DNA and the Origins of the Vietnamese, Chinese and Mayans at the 20th Meeting of the Vietnamese-American Association of Physicians, Dentists, and Pharmacists of Florida on November 22, 2008 in Orlando, FL

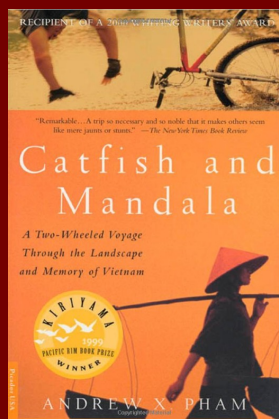
The study suggests that:

- a. The Vietnamese and Chinese are genetically different:
  - Vietnamese halogroups: B, F, R9A, N9A
  - Chinese Han halogroups: A, C, D, G, M8A, Y, Z
- b. The Mayans may be closely related to the Vietnamese (Lac Viet), if not their descendants.
  - Mayans and Lac Viet used boats with eyes painted in the bow to thwart off sea spirits
  - Mayans and Lac Viet used two emblems: snake (dragon) and eagle (bird)
  - Mayans and Lac Viet buried their dead in a sitting position
  - Mayans and Lac Viet tattooed their bodies
  - they have the same halogroups A, B, C, D.

Note: This study suggests that the Vietnamese and Chinese are genetically different people, although the former have shared many of the latter's culture. This may explain why the Vietnamese despite being assimilated by the Chinese for more than 900 years (111 BCE to 939 ACE), have set themselves free and founded their own nation: Vietnam, which has survived more or less continuously from 939 until today.



Steel and Blood



Catfish and Mandala

## Ha Mai Viet: Steel and Blood

Viet presents a historically accurate and detailed account of the Vietnam War from the perspective of the South Vietnamese armor forces. Highly decorated for his valor and leadership of the armored units, the author spent ten years researching this book. He interviewed hundreds of peo-

ple, including all senior South Vietnamese officers involved and many of lesser rank. His efforts serve as an invaluable record of his army's organization, combat operations, and interaction with U.S. advisers.

Published in cooperation with the Association of the United States Army.

### About the Author

Col. HA MAI VIET spent twenty-one years in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, commanding armored units and serving as an assistant division commander. He was also the chief of Quang Tri Province.

[Available on Amazon](#)

## Andrew X. Pham: Catfish and Mandala

The story, with some of a mandala's repeated symbolic motifs, works on several levels at once. It is an exploration into the meaning of home, a descriptive travelogue, and an intimate look at the Vietnamese immigrant experience. There are beautifully illuminated flashbacks to the experience

of fleeing Vietnam and to an earlier, more innocent childhood. While Pham's stern father, a survivor of Vietcong death camps, regrets that Pham has not been a respectful Vietnamese son, he also reveals that he wishes he himself had been more "American" for his kids, that he had "taken

[them] camping." Catfish and Mandala is a book of double-edged truths, and it would make a fascinating study even in less able hands. In those of the adventurous, unsentimental Pham, it is an irresistible story. --Maria Dolan

[Available on Amazon](#)