



www.sacei07.org

SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE



To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture

NEWSLETTER # 7

MAY 2009

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.



2009 SACEI CONFERENCE
WAR & REMEMBRANCE

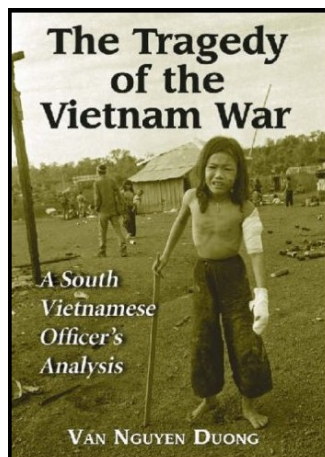
September 26, 2009 – Dulles, VA



Join us at our Fall SACEI Conference.

Details at: www.sacei07.org

The Tragedy of the Vietnam War *Van Nguyen Duong*



Lt Col Van Nguyen Duong spent 13 years in various re-education camps in Vietnam.

Written by an officer in the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, this poignant memoir seeks to clarify the nuances of South Vietnam's defeat. From the age of 12, Van Nguyen Duong watched as the conflict affected his home, family, village and friends. He discusses not only the day-to-day hardships he endured from forced relocation and eventual imprisonment but also the anguish caused by the illusive reality of Vietnamese independence. The various political forces at work in Vietnam, the hardships suffered by RVNAF soldiers after the 1975 U.S. withdrawal from Saigon, and the effect of reunification on the Vietnamese people are also discussed.

Available on Amazon

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tragedy of Vietnam War	1
April 30, 2009	1
A Return to Vietnam	2
Artist: Giao Pham	2

April 30th, 2009

April 30th, 2009

I look back home,
land and sea are given away.
Enemies are invited
to our High Plateaus
sitting tight on the country's spine.
They expel innocent villagers
to build their jungle bases.
They waste my motherland,
greedily extract bauxite.
They destroy the environment
and take hold of our native land.

Thach Ngoc Truong
(translated by Hien V. Ho)

Good Morning Vietnam - A Return to Vietnam

Jim Bruton, MA

Saigon vs. Ho Chi Minh City. "Saigon" is still an official and politically correct name for Saigon city itself. Ho Chi Minh City refers to Saigon as well as the surrounding communities; in other words, HCM City means greater Saigon.

In spite of having beaten the French and Americans the Vietnamese Communist Party remains psychologically very insecure, its monopoly of power notwithstanding. It does not consider its former South Vietnamese enemies as defeated. It does not acknowledge legitimacy of non-Communist nationalist parties of the past like the Dai Viet Party and the Vietnam Nationalist Party (VNQDĐ). And it continues to persecute dissidents who confront human rights abuses and Party dominance. As I see it, it fears that its legitimacy can be undermined if its Marxist historical narrative gets publicly challenged.

Hanoi. Hanoi is a bustling city, but it has a worn look despite new commercial office buildings and luxury hotels interspersed with older structures. Mr. Song said Hanoi has its own charm. I did not dislike Hanoi, but its charm may have escaped me. Our impression was that Hanoi women are not quite as good-looking as women in the South, and they don't smile as much. That perception might explain the charm deficit, at least in my mind.

Read more about Vietnam 34 years later in the next Forum...

Artist: Giao Pham

She started exhibiting her work at the National Art Museum & at others various galleries in Vietnam, from 1992 until she immigrated to California, in 1999. In the US, she is attracted by the digital graphic art, and start to do some art work in graphic.

I showed interest for art as a child, but became seriously engaged in 1986 as a career.

In my life, I always feel lonely, but most of my paintings are full of color. I use many layers of pure colors, which I apply with a knife...

<http://www.yessy.com/qgiaopham>



Giao Pham

