

James Taw

HIST 2112-M

March 23, 2011

Otis Hill Jr.

America's Lost War Vietnam: 1945-1975

Charles E. Neu

Harlan Davidson

Wheeling, IL

2005

Charles E. Neu, a professor of History, taught college students at the University of Brown, and also the University of Miami. He earned his right to teach through his education at Northwestern University receiving his Bachelors Associates degree in History and English literature upon the year 1958. Also, he managed to inherit a Ph. D degree in American History six years later. Dr. Neu has written plenty of history books, chapters in books, articles and encyclopedia entries, and book reviews. As a result of the hard works of studying history in college, the historian has won a respectable amount of academic and professional awards, such as graduating with highest distinction and Honors in History and English literature from Northwestern University. Grants such as the Incentive and summer research grants from Harvard and Brown University were rewarded to him as a result of his devoted history studies at each college. It is a given that he was persistent and committed to his research and studies, because he was a Guest-Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the summer of 1988.

The purpose of writing the book was to depict the Vietnam War and how it evolved from the first Indochina War, between 1945 and 1954, to the fall of South Vietnam, between 1973 and 1975. Not too many readers have an in depth knowledge about what occurred in the war and how it evolved over a period of time. For instance, the Cold War expansion began within the first Indochina War when the Democratic Republic of Vietnam designates its first attack against the French. Mainly when Dr. Neu writes his books, he strives to give readers more knowledge of where they are going in life by assisting in comprehending the road people took in the past in order to get where they are today. In other words, history has displayed, over a period of time, events that help people understand what they should do in the future; because without the past people would not be able to learn from their mistakes and issues, such as the many American

deaths of the Vietnam War. With the knowledge of historical facts, those deaths could contribute to advanced security and safety amongst modern-day soldiers.

Dr. Neu proved that most of the things that have occurred in the Vietnam War contributed to the knowledge of people today. The knowledge is from the relation of experiences, such as the time when the first troops landed in Vietnam. Nowadays, war is far more advanced than it was in the past, simply because we learn from our experiences as humans. History records those experiences because if people decide not to; then how are the modern day Americans going to know what happened in the past, especially in the Vietnam War? Without someone recording history, modern-day society would probably most likely repeat history over again and that is probably the main reason why Dr. Neu wrote the book. He did not dare to see a repeat of history, especially the unfortunate part of it all.

In the historian's writing, I noticed that he uses vivid description, such as his strong imagery, in order to get his point across. The evident imagery helps the reader fully comprehend what is going on within the Vietnam War. Similar to reading a descriptive novel, it places the mind of the reader into the historical events of the war. He supplied great factual information, such as providing the year of each event and statistics. I like the chronological order of the chapters, given that it was provided according to the Vietnam War timeline. With historical events, it is efficient that he did place each event in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, the length of the book did not seem long enough and could have involved more facts of what happened in the Vietnam War.

