

WHITEWASH/BLACKWASH

Myths of the Vietnam War

NLF: Nationalist or Communist? PRG 1970

The PRG shows its colors by celebrating Lenin's birthday centennial with this 1970 stamp also showing the Viet Cong flag flying from the bayonet of an AK.

The Media Cuba 1966

American media bypassed pro-U.S. themes in favor of Communist propaganda, e.g., in 1965, Peter Arnett reported on allied use of tear gas as "gas warfare." 33 years later, Arnett, with CNN, were still peddling the same cant, i.e., the Tailwind story.

POW's DRV 1967

American POWs were used by the Communists for their propaganda and economic value as were their French POW predecessors. This stamp depicts LTC Robinson Risner, as the pilot of, ostensibly, the 2,000th U.S. aircraft shot down.

ASEAN "Dominoes" Thailand 1977

While Cambodia and Laos fell to Communism after the fall of South Vietnam, the other "dominoes" had two decades to prepare themselves. This stamp marks the 10th anniversary of the Association of SE Asian Nations.

Reunification RVN 1964

Both sides wanted reunification. This stamp depicts a free South Vietnamese reaching out to his enslaved Northern brother on the anniversary of the National Day of Grief.

Tet Offensive RVN 1970

The Communist Tet Offensive did not stimulate a mass uprising. This stamp depicts the reconstruction efforts by the people of South Vietnam, who were typically overlooked in the reportage of Tet Mau Than.

ARVN fighting spirit RVN 1972

With U.S. air/materiel support, RVN forces repelled a full scale DRV multi-pronged invasion in 1972. This stamp depicts victory on the Quang Tri front.

"Liberation" of Saigon SRV 1976

There were more people killed in Indochina after the Fall of Saigon than died on both sides during the war. This stamp depicts the "liberation" of South Vietnam which was accomplished, not through popular uprising, but in an invasion led by Soviet tanks.

Boat People - First Wave SVN 1955

After 1975 more than a million people fled the Communists, often in unseaworthy boats. This stamp depicts nearly a million people who "regrouped" to the South when North Vietnam was turned over to the Communists by the 1954 Geneva Conference.

Ho Chi Minh DRV 1960

"Kindly" Uncle Ho emulated his mentor Joseph Stalin and "silenced forever half-a-million of his stubborn 'nephews' and 'nieces'" in his 1953-1956 land reforms.

Atrocities RVN 1969

Communist war crimes were political policy. This stamp depicts Communist atrocities during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

U.S. Servicemen and women USA 1984

The names inscribed on the Vietnam Wall demonstrate that U.S. casualties, by ethnicity, were fairly proportionate to the mix in the American population.

The Cold War DRV 1968

Wars of National Liberation were a Communist strategy of the Cold War. This stamp celebrates "solidarity among Asian-African-Latin American peoples against U.S. aggression."

Attacking U.S. Ships NLF 1964

Communists were not shy in attacking U.S. ships. This 1964 stamp depicts the VC attack on the pocket carrier MST5 Card.

The Anti-War Movement DRV 1965

The Communist strategy was to tie-down U.S. forces in Vietnam while relying on international and U.S. peace movements to spread lies and misinformation to turn the American public against the U.S. efforts.

An Unwinnable War France 2004

Honoring the undoubted courage of the combatants at Dien Bien Phu, 50 years after the fact, belies the failure of National Will which, more than force of arms, led to the enslavement of millions of Indochinese and obviated the sacrifices of those combatants.

*Abbreviations: SVN - South Vietnam; RVN - Republic of [South] Vietnam
DRV - Democratic Republic of [North] Vietnam; SRV - Socialist Republic of Vietnam
NLF - National Liberation Front; PRG - Provisional Revolutionary Government*