

Lost Victory: A Firsthand Account of America's Sixteen-Year Involvement in Vietnam

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The former CIA director contends that decisions made over five administrations cost America its military victory in Vietnam

Not another book about what America did wrong in Vietnam, this one is, primarily, about what we did right. For example, former CIA director Colby and diplomat McCargar maintain that the post-Tet pacification effort (in which Colby was centrally involved) was a great success, that the 1972 Easter Offensive demonstrated that the South Vietnamese could hold their own without U.S. ground support. In staunch defense of Colby's Phoenix program, the book argues for its effectiveness in undermining the Communist infrastructure, claiming that Phoenix's reputation for brutality is undeserved. Fighting the "wrong" kind of war, however, is cited as a mistake, as is U.S. complicity in the '63 coup that overthrew President Ngo Dinh Diem, and Washington's failure to provide aid at a certain juncture in '75. Colby's CIA service, from Saigon station chief to director, provides him with an insider's perspective on the war, a perspective many readers will consider self-serving. Photos.

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Other Books

A Spy's Journey. In 1967 Floyd Paseman joined the Central Intelligence Agency following successful service as an army officer in Germany. He was first stationed in the Far East, where he became fluent in Chinese language and culture, and then in Germany, at what was largely considered the agency's toughest Cold War field posting. Over the years he rose from field spy to division chief and ultimately the top ranks in the Operations Directorate of the CIA. Paseman details the behind-the-scenes intelligence gathering during the major events of eight presidential administrations from Lyndon B. Johnson through George W. Bush.

❓ ❓ ❓ ❓ ❓ . *A Spy for All Seasons : My Life in the CIA* . New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1997. Colby, William E., and Peter Forbath. *Honorable Men: My Life in the CIA*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1978. Gordievsky, Oleg. *Next Stop: Execution*."