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Command and Leadership Series

Vo Nguyen Giap

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Vo Nguyen Giap (b.1912)

Introduction

Perhaps the greatest success of this renowned North Vietnamese military strategist was at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 during the Indo-China War. As Army Commander in Chief, he later directed the North Vietnamese war effort during the Vietnam War. He fought American forces to a standstill despite the costly Tet Offensive in 1968 and planned the final offensive that swept into Saigon in 1975 to reunite the two Vietnams.

Educated at a French lycee in Hue, Giap then joined the Communist party as well as teaching history at a school in Hanoi. In 1944, he trained guerrilla troops in the North Vietnamese highlands, fighting against the Japanese invaders. On leaving his military post in 1976, he became Deputy Prime Minister and was later removed from this position in 1982. Despite the lack of early military training, he showed immense strategic skill by using guerrilla and 'People's' warfare against the significantly stronger and more technologically advanced French and American forces.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on Giap. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

Monographs

Colvin, John. **Volcano under the snow: Vo Nguyen Giap**. London: Quartet Books, 1996.

Currey, Cecil. **Victory at any cost: the genius of Viet Nam's Gen Vo Nguyen Giap**. Dulles: Brassey's Inc, 1999.

MacDonald, Peter. **Giap: the victor in Vietnam**. London: Warner Books, 1993.

O'Neill, Robert. **General Giap: politician and strategist**. Melbourne: Cassell, 1969.

Giap, Vo Nguyen. **People's War, People's Army: The Viet Cong insurrection manual for under developed countries**. Honolulu, HI: University Press of the Pacific, 1971.

Periodicals

Seymour, W. *General Giap at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu*. **British Army Review**, No. 85, April 1987, pp. 40-45

Websites

Transcript of CNN interview with Giap

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/episodes/11/interviews/giap/>

Any Queries

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