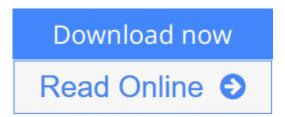


Slow Burn: The Rise and Bitter Fall of American Intelligence in Vietnam

By Orrin Deforest, David Chanoff



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Slow Burn is the inside story of the CIA's role in Vietnam by one of the Agency's most highly decorated veterans. It is told with the grit of a hero, the passion of a critical player, and the precise eye of an unflinching observer. Orin DeForest arrived in Saigon in 1968 as chief interrogation officer of Military Region Three. He was appalled by what he saw at the provincial interrogation centers. The agency had been unable to recruit a single Vietcong spy. Over the next few years DeForest revolutionized the system, putting together a legendary network of spies and counterspies that supplied up to 80 percent of the CIA's hard intelligence in Vietnam. Ultimately, it is a tale with a bitter end. DeForest had fought desperately to arrange for an orderly evacuation of his operatives and family members -- 600 in all. Because of recklessness and procrastination most were left behind to sure death.



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Slow Burn: The Rise and Bitter Fall of American Intelligence in Vietnam By Orrin Deforest, David Chanoff Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #1074341 in Books

Published on: 1990-04Original language: English

Number of items: 1Binding: Hardcover

• 294 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As a CIA interrogation officer in Vietnam from 1968 to 1975, DeForrest ran an intelligence network. In this exciting, opinionated memoir, written with Chanoff (Vietcong Memoir), he describes how he collected information from Vietcong and North Vietnamese prisoners and defectors through "the art of sympathetic interrogation" while engaged in bitter feuds with his superiors, about whom he is harshly critical here. With the assistance of his Vietnamese mistress, Lan, DeForrest developed a stable of agents who, he maintains, brought in most of the hard intelligence reported to the main CIA station in Saigon. The book captures the terror and claustrophobia of the final days of U.S. involvement in Vietnam when DeForrest's arrangements for the evacuation of his agents proved unsuccessful. Photos.

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