

1970

## U.S. Navy: Vietnam

W. M. Powers  
*U.S. Navy*

Robert D. Moeser

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declining American involvement and by Charles Issawi's projection of regional economic trends into the 1970's. Also of great general interest are the articles on American and Soviet policies by John Campbell and Philip Mosely.

The incorporation of a brief index and very useful annotated bibliography makes this small volume an extraordinarily valuable starting place for anyone who wishes to probe beneath the surface of the "Soviet threat."

G.G. SICK  
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Moeser, Robert D. *U.S. Navy: Vietnam*.  
Annapolis: U.S. Naval Institute,  
1969. 247 p.

*U.S. Navy: Vietnam* is the first major pictorial book which portrays the Navy's widespread and varied operations in that part of Southeast Asia. The key word that characterizes this book is pictures: there are more than 200 of them, covering every major facet of U.S. seapower in use north and south of the 17th parallel from August 1964 until December 1967. The publication shows more graphically than could any words the sweat, toil, and professional competence of thousands of Navy men and tens of scores of ships and aircraft during 3½ years of intensive combat operations. The book is divided into seven sections: carrier operations, replenishment at sea, naval gunfire, hospital ships, ships and men, amphibious operations, and riverine warfare. There is a short introduction preceding each section and a brief caption describing the general geographic area and the content of each photograph.

There is little fault to find in this well-presented volume. It might have been desirable to have had pictures showing air strikes in the north, to have had some coverage on Swift boats, and perhaps something on the SEAL operations, but it is remarkable that Mr. Moeser has been able to capture on film

such an incredibly large number of ships, aircraft, and operations. The book presents no position of the author; indeed, he states at the outset that the pictures represent his personal interpretation, visually substantiated, of the Navy in the Vietnam conflict. It is noteworthy, however, that Mr. Moeser was not a casual visitor either in Vietnam or to the Navy; he retired as a chief journalist following 20 years' service after completing his work on the book. The photography and reproduction, so important to a publication of this type, are superb. One can almost feel the powerful concussion in one picture, as the U.S.S. *Canberra* fires a salvo of 8-inch shells. In another picture, the whine of its jet engine and the thud of an A-4 Skyhawk as it catches the number one wire upon its home carrier are almost audible. It is an unfortunate truism that despite the extensive public affairs organization the Navy possesses, there has been a dearth of serious interpretive material going directly to the public to inform them how the Navy spends their tax dollars. *U.S. Navy: Vietnam* helps to compensate for this deficiency.

W.M. POWERS  
Chief Photographer's Mate, U.S. Navy

Pusey, Merlo J. *The Way We Go to War*.  
Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1969.  
202 p.

In recent years, and particularly since the involvement of the United States in Vietnam, many people have felt that there has been an abuse by Presidents of war power, i.e., how we go to war. Merlo J. Pusey has attempted to identify the problem in some detail and to suggest steps that might be taken to bring the President and Congress back into a sound working partnership in this peril-laden area of responsibility. A major portion of the book takes a close look at the path the United States has followed, resulting in the present