

An annotated bibliography concerning a history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the Fall of Saigon, 1945 to 1975.

Vassar College Vietnam Archives

<http://vietnam.vassar.edu/vietnamlinks.html>

This site offers three excellent locations for students seeking original as well as secondary source documents concerning the history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam between the years of 1945 to 1975.

At “The Vietnam War: An Overview,” location, students find a concise history of the war beginning at the Geneva Peace Accords in 1954, until the Paris Peace Agreement in 1973.

At “The Documents,” students will find twenty key documents relating to the involvement of the United States in Vietnam between 1954 and 1973.

At the “Other Vietnam Links,” students are provided numerous “jump” opportunities for those seeking to narrow their focus to particular aspects of the Vietnam experience, such as oral histories, geography, images, and Vietnam today.

11th Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

<http://www.11thcavnam.com/education/educationmission.htm>

This site gives students some background into the involvement of the United States in Vietnam as it supported the Truman Doctrine developed to stop the spread of Communism following the end of World War 2. Also found here are rebuttals of media reports of the Vietnam War. Teachers are cautioned concerning some of the statements printed as related to interviewers.

Texas Tech University: The Vietnam Center

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu>

There are numerous resources at this site for both teachers and their students.

At the “Students/Teachers” location, click on the “Digital Materials” location, both students and their teachers may access the university’s virtual archive or original source documents, images, oral histories, maps, and moving images.

Next, click on the “Virtual Vietnam Archive” location printed in red. This will take you to another page where you should click on “Search the Virtual Vietnam Archive,” again in red. On the next page, you should enter the words “Fall of Saigon,” and hit the “Go to Advanced Search” button in the box on the left. This will take you to the final page for your refined search of the archives.

Gaining access to individual collections is difficult unless researchers narrow their searches to specific events such as “Fall of Saigon” or a specific collection, such as the Douglas Pike Collection. Researchers should also limit their search by using the bar on the right side of the search page. Checking the “Documents,” “English,” “Limit to Items Available Online” boxes will assist in narrowing the search. Using the “Date/Date Span” box at the bottom of the Search Page to narrow the search to a specific time period such as “03/10/75 to 04/30/75” will also assist in narrowing the search to documents in English concerning the fall of South Vietnam as well as the evacuation of Saigon. Researchers are asked to be patient as the university’s computers search their entire Vietnam virtual archive for the items requested.

*Of particular interest is a paper by James H. Willbanks, Ph.D. Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) titled, “Xuan Loc: The Final Battle, Vietnam, 1975.” Presented to the Popular Culture Association, April 19-22, 2000 in New Orleans, Louisiana. This paper may be retrieved from the virtual archives by entering item number 3400102003, or searching for documents concerning Ambassador Graham Martin, using dates 04/20/1975 to 05/10/1975 with settings of “All Documents, All Images, Periodical, Computer Media, English, Limit to Items Available Online.” This paper and its maps were used by myself in the development of my presentation for the Operation Frequent Wind exhibit aboard the USS Midway Museum between January and April, 2010.

Also see attached sheet, “Other Advanced Search Materials,” for additional documents concerning the role of Air America in the evacuation as well as a first-hand account by Lt. Colonel Nguyen Hoang Minh following the fall of Saigon.

At the “Teachers’ Resources” location, teachers will find curriculum guides, lesson plans and student individual and group activities for use during the study of the U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

Fall of Saigon Marine Association

<http://www.fallofusaigon.org>

This site has a number of original source documents and oral histories by Marine Corps personnel who were “on the ground” in Vietnam during the final invasion of South Vietnam and the fall of Saigon.

Students will find a plethora of information on this site by clicking on the blue titles or words within the various texts. Of particular interest in researching the fall of Saigon are the items written in blue under the picture of Graham Martin, the Ambassador to South Vietnam; the oral histories given by Marines present at both the Defense Attache’ Office at Tan Son Nut Air Force Base and the U.S. Embassy in Saigon; and the “Interesting Links to the Fall of Saigon.”

In the “Interesting Links” area is a link directly to the Gerald Ford Presidential Library, which contains numerous documents concerning discussions and decisions made both before and after the events on April 29th and 30th of 1975. I found particularly interesting “A Day in the Life of the President” Exhibit (April 28, 1975), as it reflects the harried life of a president who must hold meetings and attend functions that have no relationship to the important events occurring in Vietnam.

President Gerald Ford Library and Museum

<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/exhibits/vietnam/vietdocs.asp>

This site contains an interesting collection of minutes taken during cabinet meetings between President Ford and his advisors as well as private meetings with Dr. Kissinger, a number of National Security Advisors, and General F. Weyand concerning the events in Vietnam during the weeks leading up to the fall of Saigon. Of particular interest to student researchers is access to the verbatim dialog among participants leading to decisions concerning both the evacuation of South Vietnam and the development of future American foreign policy as a result of the final withdrawal of an American presence in Vietnam.

<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/dmemcons.asp>

This additional site at the President Gerald Ford Museum provides researchers memorandums of conversations conducted by the president concerning a wide variety of issues. The researcher needs to know the particular date of the conversation sought before entering the site, as all of the memorandums are filed according to date. Of particular interest to the researcher of events leading up to the fall of Saigon may be those recorded during March and April, 1975.

Encyclopedia.com

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1O126-ParisPeaceAgreement.html>

This site contains an excellent copy of the Paris Peace Accords of January, 1973.

American presidents and their involvement in Vietnam

Each president’s involvement in Vietnam may be found by searching the appropriate presidential library under “Vietnam Policies.”