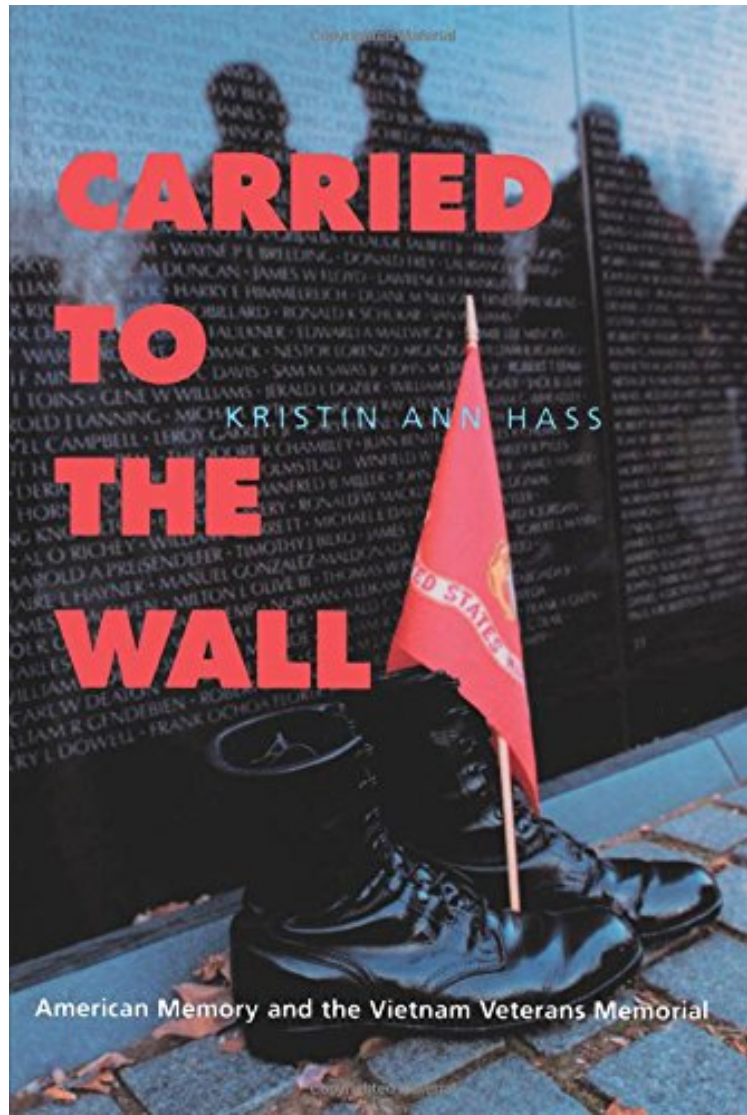


(Read ebook) Carried to the Wall: American Memory and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Carried to the Wall: American Memory and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Kristin Ann Hass

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Kristin Ann Hass : Carried to the Wall: American Memory and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carried to the Wall: American Memory and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial:

13 of 20 people found the following review helpful. very emotional, could use some deeper probing By mushi read this

book for a class i was taking in college. some of the lists and letters haas reproduced made me cry...most books that people read in college don't make people cry. haas' main (and one of her only) shortcomings was her apple pie, americana approach to what people left. many latino-americans and african-americans fought in vietnam and the material and social analysis is, at times, very white bread. very good overall. moving and interesting.6 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Carried to the Wall, by Kristin Ann HassBy A CustomerThis book is tripe. I was forced to read it for a college class, and am disappointed by the lack of substance in the book. While it claims to be about tributes to fallen soldiers in Vietnam, it spends a substantial portion of the time discussing battle monuments of the Ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, along with an extended discussion of the dedication of the Gettysburg battlegrounds. It looks too far into many of the objects left, such as the bike tube and nursing pads. Frankly, I'm ashamed to be associated with the same institution as this woman. Don't read it if you don't have to.

On May 9, 1990, a bottle of Jack Daniels, a ring with letter, a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, a baseball, a photo album, an ace of spades, and a pie were some of the objects left at the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial. For Kristin Hass, this eclectic sampling represents an attempt by ordinary Americans to come to terms with a multitude of unnamed losses as well as to take part in the ongoing debate of how this war should be remembered. Hass explores the restless memory of the Vietnam War and an American public still grappling with its commemoration. In doing so it considers the ways Americans have struggled to renegotiate the meanings of national identity, patriotism, community, and the place of the soldier, in the aftermath of a war that ruptured the ways in which all of these things have been traditionally defined. Hass contextualizes her study of this phenomenon within the history of American funerary traditions (in particular non-Anglo traditions in which material offerings are common), the history of war memorials, and the changing symbolic meaning of war. Her evocative analysis of the site itself illustrates and enriches her larger theses regarding the creation of public memory and the problem of remembering war and the resulting casualties in this case not only 58,000 soldiers, but also conceptions of masculinity, patriotism, and working-class pride and idealism.

From Kirkus spaper 0-520-21317-3 A dissertation-like examination of why people leave many and varied objects at the Veterans Memorial in Washington. Hass (American Culture/Univ. of Michigan) sees several reasons behind the outpouring of objects--what she calls a "strong, multivocal, contradictory, unsolicited public response"--that have been left at the wall since it was dedicated on the Mall in Washington, D.C., in 1982. Some of the reasons are obvious: the emotional need to remember the dead; the patriotic and nationalist impulses to honor their service; the reaction by Vietnam veterans against the national cold shoulder given to them after they came home from America's most controversial overseas war. Others are less obvious: the fact that the memorial's simple design "tacitly asked people to respond" with "their own interpretations," and the grave-decorating traditions of African-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Italian-Americans, and some American Indians. In her chapter on American military memorializing history, Hass places great import on the aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg, when for the first time "common American soldiers were buried individually in graves marked with their names." Hass ties these varied themes together well. Her writing, for the most part, is clean and clear. Only occasionally does she slip into turgid academes. Hass seems to have done a thorough job of researching this multidisciplinary topic. There is, however, one glaring error. Hass repeats the myth that more Vietnam veterans have committed suicide than were killed in the war. In an otherwise profusely documented book, she offers only an ambiguous citation for this assertion. But the truth is that the suicide statement has no basis in fact. Hass proves much better at examining and explaining the reasons behind the myth that Vietnam kept American POWs after the war. A sometimes illuminating look at a unique national phenomenon. (16 bw photos, not seen) -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "In this fascinating work, Kristin Ann Hass studies the attempts by Americans to come to terms with the Vietnam War and its legacy in American culture."-- "Virginia Quarterly About the AuthorKristin Ann Hass is Lecturer in the Program in American Culture at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.