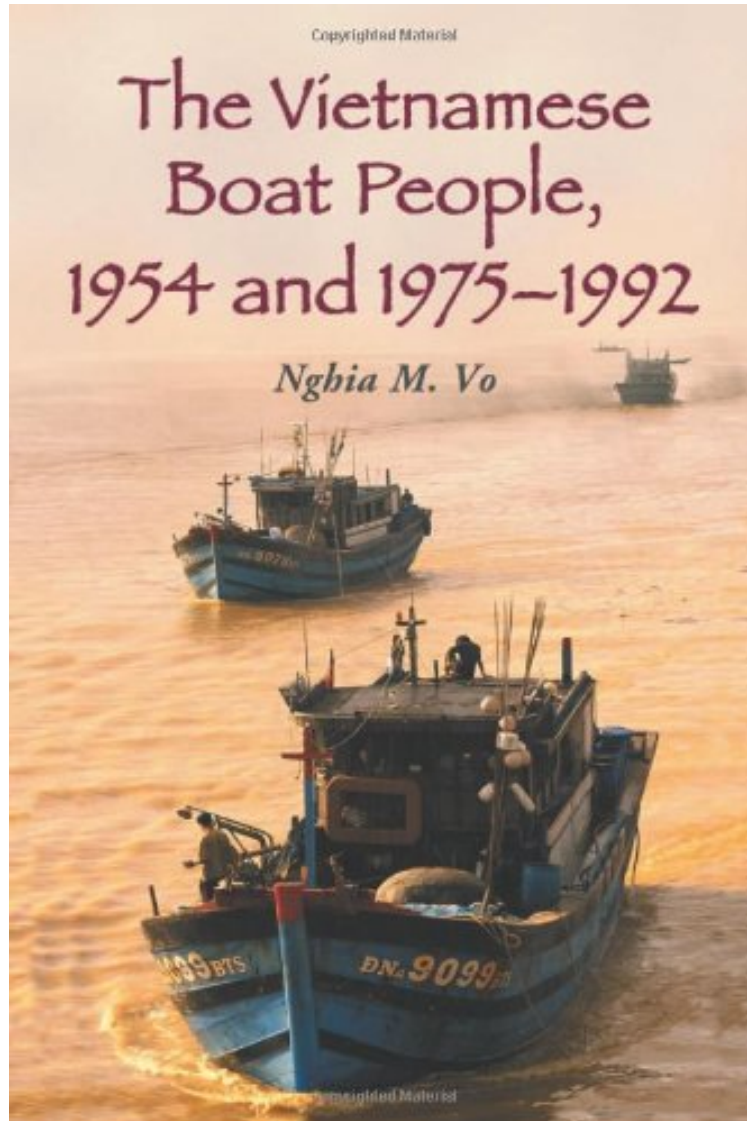


(Download pdf ebook) Vietnamese Boat People, 1954 and 1975-1992

## Vietnamese Boat People, 1954 and 1975-1992

*Nghia M. Vo*

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**Nghia M. Vo : Vietnamese Boat People, 1954 and 1975-1992** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vietnamese Boat People, 1954 and 1975-1992:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Critical History, Unsung MasterpieceBy Richard S. BotkinNghia Vo represents all the best of the generation of new Americans from Vietnam who came to this country as adults, only after spending themselves in a noble effort to remain free of communist domination.All too often most Americans consider the world from our narrow, solipsistic viewpoint. All too often Americans fail to appreciate the genuine blessings of freedom and liberty. For those who have had theirs taken from them, the things so many of the rest of us take for

granted are especially valuable. While this book will likely appeal to a mostly Vietnamese audience, it is required reading for anyone serious about understanding the complete history of the Vietnam War. "The Vietnamese Boat People..." reinforces the notion that the American effort to stem the tide of communist expansion was crucial and correct, that our allies were worthy of the sacrifice, and that they paid a price far greater than most realize. For such a short book, Nghia Vo delivers reams of quality information, and does so in pleasant fashion. I found this work to be scholarly, informative, and enlightening. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good story telling about a sobering subject

By Rick Williams I knew a little bit about the boat people from after the Vietnam War, but this book really opened my eyes. What stands out to me is the terrible suffering that these people endured, their bravery and resourcefulness, and the cruelty and corruption of the communist regime. It's ironic to me that the communist ideology is supposed to make things fairer for all people, but in practice it is hypocritical and is responsible for untold suffering of many many people. The author is a little repetitive and the writing is okay, not great. These are secondary complaints however, when considering the importance of the story he tells. I think this book is an important cautionary story that should be required high school level reading. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Memories become history

By Vietreader I lived through all the periods of Vietnamese history mentioned in the book. I witnessed (as a child) the 1954 exodus from the North, the 1975 event leading to the concentration camps, the exodus of the boat people from Vietnam and their life outside of Vietnam. It's quite an extraordinary and pleasant experience for me to read "The Vietnamese Boat People". It's like being led on an instructive tour to your own hometown, guided by a scholarly (and surgeon) friend who writes English in a way very few of us can, to revisit familiar places that you thought you have always known so well, only to find out that there are a lot of new things and perspectives about your own past and your country's past. With the book, my own eclectic, personal pieces of memory seem to find their place in the jigsaw puzzle. It may help former refugees like myself, and hopefully our English speaking progeny, find a sense of meaning and purpose from our turbulent and traumatic past. For some of us, this may also provide some relief from lingering guilts and regrets about our past lost cause, and maybe, a sense of closure necessary to start a new chapter for our life and for our former country that still stays behind in every way.

The biggest diaspora in Vietnamese history occurred between 1975 and 1992, when more than two million people fled by boat to escape North Vietnam's oppressive communist regime. Before this well-known exodus from Vietnam's shores, however, there was a massive population shift within the country. In 1954, one million fled from north to south to escape war, famine, and the communist land reform campaign. Many of these refugees went on to flee Vietnam altogether in the 1970s and 1980s, and the experiences of 1954 influenced the later diaspora in other ways as well. This book reassesses the causes and dynamics of the 1975-92 diaspora. It begins with a discussion of Vietnam from 1939 to 1954, then looks closely at the 1954 "Operation Exodus" and the subsequent resettlements. From here the focus turns to the later events that drove hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese to flee their homeland in 1975 and the years that followed. Planning for escape, choosing routes, facing pirates at sea, and surviving the refugee camps are among the many topics covered. Stories of individual escapees are provided throughout. The book closes with a look at the struggles and achievements of the resettled Vietnamese.

About the Author Nghia M. Vo is a writer and researcher. He is also the author of *The Bamboo Gulag: Political Imprisonment in Communist Vietnam* (2004) and lives in Virginia.