

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788387003321
Autore	Nguyen Cong Luan <1937->
Titolo	Nationalist in the Viet Nam wars [[electronic resource]] : memoirs of a victim turned soldier / / Nguyen, Cong Luan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bloomington, : Indiana University Press, c2012
ISBN	1-280-12434-2 9786613528209 0-253-00548-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (616 p.)
Disciplina	959.704/3092 B
Soggetti	Indochinese War, 1946-1954 Political prisoners - Vietnam Political refugees - Vietnam Vietnam War, 1961-1975 Vietnam History 1945-1975 Vietnam History 1975-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Foreword; Preface; A Note on Vietnamese Names; PART 1. A GRAIN OF SAND; 1 A Morning of Horror; 2 My Early Years and Education; 3 1945: The Year of Drastic Events; 4 On the Way to War; PART 2. THE WAR OF RESISTANCE; 5 Take Up Arms!; 6 My Dark Years in War Begin; 7 Between Hammer and Anvil; 8 The Shaky Peace; 9 Bloodier Battles; 10 The Geneva Accords; 11 The Year of Changes; PART 3. THE COGWHEEL; 12 To Be a Soldier; 13 Progress and Signs of Instability; 14 Mounting Pressure; 15 The Limited War; 16 The Year of the (Crippled) Dragon; 17 On the Down Slope; 18 Hearts and Minds 19 Sai Gon Commando PART 4. VICTORY OR DEFEAT; 20 The Tet Offensive; 21 Defeat on the Home Front; 22 The New Phase; 23 The Fiery Summer; 24 Hope Draining; 25 America 1974-75; 26 The End; PART 5. AFTER THE WAR; 27 Prisoner; 28 Release; PART 6. EPILOGUE; 29 On the Vietnam War; 30 Ever in My Memory; Notes; Index;

Sommario/riassunto

"This extraordinary memoir tells the story of one man's experience of the wars of Vietnam from the time he was old enough to be aware of war in the 1940's until his departure for America 15 years after the collapse of South Vietnam in 1975. Nguyen Cong Luan was, by his account, "just a nobody." Born and raised in small villages near Ha Noi, he and his family knew war at the hands of the Japanese, the French, and the Viet Minh. Living with wars of conquest, colonialism, and revolution led him finally to move south and take up the cause of the Republic of Vietnam, changing from a life of victimhood to that of a soldier. His stories of village life in the north are every bit as compelling as his stories of combat and the tragedies of war. "I've done nothing important," Luan writes. "Neither have I strived to make myself a hero." Yet this honest and impassioned account of life in Viet Nam from World War II through the early years of the unified Communist government is filled with the everyday heroism of the common people of his generation. Luan's portrayal of the French colonial occupation, of the corruption and brutality of the Communist system, of the systemic weakness and corruption of the South Vietnamese government, and his "warts and all" portrayal of the U.S. military and the government's handling of the war may disturb readers of various points of view. Most will agree that this memoir provides a unique and important perspective on life in Vietnam during the years of conflict that brought so much suffering to Luan and his fellow Vietnamese."--Publisher's description.
