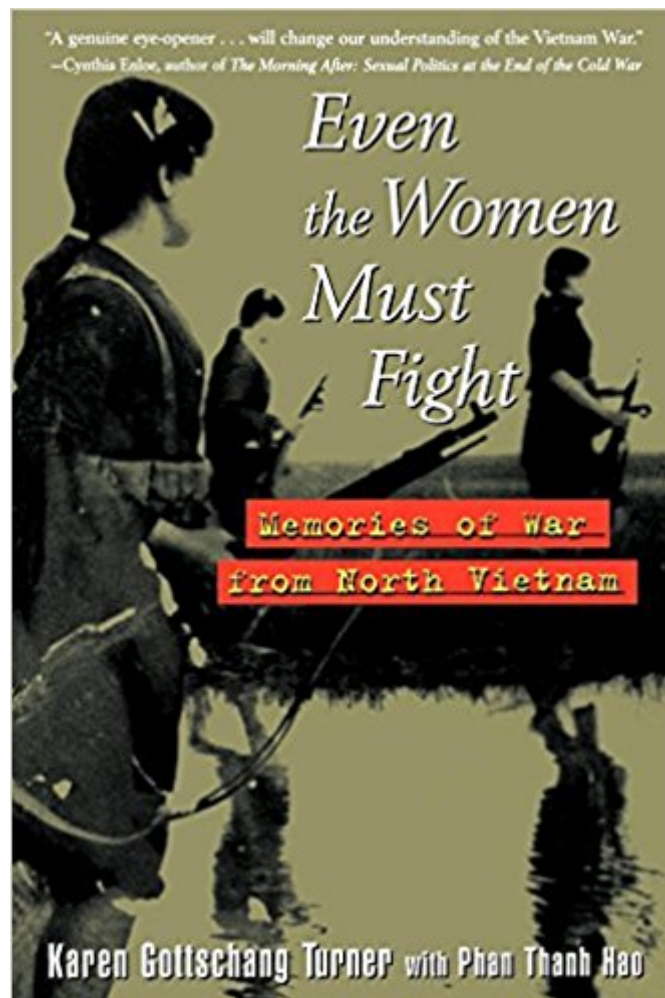




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# Even The Women Must Fight: Memories Of War From North Vietnam



## Synopsis

Even the Women Must Fight""Karen Turner and Phan Thanh Hao have brought scholarship and compassion to a long-neglected aspect of the Vietnam War--the contributions of Vietnamese women to the independence struggle of their nation and the terrible price they paid for their courage and patriotism.""--Neil Sheehan, author of *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam*. A searing chronicle of wartime experiences, *Even the Women Must Fight* probes the cultural legacy of North Vietnam's American War. Unflinching in its portrayal of hardship, valor, and personal sacrifice, this wrenching account is nothing short of a revelation, banishing in one bold stroke the familiar image of Vietnamese women as passive onlookers, war brides, prostitutes, or helpless refugees.""Karen Turner has given us a book that will change our understanding of the Vietnam War--and of Vietnam today. I found it enthralling."" --Cynthia Enloe, author of *The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War*.""A first-rate book that will add substantially to our understanding of the human tragedy associated with one of the most bloody conflicts in recent history.""--Robert Brigham, Professor of History, Vassar College.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\* ""Karen Turner and Phan Thanh Hao have brought scholarship and compassion to a long-neglected aspect of the Vietnam War--the contributions of Vietnamese women to the independence struggle of their nation and the terrible price they paid for their courage and patriotism.""--Neil Sheehan, author of *A Bright Shining Lie*""This book is a genuine eye-opener. Through graphic interviews and groundbreaking archival research, Karen Turner has given us a

book that will change our understandings of the Vietnam War--and of Vietnam today. I found it enthralling."--Cynthia Enloe, author of *The Morning After*"A first-rate book that will add substantially to our understanding of the human tragedy associated with one of the most bloody conflicts in recent history."--Robert Brigham, Vassar College

A searing oral history probes the experiences and cultural legacies of Vietnamese women in the war. Through oral history, private letters and diaries, and poetry, Karen Turner explores the crucial role North Vietnamese women played as valiant soldiers, the personal sacrifice and loss they suffered, and the enduring political and social influences their war roles have come to exert on their own lives and the lives of their daughters. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is very good to learn about the role of women in a war. The understanding and feelings that women go through to achieve the success of battle is very dangerous. When the woman returns home and to see how they are treated by their family, friends, men, city and state is unbelievable. The disappointment in treatment by these parties is definitely not fair. Even though this book is about Vietnam the treatment by these parties is very similar to the treatment received by the U.S. Vietnam veteran upon returning home. The treatment by the U.S. Veteran association and government is similar to the treatment received by the Vietnam women. The book was good.

Amazing book about the real leadership of women under terrible circumstances due to suppression by government.

Very enlightening . Contributes to appreciating women's roles in the Vietnam War.

Just ok.Ken

Thank you, glad to have this book.

Better than I expected

As the author illustrates, most military history is just from the male perspective. We think, therefore, that women have a minor support role behind the scenes. This book shows us not only the role Vietnamese women played in the war, but it also illustrates how the people as a whole responded to

the war. We learn a bit about Vietnamese history, and sadly, we learn that post-war recovery efforts have largely ignored the sacrifice made by many women. The author walks us through the lives of some of the women in the war. We learn of doctors working on the front lines, a movie actress who worked to educate the people about the war, as well as women who worked on the Ho Chi Minh Trail and manned the anti-aircraft guns. The book also discusses the youth movement to help support the war effort and highlights the ever-present poor who are pulled into war because they can't afford to avoid it. I found the book very enlightening and would recommend it to any military history reader.

This book is a well-written and straightforward account of women who fought on the side of the North Vietnamese in the "American War," and what happened to them when they attempted to return to peacetime life. Most of the stories come from the women themselves, and are reported in their words. I found the book particularly affecting, because it presented some difficult truths for me as a nurse on the American side. It is always revealing to know your enemy; in my case, the supposed enemy in this book could be my mirror image. And if the similarities are fascinating, the differences are wrenching: these women fought on their own soil, to protect it from soldiers from half a world away who, for reasons that were far from clear, dropped bombs and chemicals on them. When the war was over, and I went home to marry and raise a family, these women found that their service had, in many cases, made it impossible for them to marry and have children--a cultural imperative that in large part determined their worth in the eyes of their country. Certainly, the war created physical and psychological problems for women who served on the US side--PTSD, birth defects in children due to chemical exposure, and a raft of health conditions that still persist for us in our fifties and sixties. But for the Vietnamese women warriors, the effects were far more direct. They lived, and still live, on soil salted with Agent Orange. Most of them suffered from malaria. They lost potential mates in the war, or by leaving them behind when they went to serve--not for one year, as was our case, but for many. They faced the very immediate possibility that their children, if they could have them, would be severely deformed. And there has been little enough social support under their new government for THEM, let alone their handicapped children. The women in this book are fascinating individuals shaped by their unique experiences, and Turner and Hao do an excellent job of interviewing and presenting them. They are brave, resilient survivors of a war they should never have had to fight, and they are still fighting for their place in the country they defended. \*Even the Women Must Fight\* ranks with such classics as \*When Heaven and Earth Changed Places\* and \*The Sorrow of War\* as an unflinching and empathic window into the damage war wreaks on

the land where it is fought and the people there who fight it. Susan O'Neill, author Don't Mean Nothing: Short Stories of Viet Nam

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