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Vietnam: the Logic of Withdrawal

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Howard Zinn

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ress, capabilities, and limitations of the Communities, and it gives the reader an insight as to the future of Europe.

J.G. FIFIELD
Captain, U.S. Navy

Zinn, Howard. *Vietnam: the Logic of Withdrawal*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1967. 131 p.

This is a very thin volume, in substance as well as size, written by a professor of history who has forsaken scholarship for passionate pamphleteering. The author contends that the United States should unilaterally abandon the struggle in Vietnam because her participation is an immoral and unjustifiable intrusion. The United States is characterized as a vicious, illiberal villain in international relations not necessarily "more evil" than other nations, but "just as evil"—and

the indictment is applied to most of her past history as well as the present. In the case at hand he finds that the United States is the only party guilty of "outside aggression" in Vietnam. He has generally closed his eyes to the fact that there are opponents in the war. In the rare instances that he recognizes them, they are extolled in a manner reminiscent of oldtime Fourth of July oratory, with the Viet Cong cast as the righteous patriots and North Vietnam as the generous French assisting in the noble cause. Within this framework the author, unencumbered by objectivity, argues his case with isolated distortions and undocumented assertions. One can find the "logic" of withdrawal only in the title in this book. It has contributed little to the argument on this timely issue.

J.D. STEVENS
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force

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What you have chosen to do for your country by devoting your life to the service of your country is the greatest contribution that any man could make.

*John F. Kennedy: To the graduating class,
U.S. Naval Academy,
6 June 1961*