

Editorial

The lesson of Vietnam

April 28 was the occasion of our commemoration of the end of the Vietnam War 15 years ago. It is better referred to as the Vietnam debacle: The United States suffered a humiliating defeat at communist hands, in a war which was in fact not necessary to be fought, had we only stuck to the policies formulated during World War II, of defending the independence of the region then known as Indochina from colonial rule. That was President Roosevelt's stated policy.

Instead, the United States capitulated to British policy, which was to defend its empire at all cost, and where that was no longer possible, to recolonize former colonies using financial methods of control in place of overt political ones.

Defense of the right of all nations to freedom was an implied commitment of the United States even before it was formally constituted as a nation; that principle followed from signing of the Declaration of Independence. The moral blindness of the United States today toward Lithuania, is yet another fallout from that disastrous postwar embrace of neo-colonialism.

The Vietnam War will be known to history as Henry Kissinger's War, although it was not he, but the crowd around McGeorge Bundy which was responsible for getting the United States into it in the first place. It will be known as Kissinger's War, because he is the man who made sure that we lost it. It's about time that the lesson of Vietnam were assimilated, and the United States freed itself once and for all of the policy influence of that evil madman.

Henry Kissinger was Nixon's National Security Adviser. Under his guidance, the war was not fought to be won, but was intended to be a bargaining chip to be played on the field of Cold War diplomacy. The lives of Vietnamese, of Americans, and others, were traded away for no good purpose, solely in order to create a favorable position for Henry Kissinger and his accomplices at the bargaining table.

The North Vietnamese regime had many problems, but early on, Ho Chi Minh had tried to gain U.S. support in his fight against the French. Only after he was refused, did he become a hard-line communist. It is a

particularly evil fact, that under Nixon, and to this day, the United States has even preferred to support the Chinese regime, over dealing fairly with the Vietnamese. Whatever the failures of the present Vietnam government, and the North Vietnamese predecessor regime, it was they, and not—sad to say—the United States who liberated the Cambodian people from the murderous control of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge.

Pol Pot was backed by the Chinese, who fully supported his mass-slaughter policy, variously estimated to have resulted in the deaths of 1 to 3 million Cambodians, in a nation of 7 million. Pol Pot conducted the consummate version of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, sentencing to death all of the country's educated citizens, and many more besides, through his slave labor policies. This same Pol Pot regime is supported by the Chinese to this day; and because the combined pressure of the United States and Chinese is now forcing the Vietnamese to withdraw from Cambodia, we may see the return of these butchers to power.

Kissinger believes in playing power politics. He subscribes to a policy which dates back to the Congress of Vienna in 1815, when Austria and Great Britain combined to set up Russia as the "policeman of Europe." The Gorbymania of George Bush and Margaret Thatcher is an example of this same policy today. They would prefer to see Russia police Europe and China control Asia, rather than allow free rein to the republican resistance movement presently sweeping the world. They are Henry Kissinger's co-thinkers.

Yes, there is a lesson to be learned from the War: The United States was defeated because it followed Kissinger's policy. The present policy line of the U.S. and British governments will likewise lead to defeat. And unless these policies are changed and changed quickly, such a defeat will come not at the relatively humanitarian hands of the Vietnamese, but instead at the hands of the butchers of Tiananmen Square and the equally brutal regime in Moscow.

Defeat by the Vietnamese was humiliating. Defeat by the Russians and Chinese will mean the end of Western civilization.