***Shadow of the Dragon***

(historical background info)

**Reeducation camp** is the official title given to the [prison camps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internment) operated by the [government of Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Vietnam) following the end of the [Vietnam War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War). In such "reeducation camps," the government imprisoned several hundred thousand former military officers and government workers from the former regime of [South Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Vietnam). [Reeducation](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/reeducation) as it was implemented in [Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam) was seen as both a means of revenge and a sophisticated technique of [repression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_repression) and [indoctrination](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indoctrination), which developed for several years in the North and was extended to the South following the 1975 [Fall of Saigon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Saigon). An estimated 1-2.5 million people were imprisoned with **no formal charges or trials**. According to published studies , 165,000 people died in Vietnam's re-education camps.Thousands were tortured or abused. Prisoners were incarcerated for as long as 17 years, with most terms ranging from three to 10 years.

A **refugee** is a person who is outside his or her country of origin or habitual residence because he has suffered (or fears) persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or because he is a member of a persecuted '[social group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_group)' or **because he is fleeing a war** or natural disaster. (Sang Le is a refugee.)

**The** **Vietnam War** was a [military conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proxy_war) that occurred in [Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam), [Laos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laos), and [Cambodia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodia) from November 1955[A 1] to the [fall of Saigon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Saigon) in April **1975**. This war was fought between [North Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Vietnam) (supported by [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) and other [communist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist) allies) and the government of [**South Vietnam**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Vietnam) **(supported by the US** and other [anti-communist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-communism) countries.The **Viet Cong**, a lightly armed South Vietnamese communist [common front](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_front) directed by the North, largely fought against anti-communist forces in the region. The [Vietnam People's Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_People%27s_Army) (North Vietnamese Army) engaged in a more [conventional war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conventional_warfare), at times committing large units into battle.

The U.S. government viewed American involvement in the war as a way to prevent a communist takeover of South Vietnam. This was part of their wider strategy, which aimed to stop the spread of communism. The North Vietnamese government and the Viet Cong were fighting to reunify Vietnam under communist rule.

U.S. [combat units](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_organization) were deployed beginning in 1965. Laos and Cambodia were heavily bombed as part of a campaign to eradicate the Viet Cong. American involvement in the war peaked in 1968, at the time of the [Tet Offensive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tet_Offensive). After this, U.S. ground forces were gradually withdrawn as part of a policy known as [Vietnamization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnamization), which aimed to end American involvement in the war. Despite the [Paris Peace Accords](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Peace_Accords), which was signed by all parties in January 1973, the fighting continued.

U.S. military involvement ended in August 1973.[33] The [capture of Saigon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Saigon) by the Vietnam People's Army in April 1975 marked the end of the war, and North and South Vietnam were reunified the following year. The war exacted a huge human cost in terms of fatalities. Estimates of the number of Vietnamese service members and civilians killed vary from 800,000[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-Hirschman-36) to 3.1 million.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-AP-20)[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-afp1995-23) Some 200,000–300,000 [Cambodians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_people),[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-Heuveline.2C_Patrick_2001-24)[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-Marek_Sliwinski_1995-25)[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-Banister.2C_Judith_1993-26) 20,000–200,000 [Laotians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lao_people),[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-37)[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-38)[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-Lomperis-39)[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-40)[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-41)[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-42) and 58,220 U.S. service members also died in the conflict.[[A 2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War#cite_note-USd.26w-15)