

Memorable Images from the Vietnam War Era

Each of these photos influenced history. All of the photographers won Pulitzer prizes, either for the photographs themselves or for reportage of their events.



June 11, 1963, Saigon, Vietnam,
Photo by Malcom Browne AP

After four years of increased opposition by the Diem government towards Buddhist priests, 67-year-old Thich Quang Duc immolates himself to highlight Buddhist demands for religious equality. The photograph appeared around the world and changed public sentiment towards the Diem government. In 1964 Malcolm Browne and David Halberstam won the Pulitzer Prize for their individual reporting of the Viet Nam war and the overthrow of the Diem regime.



Photograph by Eddie Adams AP

February 1, 1968, Saigon, Vietnam
Photo by Eddie Adams, AP

Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan executing a Viet Cong prisoner in Saigon during the Tet Offensive. The prisoner had reportedly just murdered eight South Vietnamese. In 1969 Eddie Adams won the Pulitzer for spot news photography. In 1975, the year the communists overran the country, Ngoc Loan fled South Vietnam, and moved to Virginia, where he opened a restaurant. He died in 1998.



May 4, 1970, Kent State University, Ohio
Photo by John Filo

Mary Vecchio kneels over the bleeding body of Jeffrey Miller, one of four students killed by Army National Guardsmen at an anti-war protest that day. Filo who was a student at Kent State when the photographs were taken won the 1971 Pulitzer for this image.



June 8, 1972, Trang Bang, Vietnam
Photo by Huynh Cong "Nick" Ut, AP

Women and children run screaming from their village after a napalm drop. The little girl Phan Thi Kim Phuc had removed her clothes because they were on fire. Ut won the 1973 Pulitzer for this image and became a lifelong friend of Phan Thi Kim Phuc for his dedication getting her medical attention after the trauma.



1973, United States
Photo by Slava Veder, AP

Lt. Col. Robert. L. Stirm's family greeted the freed prisoner of war as he returned home from captivity in North Vietnam. Veder won the 1974 Pulitzer for this image.