

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1945, Indochina has suffered the extremely violent effects of the changes which have taken place in the international system. Situated where a variety of strategic, political and economic interests converge, it has become the scene of bitter rivalries which result from a tangled web of revolutionary ideologies and secular animosities.

While this study is intended to be confined to Vietnam and the international consequences of the latter's intervention in Kampuchea in 1978, it will seek to provide an account of what lies behind the policies pursued by those involved in this regional conflict and the complex way in which they have developed.

From the outset these issues will be dealt with from a Canadian point of view which should help the reader to understand the dispute better and also, perhaps, to feel more involved in its development.

In addition, the study will enable the reader to grasp the various tentative suggestions which are put forward at the end of this article concerning the attitudes which Canada should adopt in order to help Vietnam return to the international community.

Before tackling that issue, however, one must begin by trying to understand the complicated motivations of all those involved, directly or indirectly, in this dispute.

First, it is important to realize the way in which the two major opposing coalitions have used the Khmers as surrogates to fight their