

CENSORSHIP IN VIETNAM

Brave New World

THOMAS A. BASS

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University of Massachusetts Press

“This is an eye-opening, disturbing, sad, and altogether fascinating account of censorship in contemporary Vietnam. Even more than that, Thomas Bass introduces us to a number of brave Vietnamese poets and fiction writers who have endured almost unimaginable hardships merely for expressing the humane values that most Americans take for granted.”

—Tim O’Brien, author of *The Things They Carried*

“A masterpiece about Vietnamese sensitivities. . . . It has produced a culture shock between Vietnamese and American customs.”

—Pham Thi Hoai, author of *The Crystal Messenger*

“Thomas Bass suffered the death of a thousand cuts while trying to get his book about a Vietnamese spy published in Vietnam, a book about my old friend and colleague at Time Magazine in Saigon, Pham Xuan An. In his latest book he explores the self-defeating censorship that ties so many of Vietnam’s best artists, poets and authors up in knots, revealing the basic insecurities of authoritarian societies—a cautionary tale for our time.”

—H.D.S. Greenway, author of *Foreign Correspondent: A Memoir*

“When Hanoi won its war with the United States, the Vietnamese got the independence they fought for. But freedom, as in many countries around the world, is still a casualty. With gripping personal accounts, Thomas Bass describes the wounds and skirmishes of victims in this continuing battle.”

—Drew Pearson, producer for the PBS series *Vietnam: A Television History*

“This book is precious. It makes a real contribution to our struggle for liberty and democracy in Vietnam.”

—Bui Tin

“Thomas Bass’s account of his struggles with censorship in Vietnam is the most detailed I have encountered. It helps explain why history as a discipline is in such a sorry state in Vietnam. The past is a minefield, like the landscape.”

—Hue-Tam Ho Tai, author of *The Country of Memory: Remaking the Past in Late Socialist Vietnam*

“An engrossing, beautifully written account of censorship and corruption in contemporary Vietnamese journalism and literature. Bass is a masterful writer who creates an evocative montage from his personal reflections and in-depth interviews of Vietnam’s greatest writers, from poets to short story writers to journalists to editors. This is a significant book and I did not want to put it down.”

—Wynn W. Gadkar-Wilcox, author of *Allegories of the Vietnamese Past: Unification and the Production of a Modern Historical Identity*

“A deep and complex account that will further current conversations about censorship both inside and outside of contemporary Vietnam.”

—Dan Duffy, founder of the Viet Nam Literature Project

“Thomas Bass is one of the few authorities on Vietnam I respect. Read this book!”

—Andrew X. Pham, author of *Catfish and Mandala: A Two-Wheeled Voyage Through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam*