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## Who Lost Vietnam As Seen By Wallace

Montgomery, Ala.

ANY THOUGHT THAT the United States might be spared the agony of recrimination over "who lost Vietnam" can be forgotten. George C. Wallace, who has built a political career on the exploitation of divisive issues, has fastened on the tragedy unfolding in Indochina as the latest weapon in his unending assault on the nation's leadership.



An almost casual question, tossed in at the end of a lengthy interview with the Alabama Governor the other afternoon, prompted a flood of angry rhetoric. Wallace was asked about his reaction to the rout in Vietnam and Cambodia.

"There is going to be a great revulsion in this country against our going in there and not winning that war," he said.

"This is an emotional thing," he said, carried along by the force of his own feelings. "The people can't stomach a government that wasted all that money and all those lives for no purpose. They supported their government, because they're patriotic Americans, but if we weren't going to win it, we should never have gone in."

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THE POINT HAD been made. But Wallace, displaying the same headstrong quality that led to his fateful choice of a retired U.S. Air Force General, Curtis LeMay as his 1968 running-mate, was unable to curb his own anger.

"Fellows like Lemay that they called hawks, they're the real doves. Lemay would have ended that war. The real warmongers are those who cut the heart out of our defense for all these social welfare programs. And those who said, 'Oh no, you musn't carry the war to them'—they're the ones who are going to have to answer for this."

Some small warning bell went off inside Wallace's head, for he broke off his chain of thought to say, "Don't write that I'm advocating nuclear war, 'cause I'm not. I'm not calling for any Cold War either, but the American people are getting tired of hearing that every regime that rights the Communists is corrupt. The real corruption is communism."

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AND THEN, WITHOUT FOREWARNING, Wallace slipped into a conspiratorial theory of history which made it seem that American governments for the past two generations had been, wittingly or unwittingly, the agents of international communism.

"That's what's at the root of it — communism," he said, "and we're the ones who let the Communists take over Eastern Europe. I knew even when I was just a kid in the barracks that communism was the real enemy. Hitler was bad, but if it hadn't been Hitler, it would have been someone else. We brought Hitler to power by our vengeful Versailles treaty."

"Then when Hitler fought Russia, we were the ones who saved Russia. If it hadn't been for our aid, the Germans and the Russians might have fought each other to death."

Thus spoke George C. Wallace, who, in case you need reminding, is leading the polls for the 1976 Democratic presidential nomination.