

**Perfect Spy: The Incredible Double Life of Pham Xuan an Time Magazine Reporter and Vietnamese Communist Agent**

Berman, Larry (Author)

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Berman (political science, Univ. of California, Davis) here offers a remarkable blend of biography, history, and personal experience. Pham Xuan An was educated in the United States on orders of his Communist superiors and became a respected stringer for Time in 1960s Saigon, using American contacts like David Halberstam and Neil Sheehan to help shape Communist responses to overall American strategy. (He never betrayed any specific American friend.) Even when his dual role was discovered, Vietnam's Communist government having trumpeted the fact, many of the American reporters he knew still respected his journalistic skill. Drawing on extensive interviews with An and a number of his Vietnamese and American friends, Berman recounts a remarkable story. Perhaps he could have emphasized more strongly the deadly results of An's intelligence assistance to the Communists. Nonetheless, this is a fascinating account of a complex man who loved his homeland, as well as the United States and the profession of journalism. Highly recommended for both public and academic libraries.-A.O. Edmonds, Ball State Univ., Muncie, IN

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