Le Duan's Struggles: Toward a New International History of the Vietnam War

Vietnam Workers' Party (VWP) First Secretary Le Duan led his country to full-scale war by outmaneuvering his opponents within the Party and military leadership in North Vietnam, subjugating the southern insurgency to Hanoi’s control, and silencing general dissent to his war policies. Divided into three parts, this paper will analyze Le Duan’s ascent to power and his efforts to promote revolutionary war, Party strategy, and Hanoi’s victory over the United States and its allies. Using never-before-seen materials from Vietnam, this paper parts the “bamboo curtain” that has long concealed strategy deliberation in Hanoi during its “Anti-American Resistance Struggle for Reunification and National Salvation.”

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Co-convener: Triangle Institute for Security Studies