



LAST PLANE OUT OF SAIGON IS A LANDMARK BOOK, which combines the important first-hand account of the final months of the Vietnam War with an incisive political and historical perspective. The book represents a real-time account of the anger, resistance and resilience forged by the horrors **Richard Pena** witnessed as a draftee working in the operating room of Vietnam's largest military hospital. Pena left on the last day of American military involvement in Vietnam, on one of the final planes out of the country.

Last Plane Out of Saigon (The Story Merchant, 2014) is a collection of the journal entries Pena kept while he was in Vietnam. Supporting historical and political context is provided by award-winning scholar, and co-author, **John Hagan**.

Last Plane Out of Saigon, is available now on Amazon in paperback (ISBN: 978-0-9897-1541-6, 136 pages) and as a multi-format eBook. It can also be ordered through local bookstores.



The *Austin American Statesman* has recognized the intrigue of *Last Plane Out of Saigon*, calling it a “**compact and compelling book.**” On Amazon it is listed as a best seller with thousands of copies ordered and counting. This highly acclaimed book is “timely” as it touches on mistakes that were made then, and which our country continues to make today. One reviewer even commented, “**it should be required reading for policy makers leading us into war.**” It has made an impression on people throughout America, including, Veterans. The respected veterans’ organization **Vietnam Veterans of America** featured *Last Plane Out of Saigon* in their **VVA Veteran** book review, determining that it “**offers insights worth reflecting upon four decades after the fact.**”

The **State Bar of Texas** blog identifies the book as a “**reproduction of Pena's thought-provoking, real-time journal from that long, final year of the war.**” Many readers are discovering the importance of *Last Plane Out of Saigon*. One review attested that “*Last Plane Out of Saigon* will be viewed by history as the final word [on Vietnam].”

|| **LAST PLANE OUT OF SAIGON is a “powerful tribute to the 58,286 American lives lost and the countless others impacted. It asks what lessons we have learned that we can apply today, especially to address the needs of our returning war veterans.”** ||

- Amazon reviewer

Americans of all walks of life are reading and singing the praises of *Last Plane Out of Saigon* as a book whose time has come and as one that tells the truth of the tragic Vietnam war. To learn more about the book’s **successful and electrifying** debut continue reading on the back!

Last Plane Out of Saigon has recently been catalogued in the **Special Collections Department** of the **United States Air Force Academy McDermott Library**. This Library aims to “**establish and maintain a special collection of unique and rare items pertinent to the growth and development of the USAF Academy.**” The inclusion of *Last Plane Out of Saigon* in the library’s Special Collections Department is an honorable achievement that highlights the book’s importance and relevance.

In April 2016, the book received another honor after being selected by the **LBJ Presidential Library** to be included in its historic **Vietnam War Summit** held in Austin, Texas. The Summit also featured a panel of speakers including **Henry Kissinger, Dan Rather, Luci Baines Johnson**, and Secretary of State **John Kerry**.

Last Plane Out of Saigon is now being taught in various high schools in Texas and is an undeniable fit for students! As a primary source, the book presents audiences with a better understanding of the complicated final year of the Vietnam War. Teachers have noted the necessity for a book like *Last Plane Out of Saigon* to be present in the classroom because it engages students in a way that no textbook can. A lesson plan for *Last Plane Out of Saigon* has also been developed by reputable teachers through the State Bar of Texas and Law-Related Education and can be downloaded from the book’s website.



RICHARD PENA served in Vietnam and is now a practicing attorney in Austin, Texas. He is the former President of the **American Bar Foundation** and former President of the **State Bar of Texas**, and was on the **Board of Governors for the American Bar Association**. He is a leader within his field and has led over twenty legal delegations abroad through the **People to People Ambassador Program** and **Academic Travel Abroad**. While on a trip to Vietnam he visited the Ho Chi Minh City War Remnants Museum and recognized himself in a photo titled “Last Plane Out.” Seeing this photo (featured on the cover) inspired Pena to reread the journal he kept while at war, which would eventually become *Last Plane Out of Saigon*. This exciting and riveting book serves as Pena’s debut as an author.



JOHN HAGAN is the author of nine books and more than 150 articles published in nationally renowned publications, such as *Science, Law & Society Review* and *the American Journal of Public Health*. He is best known for *Darfur and the Crime of Genocide* (Cambridge Press, 2008), which won him the 2009 Stockholm Prize in Criminology and the Distinguished Publication Award from the American Sociological Association. His most recent book is *Who Are the Criminals?: The Politics of Crime Policy in the Age of Roosevelt and the Age of Reagan* (Princeton University Press, 2010). In addition to his other achievements, Hagan provided the critical supporting historical and political context for *Last Plane Out of Saigon*.

For more information about *Last Plane Out of Saigon*, visit:

Website: lastplaneoutofsaigon.com

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