

HIST 4380: America & the Vietnam Wars
Graham Green *Quiet American* Essay Assignment

Utilizing Graham Greene's *Quiet American* (1955), write a 3-to-5-page paper built answering **ONE** of the following prompts:

- Why is Alden Pyle labeled a "Quiet" American? What does this say about the world's view of Americans at the time?
- Who do the three main characters (Fowler, Pyle, & Phuong) represent in the broader story of the war in Vietnam and how?
- Who is York Harding, and how do his writings reflect American attitudes towards Southeast Asia during the 1950's?

This assignment has two essential objectives:

1. To test your ability to form and support an argumentative answer to the prompt, utilizing the research and written skills of the historical discipline.
2. To test your ability to read a historical novel and understand its':
 - a. Place within the historiography
 - b. Its implications/claims about the subject matter

A quality paper will include a clear and well written answer to the prompt. This means a concise and persuasive introduction section including a direct argument that is matched with a proper conclusion. It must be built upon a solid organizational framework that is designed to forward and support your argument. Finally, it must point to ample evidence in support of said argument/answer to the prompt. You should utilize outside sources (your textbook, etc.) to place both the book and its' narrative in the proper context. Do not overly rely on quoted materials from the book. This is an argumentative research paper hidden in a book review.

Requirements:

- 3 – 5 pages (double space), Times New Roman, 12-pt Font, 1-in margins
- Chicago Style Citations (Footnotes) & proper bibliography of any/all outside sources.