

BOLD Ideas, ESSENTIAL Reading

Nothing is Impossible

America's Reconciliation with Vietnam

TED OSIUS

FOREWORD BY JOHN KERRY

"This is a lot more than a first-rate memoir. It is a brilliantly organized account of a decades-long struggle towards reconciliation, not just on the part of two governments but on the part of two nations bearing the physical and emotional scars of a protracted war. As U.S. ambassador to Vietnam, Ted was far more than merely diligent. He was intensely creative in finding ways, both moral and material, to soften bitter memories with new hope. In the process, he served the strategic interests of the United States by stressing common interests and building mutual respect. His work in Vietnam is a reminder of something often overlooked in our country: the extraordinary value of its professional Foreign Service—which I personally saw every day as Vice President, and which is clear as day on the pages of this book."

—Al Gore, Former United States Vice President

"America's reconciliation with Vietnam is one of the most remarkable diplomatic stories of the past three decades, and Ambassador Ted Osius was at the center of it all. In his new book, Ambassador Osius takes readers behind the scenes of this initiative, helping them understand how two old enemies came together to forge a better future for their people. *Nothing is Impossible* is an absorbing memoir from one of America's finest diplomats."

—Madeleine K. Albright, Former U.S. Secretary of State

"In the great tradition of Dean Acheson's *Present at the Creation*, Ambassador Osius has provided us with a thoughtful and gripping diplomatic history of the critical moments in the reconciliation and the rebuilding of relations between the United States and Vietnam. This book provides important historical context but is also deeply personal, reminding us just how valuable diplomacy and the creative diplomats who toil tirelessly, often behind the scenes, just are. This is a must-read not just for those interested in the role of the United States in Asia, but for anyone who seeks to understand what contribution an individual can make to addressing the complexities of international relations."

—Ambassador Michael Froman, Former U.S. Trade Representative

"The title of this book tells you a lot about Ted Osius, and about the instrumental role he played in building trust and cooperation between the United States and Vietnam. Forty years after a war that caused incalculable suffering and loss for the people of both countries, Ted's story of how an openly gay American ambassador won the hearts of the Vietnamese people contains priceless lessons for every aspiring diplomat, and for people everywhere who believe in the power of listening and of staying true to one's convictions in pursuit of a larger goal in a foreign land."

—Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senator

"Ambassador Ted Osius tells a remarkable story of how the United States and Vietnam overcame the tragedy of war to build an enduring new relationship. My husband John played a part, along with so many Americans, including principled Democrats and Republicans in Congress, successive U.S. presidents of different political parties, and civic leaders—including proud veterans—determined to chart a new course for our peoples that is about the future, not the past. I recommend Ted's book as both an authoritative history and a colorful account of an ambassador's life in a country of strategic importance to the United States."

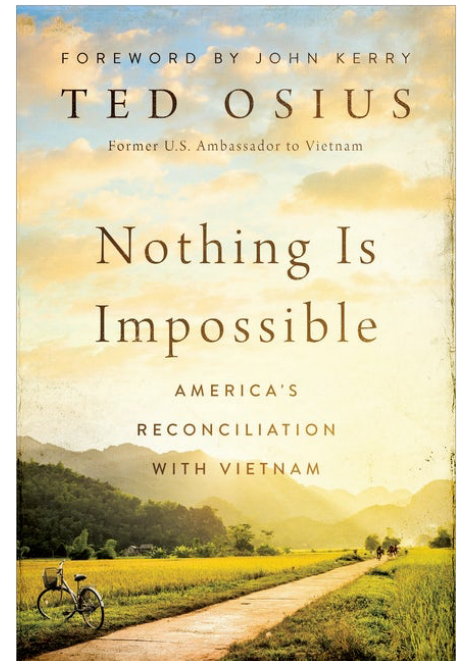
—Cindy McCain, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University

"From his direct engagement in the establishment of the US embassy to his 2014-2017 ambassadorship in Ha Noi, Ted Osius has demonstrated outstanding commitment and perseverance in the complex and difficult journey towards his stated goal of Viet Nam-US reconciliation. I applaud Ambassador Osius's remarkable contribution to this worthy cause. His memoir provides us a needed American perspective from a top US diplomat. Let us hope that in the near future there will also be Vietnamese perspectives offered on the topic of Viet Nam-US reconciliation."

—Ton Nu Thi Ninh, Former Ambassador of Viet Nam to the European Union

TED OSIUS, a diplomat for thirty years, served from 2014 to 2017 as U.S. ambassador to Vietnam, a country he has known and loved since 1995. Only the second gay career diplomat in U.S. history to achieve the rank of ambassador, Osius went to Vietnam with his husband and children.

JOHN FORBES KERRY is a former secretary of state and five-term U.S. senator. He is the author of *A Call to Service: My Vision for a Better America*, *The New War*, *This Moment on Earth*, and *Every Day Is Extra*. Kerry serves as the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate in the Biden Administration.



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October 2021

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