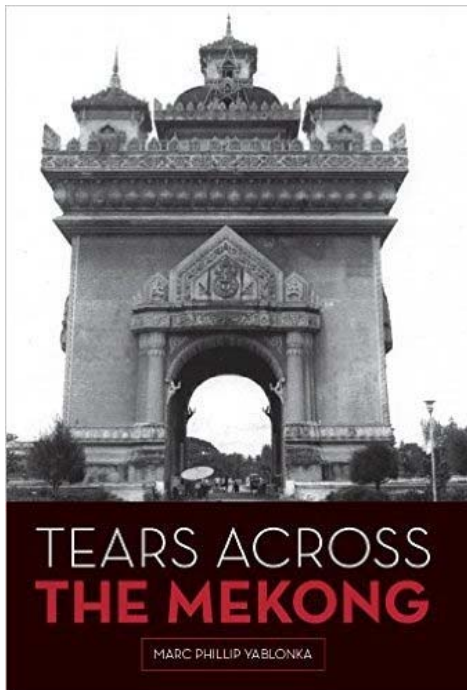


## **Tears Across the Mekong by Marc Phillip Yablonka**



“Tears Across The Mekong” (Figueroa Press, April 2016) profiles the personal lives of a number of Lao and non-Lao who lived through the civil war. Among them is a former government army officer, a teacher, a farmer, a Hmong guerrilla, a Lao T-28 pilot.

A full chapter is devoted to Fr. Lucien Bouchard, an American missionary serving highland tribes. There have been other books in English that have collected the voices of the Lao diaspora, recalling their wrenching exodus and painful settlement in new homelands. Most are tales of

resurgence and fulfillment. This book expands on the resilience of the human spirit, a cliché of the immigrant experience, but still an inspiration with every telling. The tribal Hmong recruits of the CIA against the North Vietnamese figure prominently among those that the author Marc Yablonka, a journalist and a military historian, interviewed.

The “tears” of his book symbolize the sad fate that doomed this fighting force and his admiration for their sacrifice. The book is also available from Amazon.com