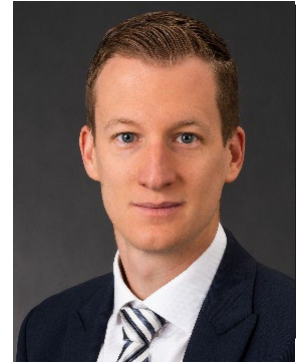




## Dr. Marcel Berni

Head ad interim Strategic Studies  
Military Academy at ETH Zurich  
Barracks Reppischtal  
8903 Birmensdorf  
Zurich Switzerland

Office: +41 58 484 82 83  
E-Mail: marcel.berni ( @ ) vtg.admin.ch  
Web: www.milak.ch



---

## Biography

Marcel Berni is the ad interim Head of the Department of Strategic Studies of the Military Academy at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. He studied history, political science and ecology at the University of Berne. In 2019, he completed his doctorate at the University of Hamburg with a thesis on the treatment on Communist prisoners during the Vietnam War. The study, which was published in 2020, won the André Corvisier Prize for the best dissertation in military history. In 2022, Marcel Berni represented the Chair of Strategic Studies in teaching and research.

## Areas of Research

Marcel Berni conducts research on contemporary wars, conflicts and crises from a strategic perspective. The focus is on contemporary armed conflicts and their global interactions. Corresponding research areas include strategy and violence, military doctrine, irregular warfare, the development of armed forces and prisoners of war. Marcel Berni closely follows the war in Ukraine and comments on the military situation in the media.

## Publications

### Books

- Captivity in War during the Twentieth Century: The Forgotten Diplomatic Role of Transnational Actors, Cham 2021 (ed. with Tamara Cubito).
- Außer Gefecht: Leben, Leiden und Sterben «kommunistischer» Gefangener in Vietnams amerikanischem Krieg, Hamburg 2020.
- «Gooks» – Feinddarstellungen in amerikanischen Feldpostbriefen aus dem Vietnamkrieg (1965-1975), Bern 2015.

### Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)

- War on the Pandemic: European Armed Forces and the Impact of COVID-19 Deployments on Military Readiness (with Pierre-Louis Gonin), in: Defense & Security Analysis, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14751798.2024.2390722>.

- Unheard Voices: Foreign Journalists' Coverage of Vietnamese Prisoners during the American War in Vietnam, in: *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2024.2361973>.
- ISAF and European Military Transformation: German, Swedish and French Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan, 2003-2014 (with Alexandre C. Hochuli), in: *Comparative Strategy*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01495933.2024.2317229>.
- Capture, Classification and Incarceration of Communist Captives during Vietnam's American War, in: *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022463423000449>.
- The Forever War: New Perspectives on the Vietnam War, in: *Journal of Contemporary History*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022009420935686>.
- Visualizing Strategy: A Conceptual Framework for the Analysis and Teaching of the Conduct of War (with Mauro Mantovani), in: *Defence Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14702436.2020.1807339>.

## Articles in Books and Journals

- Nguyen Thi Dinh (1920-1992), in: Candice Goucher (ed.), *Women Who Changed the World: Their Lives, Challenges, and Accomplishments through History*, Santa Barbara 2022, Vol. 3, pp. 871-876.
- The Diplomatic Role of Transnational Actors in Wartime Captivity (with Tamara Cubito), in: Marcel Berni/Tamara Cubito (ed.), *Captivity in War during the Twentieth Century: The Forgotten Diplomatic Role of Transnational Actors*, Cham 2021, pp. 1-21.
- The ICRC and Communist Captives During Vietnam's American War, in: Marcel Berni/Tamara Cubito (ed.), *Captivity in War during the Twentieth Century: The Forgotten Diplomatic Role of Transnational Actors*, Cham 2021, pp. 137-156.
- Forgotten Prisoners: Communist POWs During the Vietnam War, 1965–1975, in: Daniel Krebs/Lorien L. Foote (ed.), *Useful Captives: The Role of POWs in American Military Conflicts*, Lawrence 2020, pp. 105-126.
- Das Fauchen des roten Drachen: Chinas militärtechnologischer Quantensprung (with Pierre-Louis Gonin), in: *Allgemeine Schweizerische Militärzeitschrift* 09/2020, pp. 16-17.
- Excessive Violence in a War Without Fronts: Explaining Atrocities in South Vietnam (1965–1973), in: Frank Jacob (ed.), *Genocide and Mass Violence in Asia: An Introductory Reader*, Berlin/Boston 2019, pp. 117-137.
- Switzerland and the Great War: 100 Years of Historiography, in: Frank Jacob, Jeffrey Shaw, Timothy Demy (ed.), *War and the Humanities: The Cultural Impact of the First World War*, Paderborn 2019, pp. 85-104.
- Strategieanalyse: Methodik und Visualisierung (mit Mauro Mantovani), in: *MPR* 02/2018, pp. 31-42.
- Vietnam, Irak, Afghanistan: Counterinsurgency ohne «Happy End», in: *Allgemeine Schweizerische Militärzeitschrift* 04/2017, pp. 38-39.
- David gegen Goliath: Der heisse Krieg in Vietnam, in: Katharina Hochmuth (ed.), *Krieg der Welten: Zur Geschichte des Kalten Krieges*, Berlin 2016, pp. 90-106.
- Der Überfall auf Xuan Ngoc: Ein vergessenes Kriegsverbrechen, in: Internet Portal Militärgeschichte, Arbeitskreis Militärgeschichte e.V., 07.11.2016, [http://portal-militaergeschichte.de/sites/default/files/pdf/berni\\_xuanngoc.pdf](http://portal-militaergeschichte.de/sites/default/files/pdf/berni_xuanngoc.pdf).
- Liechtenstein (with Marco Jorio), in: *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Sciences Perspectives*, Thousand Oaks 2017, pp. 986-987.
- Switzerland (with Marco Jorio), in: *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Sciences Perspectives*, Thousand Oaks 2017, pp. 1659-1660.
- Hearts and Minds and Body Count: The Mathematization of War in Vietnam (1965-1972), in: Tobias Hof (ed.), *Empire, Ideology, Mass Violence: The Long 20th Century in Comparative Perspective*, München 2016, pp. 175-202.
- Gefangen im Déjà-vu: Indochina- und Vietnamkrieg im Vergleich, in: *Allgemeine Schweizerische Militärzeitschrift* 05/2016, pp. 48-49.

## Reviews

Reviews in: *The Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Military History*, *International Journal of Military History*, *International Bibliography of Military History*, *H-Soz-Kult*, *Reviews in History*, *Global Military*

Studies Review, Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Geschichte, Portal Militärgeschichte, Allgemeine Schweizerische Militärzeitschrift