



Search forums

Week 2 Forum

Patriots and PBS

• [Subscribe](#)

◀ [Why Vietnam? and The Longest War](#)

[Why Vietnam? and The Longest War](#) ▶

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Move



Patriots and PBS

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Saturday, October 3, 2015, 10:21 PM

This forum thread is for Patriots and PBS posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT – SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Patriots and PBS

Sum of ratings: –

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



National Liberation Front/Viet Cong

by [Derek Pesterfield](#) – Sunday, October 4, 2015, 4:09 PM

In episode 2 of the PBS documentary series “Vietnam: A Television History”, it is stated that in 1960 the formation of the National Liberation Front in the south was formed to fend off the anti-communist Americans forces, more popularly known as the Viet Cong. This is significantly related to Tran Thi Gung’s story in Chapter 1 of the Appy book. When she was a kid, her father was killed for being a member of the Viet Cong, and Tran was told to fetch his body. Because of this, Tran decided to take revenge on her father’s death and join the National Liberation Front, or Viet Cong. The connection is clear. In 1960 the National Liberation Front or Viet Cong was founded, and 1 year after Tran’s father was murdered for being a member of the Viet Cong she felt compelled to join the “resistance” in 1963.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



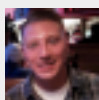
Re: The Story of Tran

by [Cherokee Young](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 12:29 AM

I found the story of Tran to be very insightful. Her story shows how war can have a decided effect on people. Tran wanted revenge after her father was killed and this caused her to join the Viet Cong. Tran talked about how the people of her village suffered from poverty and deprivation and were always being brutalized by the police and puppet soldiers. (Appy p. 16). In episode 2, America's Mandarin, they talk about how the Vietnamese people were unhappy with Diem's government and were being brutalized by the police under Diem's brother Nyu. I think it was a combination of Tran's father being killed and the conditions the Vietnamese were living with under Diem's rule that led Tran to want to join the Viet Cong.

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Sum of ratings:2 (1)



Re: The Story of Tran

by [Derek Pesterfield](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 9:47 PM

Cherokee,

I agree with you. I also think that a combination of Tran's father being killed and the condition of her homeland Vietnam being war-torn apart were key in playing a role in her decision to join the Viet Cong. I can't say that I wouldn't do the same thing if a similar political war situation was taking place in our home country of the United States. With the complexity (ulterior motives, not a complexity as in a thought out and executed military plan by the U.S.) of politics controlling the war and the emotional losses and issues that are most definitely a product of war, I find myself having nothing but empathy for Tran. If she is alive today I hope she has found peace within herself, and a life as unaffected by the tragedies that occurred on Vietnamese soil as possible.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



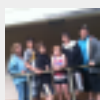
Re: The Story of Tran

by [Cherokee Young](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 11:53 PM

Thanks for your input. I too would probably react similar to Tran if I had to fetch my fathers body home. I also hope that Tran has found peace in life and with herself.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



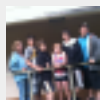
Re: National Liberation Front/Viet Cong Derek

by [Julie Paulman](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 10:36 PM

Think really enjoyed the watch episode 1 and 2 on Vietnam I think that making that connection between the roles not only communist, political analysis, allies, President Johnson a should have made different choices when it came politic. The formation of the coalition and calling the United States into action along with Great Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, all to build up Southeast Asia and guarantee security. This was valuable information I was unaware of that I found very interesting. In reading Patriots and watching the PBS video clip the documentary, I found similarities between the both context the interviews to be very detailed about watch happen between communist and the allies.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Patriots and PBS

by [Julie Paulman](#) – Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 8:33 PM

Julie Paulman

HST195

Patriots, PBS

Response 2 Forum 2

After reviewing the *Patriots* and *PBS.org* I was left wondering the how can I emphasis the importance of learning all this new knowledge I have just read? Learning the importance of war on all sides the communist and not only is The Vietnam War important to know and the horrific events that follow. I found very interest how much control communist had. Korea and Indochina also the communist trying to take over Korea how the Author implicates he own story and embarks a remarkable journey. PBS.org is also an amazing and interesting documentary not only did the Vietnam War produce anguish you can't help but feel connected to real history so much pain and suffering. So many things went unnoticed why if so many people involved in politics and communism chose to do nothing just my personal feeling. So many lives lost some believe that Hanoi ordered attacks in provoking the U.S. to take action. I had no clue the events of World War II could have such a huge impact many heroes yet so many left in turmoil, ambushing Phan Xuan Sinh was drafted by the Army if the Republic of Vietnam the largest

branch of South Vietnamese military. The documentary George Watkins, Ta Quang Thinh, Dang Vu Hiep and the revolution against the French in 1945 served as a battalion political officer in the 8 year war the follows. These are all things in which I did not know and found interesting.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Patriots and PBS

by Mitchell Lewellen – Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 9:09 PM

The most Important connection that i have found so far, was that the United States realized that Northern Vietnam was becoming a communist state and would eventually try to control South Vietnam. The U.S got on the ground early and started winning the trust of the Southern Vietnamese. We needed an ally and also someone who could defend themselves against communism. They sent American advisors like commander Roger Donlon to train the Southern Vietnamese to fight and protect there state. The Americans knew it wouldn't be enough but they hoped for the best.

United states was making the right move, training others to fight there own battle so that way we wouldn't, but the U.S government had other reasons of doing. They wanted control over the south and to make sure they would not be a threat to the U.S. This is why they made relationships with Ngo Dinh Diem. They worked with Diem to insure him a leader to stop the communism uprising. This worked for awhile till the coup against him.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Patriots and PBS

by Derek Pesterfield – Thursday, October 8, 2015, 9:06 AM

Mitchell,

I really like your analysis and connection on Week 2's Patriots forum question. Although there may have been ulterior motives for the United States trying to help South Vietnam defend itself from communism, such as the United States setting up diplomatic relations and having an "political eye", so to speak, in Asia. But ultimately, I believe the US made the decision with good intentions and were just in over their head going into the war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Patriots and PBS

by Cherokee Young – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 12:43 AM

I like the analysis you make of the U.S. being in over their head. In the videos we have watched and the information we have read it talks about how the Vietnamese had a guerrilla style of fighting that was new to us. It also mentions how the Viet Cong had a purpose that drove them to fight, freedom. The U.S. were fighting against communism but they didn't have as much heart in their fighting as the Viet Cong. Many American's didn't really know what they were fighting for and so they didn't have near the drive that the Viet Cong did.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Patriots and PBS

by Mitchell Lewellen – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 8:40 PM

Derek,

True. Having our own political eye in another country is a great idea and would help majorly in keeping world peace. Its a shame that we had to send our own troops in there but we learn from our mistakes.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



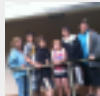
Re: Why?

by [Cherokee Young](#) – Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 10:45 PM

For me the most significant connection between the stories we have read and the episodes we have watched is the wall that shows all the names of the Americans that lost their lives in Vietnam. At the beginning of the first episode (Roots of War) it shows a brief clip of the wall. When I see that it makes me sad to think of all the people that died fighting in the war. George Watkins talks about his experience of going to the wall and how it made him feel. (Appy p. 24–25). George talks about how he thought the war was a bad political mistake and he wonders why all those people had to die and what was gained from it. I guess the wall has such a big connection for me not only because of how it makes me and others feel but also because you can sense people’s confusion over why we were even fighting in the war in the first place. Over and over again throughout our readings and the videos we have watched that seems to be one of the biggest questions being asked repeatedly. From what I understand through our readings and videos is that we fought in Vietnam to keep it from becoming communist. The Americans were afraid of a domino effect if Vietnam fell to communism. (Herring p. 22). This might be the political reason for fighting the war but for common Americans I can see why they would be confused as to the reasons for fighting the war in the first place. I think the reason I connect the reading and videos together in this way is because I’m sad about all the lives lost on both sides and I can understand why people would be confused about why we were fighting in the first place. I don’t know if I have any of this right but this is the way I understand it so far and I look forward to learning more as we go on in this class.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



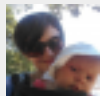
Re: Why?

by [Julie Paulman](#) – Thursday, October 8, 2015, 10:48 AM

Not only do I agree with how the movies make you feel but the connection between the purpose of this war. I have been trying to put together in my mind to even begin to understand communist and political aspects and views of the war but, Why did this big fight over turf and the North wanting to take over the South become all about power control and gun affairs? I to am looking forward to learning so much more about Vietnam World War II the Cold War, I did not realize just how so many red flags chose to go unnoticed and how Presidential, politicians, and communist could be so indulged in such selfish ways that it is sickening. So may lives could have been saved had anti-communist and communist and the peace agreement been keep on all sides and the division of Vietnam.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



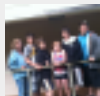
Campaigning

by [Mary Sieroslowski](#) – Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 11:50 PM

To begin, I would like to say that I knew minimal information regarding the Vietnam War going in to this class and the materials we have been provided with so far have been extremely enlightening. What I found most interesting was the contrast between our nation’s previous anti-communist zeal of Truman’s efforts and those of men like Retired Lieutenant General Bernard Trainor, and the eventual discovery of the reality of the situation. Ho Chi Minh was seen as a Communist puppet by the US and his attempts at communication for help from the US has been met with silence. When Ho Chi Minh’s government eventually did ally themselves with the Soviet Communist Bloc, the US felt justified to engage in the fighting. The difference between the patriotic cause of preventing Communist expansion and the realization that Ho Chi Minh’s motivation was mainly nationalistic and anti-colonial (as we were shown in episode I) is significant. As Trainor shared, men were coming home with a strong feeling of disillusionment. Commander Clark Judge told Trainor that they were “campaigning” rather than fighting a war, as they were just biding their time until they could pull out. Vietnam went from a “Holy war” to an ungodly mess because of men like General Westmoreland.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Campaigning

by [Julie Paulman](#) – Thursday, October 8, 2015, 10:36 AM

I would have to agree that not only was my knowledge limited about the history behind and leading up the

Vietnam and the Cold War but, I am learning so many different things that I have a hard time comprehending in my mind how many years this War went on and could have been prevented. I think that you are on to some very interesting topics and have an interesting perspective on Campaigning. I feel that you have undercover a new insight of me as well as discovery. I think that the Communist puppet was an interesting concept. However the Soviet and U.S. had more issues than we have come across thus far in class. This will be interesting to see how all of this information we learn plays out.

Sum of ratings: (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



A reason for fighting
by [John Lilly](#) – Thursday, October 8, 2015, 10:45 AM

I feel a significant part part from the Appy book was the part about Tran Thi Gung, a young woman who's farther was killed by "Puppet Soldiers." She joined the guerrillas to avenge her fathers death. She wanted to do something to liberate her country because her town was filled with poverty, abuse by soldiers, and deprived of food and clothes. I feel many Vietnamese joined the guerrillas because of this cause, they wanted to protect their homes from being burned down or destroyed, and it relates to the PBS in many different ways. A elderly lady in episode one talks about how soldiers would kill, burn, and destroy. "I didn't see any guerrillas being killed, only villagers." A man sent his young children not to fight but to die,"I always believed in my country, but instead of sending my sons to defend my country, i sent them to die." I feel this fueled the fire for many vietnamese people to fight, but the vietnamese did just about anything to kill Americans, they sent child fighters to die, built underground tunnels, and young woman such as Tran Thi Gung would brutally kill Americans.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

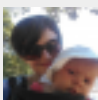


Re: A reason for fighting
by [Derek Pesterfield](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 10:19 PM

John,

I actually wrote about the same story from the Appy book. I feel that Tran's story gave us as readers really good insight into how it might actually feel to be a Vietnamese citizen, and see how the emotional toll of the war could influence a persons decision to join a resistance, or the Vietcong in this case. I also think the empathy you feel after reading it is strong, and really humbling.

Sum of ratings: (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: A reason for fighting
by [Mary Sieroslawski](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 11:20 PM

I found Tran Thi Gung's story interesting as well. People like her were so strongly motivated to kill the enemy, no matter what.. Her final thought really made me think, "...if I went to America and killed people there, I would feel very sorry and guilty. Since the Americans came to my country, I don't feel guilty." I can't imagine what she faced, I have no doubt that she felt completely justified in what she did. What was most striking to me was the story she told of the mass for the dead being performed for her before she left on a mission. That provided insight to the culture of her movement, as well as how they saw things happening for themselves and their cause.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Patriots and PBS
by [Sean Phillips](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 7:07 PM

The story about Ho and his time with greatly describes how one regime was gaining ground while the other was failing. He described how in many ways his people looked up to Ho almost as a father figure. He mingled with his troops playing many silly games with them. It was very intriguing to read how Ho was a very softly spoken person but could relate to almost any person he met or randomly came across. The people were all extremely happy to talk with him and ask just generally wanted to be around him.

This was in stark contrast to Diem in the South. He had to be convinced by the American government to even go out and be one with his people. He was serving his own political views at the time and not listening to American input and even that of his own advisors or his people. Diem was causing a huge divide among his people and more importantly his own military. His own military attacking his own palace just further proves this point.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Re: Patriots and PBS

by [Mitch](#) Sunday, 8:45 PM

Sean,

It was great to read your post, it sounds that HO really never wanted war. He wanted to be surrounded by peace and happiness but its crazy to believe that peace and happiness would lead to people dying. But he could of been using that personality to gain a following of troops. Great post.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Re: Patriots and PBS

by [Derek](#) Sunday, 10:23 PM

Sean,

I think your post was written quite well. It actually helped me to get a better understanding of what was going on with Diem in South Vietnam and Ho in the North. Boiling it down to the basics is in my opinion so much better and clear than some of the militaristic language used. It can be so convoluted at times, with so much unnecessary information.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Re: Patriots and PBS

by [John](#) Sunday, 11:02 PM

Sean, I also read about Diem and I thought it was interesting how he had the people and military so divided, and how he wouldn't listen to his advisors or American views, which eventually lead to his assassination. I really liked your post and insights on Ho and how he was a man most people looked up to, and had his military, and people in full support of him.

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

◀ [Why Vietnam? and The Longest War](#)

[Why Vietnam? and The Longest War](#) ▶

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)

[HST 195 F15 \(Escobar 21148\)](#)

[LCC Home](#) | [LCC Student Help](#) | [LCC Faculty Help](#) | [Faculty Moodle Training](#) |