

Due date: Saturday, 30 October 2010, 09:05 PM

Last edited: Saturday, 30 October 2010, 01:28 PM (835 words)

During the Vietnam War, the world became divided by many different opinions on the subject of the United States fighting a "just" war in Vietnam. I do not believe in war. I believe that some people do deserve to die, but not on a battlefield as pawns on a chessboard while a small group of people try to outsmart each other. Throughout section three I read about the differences between the Vietnamese views (North and South) and the American views. After reading through the different interviews I did find one trace of similarity that the Vietnamese and Americans were both linked to. This bond they shared was the common relation that they "disagreed with the war."

General Baker Jr. was a conscientious objector around 1969 and did not support the United States involvement in Vietnam. Compelled that he will not be drafted for an "unjust" cause he said, "When the call is made to free the Mississippi Delta and 12th Street here in Detroit, then call me" (Appy, p. 147, General Baker Jr.). This man used his right given to him by the Constitution of the United States of America to voice his opinion even though he faced the consequence of jail time. This is a man who supports his country by speaking his mind even though he may be imprisoned for his actions. I find it amazing that this man said he will fight for his country, but not for a country that does not have a just cause to fight.

At the age of 19, Jim Soular, had been through basic training and three flight schools. Being a 19 year old flight engineer for a Chinook helicopter was a pretty large task for someone his age. Attending college was something he was not interested in at that time and he wanted to be drafted. He remembers, "I was a patriot. I believed in the flag. I believed in serving my country" (Appy, p. 157, Jim Soular). Graduating at the top of two of his classes and in the third finishing second among his class, he was by no means a dumb person. After one of his friends died in a bar shoot out Mr. Soular had to testify at the trial against the man who murdered his friend. Quickly Mr. Soular found out that a man, not qualified to fly a helicopter, crashed a helicopter and received 15 years for his stupidity. While seeing this man sentenced to fifteen years just trying to save a United States helicopter, the man who killed his friend received only five years for cold-blooded murder. Now Mr. Soular recalls, "Everything I'd been raised to believe in was contrary to what I saw in Vietnam" (Appy, p. 161, Jim Soular). Having a great sense of sorrow for what happened in Vietnam Mr. Soular can only show his frustration with the war. At the beginning of the war he might as well have been Uncle Sam himself; however, after his experiences he has a different outlook of the war, coming to believe that the war was not worth fighting.

"We were only soldiers, we didn't cause the war" (Appy, p 215, Luu Huy Chao). This North Vietnamese fighter pilot was a soldier who considered the war a dirty job and he got stuck in the middle of it. On page 215 of the Appy book he says, "The suffering caused by war is immeasurable. . .A dead soldier causes suffering to so many other people." As this statement continues Mr. Chao goes into further detail explaining that every person connected to a soldier is affected by the death of that soldier. I cannot imagine what it would be like to lose a friend to a war, especially a war I did not agree with. This man does not feel remorse for those he killed, but blames the war for the deaths he caused. In the final paragraph of the interview Mr. Chao ends with, "Now my only wish is that there be no war" (Appy, p. 215, Luu Huy Chao). This was a soldier fighting for the independence of his country who never agreed with the war from beginning to end. Throughout the interview Mr. Chao is not a supporter of killing people, and after his experience in the war he concludes that he would not want war to ever exist.

I always had the impression that there were the viewpoints of the Communists and the viewpoints of the Americans. I never thought to refer to the people who actually fought the war for their interpretation until now. Through reading these different stories I definitely felt a small effect of what these people were struggling through. It is very hard for me to believe that this war was fought by people who did not want any part of the war; however, they were forced to fight and they did.

Close this window

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)