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"Mistakes in History"

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Every country in the history of the world has made mistakes, whether you look at a still modern country such as France, England, or The United States etc. I could go down the line with many countries of today that many say the U.S. should model themselves after in many ways, and they all have made bad decisions and paid dearly for them. I know the United States for example has several including slavery, to the Monica Lewinsky Scandal, to obviously the Vietnam War. Every country in time has and will make mistakes, what is important is how we react to the situation. We can appose and disagree in either a respectable way or a way that disrespects and dishonors the country, we have that choice but if we can appose a stance of the country in a way that allows us to respect the country as well(not an America hating frenzy)we will learn from our mistakes and grow as a country for the better through committing of mistakes. I believe people learn the most by going thru tough times and committing mistakes, and I think it will be the same on the national level as well. The three stories I looked at to determine my point that countries make mistakes and that we must grow from it are: "From civil rights to anti war", "free-fire zone", and "they slept at our house".

In the story from civil rights to anti war they talk about civil rights movements and how they handled the way they were being treated. Julian bond talks about how many blacks turned against the war because they felt that there was no reason for them to fight and possibly give their lives and give the same sacrifice as whites when at home they didn't have the same rights and opportunities. I agree that blacks for a while in this country were treated unfairly and I can see where Julian is coming from in this story but I can't help but think that if it is so bad here why didn't they leave to another country where they think they would be treated better? I can sympathize however when I hear of the stories of even when voted in to office by the public several times a black man was not allowed. I don't think that is right. I think regardless of the color of someone's skin the person who is better qualified and better fit for the job should get the job. I think racism is nothing today like it used to be and that people need to get over what has happened in the past and realize it is acknowledged as a mistake and move on. I would like to think that if we reinstituted the draft that all men of this country would be willing to fight regardless of nationality cause everyone has equal rights in this country.

In the story "Free fire zone" Jim Soular talks of some pretty disturbing instances. I however believe that in war things happen and horrible decisions are made, but its easy to look back and judge someone's decision when you did not know what it would be like to fear for your life and because of that make a decision in the heat of the moment that would be looked upon as unacceptable. When people are in a fight they think of there own family and are going to do whatever it takes to survive and get home to their families. With that being said Jim talks about how he would fly into "Free fire zones" and extract villages from there homes so they would not be in harms way in the near future because if they remained would be considered VC. Little did we know that they had ancestors buried there and that they may have rather stayed behind? That is an obvious difference in culture and served as a mistake. They loaded the scared Vietnamese into the Chopper which was a machine never seen by these people before, it is not a surprise that they were scared. Because of this a scared man was thrown out of the helicopter at 60ft and it undoubtedly killed him. This looks as a horrific scene and probably was but I can also see that when a man fears for his life he will do things that he never thought he could do in order to ensure his own survival. As I said my theme would be, regardless of things in history we have to be able to overcome and get these things behind us in order to grow.

In the story "They slept at our house" Vu Thi Ninh talks about her volunteering to work on a road crew after lying about her age in order to be accepted. She said it was because of her patriotism that she wanted to help so badly even if it put her in harms way. I admire the Vietnamese for this. They did not complain and whine and try to skip out on serving, I am sure it happened but far less that the U.S. I think we as a country/people should learn from this. Even our poorest people in our country live better than the average over there, we don't live in grass huts and have to hunt for village food and the Vietnamese were more than willing to fight when back in the U.S. there were many trying to dodge the war. I think that we can learn from the mistake we made and learn from our once enemy and desire to be like them in that aspect. Don't get me wrong I love this country and would never want to live anywhere else and im more than willing to fight but many in our country could learn from the Vietnamese I believe. Life is all about growing and learning from mistakes.

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