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Assignment # 3 (Part #1 and Part # 2)

Part #1 "The turning point"

Richard Houser (pg. 322)

The main turning point in this story was when Richard turns sixteen. He and his brother get their own apartment and move out on their own. Their family was very poor and they had already been learning how to take care of themselves and their family for quite a while. The two boys had been making decisions for themselves. At sixteen they had been taking care of themselves and managing their own independence. They decided after moving out on their own, to drop out of school and get a job. They began thinking about whether or not they should go to Vietnam.

Richard volunteered to go to Vietnam and also volunteered for a seven month extension. He got in-country in 1965 and left in 1968. The Christmas incident of 1966 was horrifying to read about. It truly makes me sick to think about everything that the soldiers went through and the degrading treatment they received when they finally returned home.

Another turning point in this story was when Martin Luther King was assassinated. Americans turned against Americans. This also came as a shock to me because they were all in another country fighting a war together, they needed each other and yet they became separated because of something that happened back in the United States. Maybe it was because Martin Luther stood for peace and was basically murdered by a war perhaps it made them feel like all hope was lost.

Part # 2 "ending"

Judith Coburn (pg. 407)

Nineteen seventy is when I first see beginning of the end in this



story. Some of the troops were really starting to ignore orders and refuse to carry them out. It seemed like it was the domino effect after that, it was just one thing right after another. The men who were dropped off in the middle of the jungle would spend a couple of days calling out fake out orders, perhaps smoking a little marijuana and pretty much wait to be picked up. It appeared as though the men were calling it quits and taking a much needed break. Peace rallies were set up and then torn down. Legal services went downhill, a black man scolded by his superior because he was caught on duty not wearing his uniform, was allowed to have a jury of his peers decide if he was guilty or not, he was found "Not Guilty". He "claimed" that the Plaintiff, was a racist. Corruption was on the rise. If you had money and connections you could buy almost anything. A man brought a road show of entertainers through that were actually prostitutes in order to make more money. Loyalty to the **government** was hard to find because the people knew that they were corrupt. The government showing no respect for the people it governed in the United States, picked up men between fifteen and forty and took them off to the Army. Civilians from North and South Vietnam were being killed. As you walked through the mass destruction you would see many children and toddlers walking the roads because they were abandoned as people tried to escape.

There were a lot of journalists in the country and many were denied access back into the country because the government did not like some of the information they had publicized. This was during the time that the Johnson administration was keeping what was really going on in Vietnam on the "down low", for political reasons. The president wanted the country to believe that he was the president who had everything under control, that he was the man for the job. The truth was that he could have withdrawn the troops and spared a lot of lives but he would look like he was backing down and he was too proud to do so.

When Vietnam overthrew the **Khem** Rouge, some journalists were allowed into Cambodia under the false pretenses that they were Anti-War protesters. The people that were left in Cambodia felt that the journalists were heroes. They wanted the world to know what had happened to them and their families. The devastation of the country was so terrible that the journalists would cry themselves to sleep at night. I could not imagine what it was like for these people to be there. I can hardly stand to watch the dvd series or read many of the stories. In one way or another all these things led to the end of the war in this particular story .

Works Cited

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gov't?

very
confused



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