

Due date: Saturday, 20 November 2010, 09:05 PM

Last edited: Saturday, 20 November 2010, 05:30 PM (755 words)

Part One

part 1 = excellent!

After Reading Part 4 in Patriots, I found a strong representation of a "turning point" in Vietnam through the interview of John Douglas Marshall. Being in the ROTC program at the University of Virginia, John Douglas Marshall had a family expectation to live up to. Although he idealized his grandfather, who was an Army Reserve General and "one of the staunchest defenders of American policy in Vietnam" (Appy, p. 328), and also a man with no sense of the war on a humane level. My reaction to his grandfather was that he was a hardnosed man who only did things the Army Way. Mr. Marshall was in the military program only because "it was expected by his family" (Appy, p. 328). Although the military was a tradition that was strong in his family, he could not help but disagree with the Vietnam war. He then "immersed himself in the literature of pacifism and nonviolence--Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Thoreau" (Appy, p. 328). This was the "turning point" for Mr. John Douglas Marshall. "Concluding that all war was wrong, he applied to leave the army as a conscientious objector" (Appy, p. 328). After he was granted an honorable discharge, Mr. Johnson graduated from the ROTC program at the University of Virginia. His grandfather gave the commissioning speech at Virginia for the ROTC graduates. When Mr. Johnson was called up his grandfather told him, "Don't you salute me" (Appy, p. 329). His grandfather was very upset with him and later wrote a letter describing how unacceptable Mr. Johnson's actions were to his entire family. The letter reads, "We know why you quit. It wasn't conscience. You simply chickened out. . . You will not be welcome here again and you are herewith constrained not to use our name as family in any connection" (Appy, p. 329). Mr. Johnson never talked to his grandfather again and did not even attend his funeral. The division of Mr. Johnson and his grandfather is a perfect parallel to the American people becoming divided and protesting the war, as well as representing a "turning point" in Mr. Johnsons life.

Part Two

Throughout my reading of Part 5 in Patriots, I found that the interview of Alexander M. Haig Jr. was the most obvious view of an "ending" of the Vietnam War. His experiences in Vietnam, along with the help of Henry Kissenger and his own hard work, earned him the position of Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. Haig recalls his proudest moment "Was supporting the Christmas bombing of 1972"(Appy, p.397). I believe that the "ending" for Mr. Haig took place when Nixon refused to keep bombing Hanoi after the Christmas bombing, which could have

created more preferable negotiations for the United States; instead, the war for Mr. Haig was "ending" due to Nixon's weak personality and his selfish concerns of being impeached.

While serving in Vietnam Haig served as a commander that fought in many engagements with the North. He remembers, "Without exception every battle that we fought in Vietnam we won decisively. There were, of course, rare exceptions"(Appy, p. 399). During his time in Vietnam Mr. Haig saw firsthand the weak stomach of President Nixon. Haig recalls, "I told President Nixon to keep bombing and he confirmed it would mean impeachment"(Appy, p. 400). The fact that the President was too weak to keep bombing represents him putting himself above the country that was in danger of losing a war and the trust of the American people. (However, he was foolish enough to be caught in Watergate.) Nixon only had three advisors that he did trust. "Nixon was a lonely president with only three supporters"(Appy, p. 400), said Haig. Every other person in Nixon's cabinet, with the exception of Henry Kissenger, John Connolly, and Haig, did not support the war anymore and seemed to not care about the negotiations with Hanoi as long as the United States pulled out. The Vietnamese then "Withdrew every concession they had made, so there was no agreement"(Appy, p. 401). Mr. Haig saw everything he endorsed shot down with one simple "no." This changed the outcome of the war, as well as Mr. Haig's view of the war being able to be won by the United States.

Close this window

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)