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Kate Lonstron

Assignment 3

11/20/10

History 195

PART I

The strongest example of a "turning point" in part four of *Patriots* was the situation experienced by Nathan Houser.

Houser was born in Butler, Indiana to a born-again Christian and a factory worker and was the brother of a marine. He was religious and considered himself a patriot. He was Nathan made a life changing decision March of '67 to flee to Canada with his wife. There were certain things that happened which helped Nathan make his decision to flee out of the country, avoid the draft and choose not participate in the war that was going on.

The turning points that took place that made Nathan flee the country were, one, when according to Houser, "Kennedy's Assassination had a huge impact on me . . . possible that a coup was in progress. It had simply never occurred to me that there could be a coup in the United States . . . I began taking critical stance toward our government." (Patriots 336) The second occurred during his time in Washington in the summer of 1964 as a political intern for Senator Vance Hartke. There he realized that the "workings of politics floored" him. Nathan was starting to believe that "there was a whole lot of duplicity and lying going on." (Patriots 336)

Nathan, being someone who was a fundamentalist, religious, politically interested person turned against the law and the government. This point in Nathan's life of decision-making was a turning point. He thought that the war was wrong and that America was not fighting for the right reason -- he would rather break the law than do something he thought was wrong. He turned his life

into a whole new different direction and moved to Canada to hide and start a new life working as a bookstore supervisor. His life was different ever since the decision to move to Canada, he had to sneak into America and the city his parents lived in just to visit. The fact that Nathan realized the war was not for him, in order to not deal with it he had to break some laws. Nathan went a different route and that was the turning point in his life having to do with the war.



PART II

The account in Part Five of *Patriots* which best examples an "ending" to the war is when **Nixon's** impeachment concerns effectively end the war by absorbing his interest. We could have possibly won the war if he was willing to listen to people with the idea that could have helped, but he chose not to. Alexander M. Haig Jr. was a man who gave many suggestions about the war and was not listened to. In his account he says:

"General Harold Johnson, the army's chief of staff, asked me and another young army officer to give him a list of recommendations on what we should do in Vietnam. We gave him a list of over thirty measures . . . in 1965, just before our overt entry into Vietnam, General Johnson submitted his final list of recommendations to President Johnson and he eliminated over half of the measures we had purposed." (Patriots 398)

Even though they asked for recommendations, they didn't take those opinions seriously. Legitimately good ideas get shot down such as Haig's suggestion to keep "up the bombing and demand that the enemy get out of the South". (Patriots 400) Nixon and others ignored this suggestion because they were worried about themselves and not the greater situation. The fact that people are too worried about their own reputation and their own stance here is what ends the War.



The ending started with the wrong elections of people who decided to make the wrong decision even though they did not know the certain decisions they were making were going to come out the way they did. Between Johnson and Nixon they both seemed to be quite stubborn and did not want to do anything to interfere with their reputation in the presidency. I feel this is the reason we did not win the war. The war ended way before it even got started. We were fighting a losing war that could have came out a victory if the decision making had been put in the right hands.

~~As an overview, the end war that was the turning point and end of the war were the actual soldiers.~~ The American soldiers seemed to

now I'm really confused

LB 505
Nixon

be giving up, near the end of 1969 to the end of the war I feel as if the soldiers quit their duty. Drugs were beginning to be used more so than ever in the military, troops were starting to disrespect code of conduct by not listening, and not wearing the appropriate gear. People inside the military started forming anti war groups and clubs, which to me is odd. I think we were going against America itself, we were fighting our own being and a lot of the turning points and the end of war had to do with our own decisions and not necessarily what the North Vietnamese did. It was the decisions we made that had the biggest impact and what ended the war with a defeat.

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What this
is
off track

lost