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“It was a war with countless heartbreaking experiences” (Appy, p. 25, par. 3), is the foundation of Phan Xuan Sinh’s entire interview. Phan Xuan Sinh, a young man, had just graduated from a military academy and was assigned as a platoon leader during the Vietnam War. Reading through his story, I found that he hated the war and in no way cared about defeating the Vietcong. Sinh states, “We were forced to bear arms and saw no compelling reason to fight” (Appy, p. 26, par. 4). This story is already amazing due to the fact that a man that most likely has had no military experience beyond college, and now is given the responsibility of an entire platoon of men. Being in the South Vietnamese military, I thought, would suggest that he was an avid advocate for the South Vietnamese and a democratic government; however, Sinh never had any allegiance to such cause. Sinh was fighting against the spread of communism and only saw his duty as a task that he had no choice but to participate in. At no point in his interview does he show any hatred or anger towards the Vietcong. He only shows misunderstanding. It was very hard for me to understand that a soldier is able to perform his or her duty without any motivation for success; no matter how they perceive success. I do, however, understand his desire for his passive nature throughout his whole experience; even though, I do not understand how a man can be so passive when other people are shooting at him. For example, Sinh says, “What I didn’t realize was how deeply the Communist side hated us” (Appy, p. 26, par. 5). Sinh was in the war but he does not seem to have any positive thoughts of any battles. I think his credibility is strengthened due to his ongoing problems with understanding the war. This man seemed unable to understand the reasoning behind the war happening around him or at least not considerate to *killing people for a cause*. His statements show me that he was a young and scared man. He did not want to hurt anybody. I believe he simply hated the entirety of the concept of war. I feel that this man experienced a war, which tells me that I should respect his thoughts of the war. I think he was a scared adolescent and had almost the same mindset as any civilian living through the Vietnam War. His accounts are so real and vivid that I cannot help but to believe what he says. He never seemed to fail to show me that he did not feel one way or another about the war; except, that the war was wrong for both sides. He experienced both sides of the bad through his military experience and what he saw happening around him. I believe that him being in that situation; as much as, killing innocent people for a cause and being unable justify any of his own killing destroyed him. This entire outlook saw nothing being important enough to take another’s life was Sinh’s entire outlook throughout his life. In the last sentence of the interview Sinh says, “I never expected them to treat us so harshly, to have such a strong desire to seek revenge” (Appy, p. 27, par. 2).

After reading part two, the most disappointing story to read was of Le Lieu Browne because of the strong single-minded and oppressive representation she makes regarding the government regulation of propaganda during her experience in the Vietnam War. Browne remembers, "If they found something that was politically sensitive they alerted the Ministry of Information" (Appy, p. 73, par.3). The Ministry of Information was a censorship bureau that would read any letter or document being sent out of the country and would change or erase the information being sent to foreign countries only show the information that the United States wanted the world to know. I was upset with this representation of the United States because it shows how high American leaders thought of themselves. This act of ignorance makes me sick to my stomach. This propaganda censoring, in my opinion, does not show the characteristics that I feel America possesses. I believe that if a person or group makes a mistake that they should admit to that mistake, not dig a hole too deep for them to dig themselves out of.

Also, Browne regards while away at school in France, "I had heard that the South was peaceful and free" (Appy, p.73, par. 3). This proves how the effect of the United States creating a false representation of the facts of the war impacts a person. South Vietnam is portrayed as the "good guys" who represent justice, equality, and freedom. I find this funny because that is how people view the United States. The United States banked on the idea that people are ignorant and did not realize that they themselves were the most ignorant of all because they did not predict that people would find out about their hidden actions. Browne states, "I read novels to see if they had anything in them that was pro-Communist. If so, we'd cross off the names of those books from the list of titles" (Appy, p. 73, par. 4). Her job was to not allow any ideas that would promote an alternative way of thinking that was not permissible by the United States. This is an attempt to brainwash an entire country and by pushing for one way of thinking seems more Communist than Democratic. I was very upset with the game plan the United States tried to cover up. I believe the leaders at that time were confused. I believe that too many mistakes were made by the leaders of the country, and when the curtain was pulled back it was too late for anyone to do anything to change the events of the war. Although this horrific catastrophe happened, I believe that the more knowledge common people have about the United States Government's history of lies, deceit, and ignorance the more the world will understand that we must think for ourselves.

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