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After reading and analyzing all the stories in part four of [Christian Appy's Patriots](#), I found that two conflicts arose that could have been the turning point of the war in Vietnam. One was of course the Tet Offensive that [occurred](#) on [January](#) 30, 1968 and the other was the My Lai massacre on December 5, 1969. Although, two very different events. The Tet Offensive was a large scale [assault](#) on numerous cities and [buildings](#) by the NVA, whereas the My Lai massacre was lead by American [soldiers](#) on a revenge killing of more than a hundred children, women, and elderly [vietnamese](#). After reading more [thoroughly](#) I believe that the My Lai massacre changed [Americas involvement](#) by people closely watching the battalions falling [under misguided](#) leadership, I still believe that the Tet [Offensive](#) holds true [the course](#) in which changed our involvement in Vietnam.

Tet had a tremendous impact in our [involvement](#) and was a turning point in the war, in many ways. One account that stood out in part four of Appy's patriots was the story of Barry Zorthian. From reading some passages in the Herring book I found some [similarities](#) with what Zorthian says about the impact of the media. After the Tet Offensive the media seemed to view the war in a [negative](#) light. The attack on the U.S. Embassy was covered more by the media because they [were](#) staying in the surrounding area. "What do you think about in that situation? You write about what you see." (Appy, Zorthian pg. 291) After the attacks on Tet, the [American](#) view had [publicly](#) changed and congress was viewing our [involvement](#) differently. At the time right before the Tet Offensive General Westmoreland was assuring congress that the U.S. could pull out of Vietnam in less than two years and that the end of the war was near, and then Tet occurred. This shed light for the American public and congress, that in truth, the war was not dying down, but escalating. Zorthian seemed to [acknowledge](#) that we could have pulled out as early as 1969 if we had taken the deal we ended up with thereby saving thousands of American 's lives that fought after Tet and until the end of the war in 1975.

When American finally did pull out of Vietnam it wasn't until six years later, after the Tet Offensive. America finally came to a negotiation that [was](#) offered numerous times including in 1969. The war seemed to take on a life of it's own. One account that seemed to show the ending to the war was of Judith Coburn. After the Tet Offensive a lot changed in the military including Nixon implementing one year tours for soldiers. Racial tensions stirred, there was lack in leadership, and soldiers were begging to AWOL. " Numerous outbreaks of racial [conflict](#) in units in [Vietnam](#) and [elsewhere](#) drew attention to the breakdown of morale and [discipline](#)." (Herring pg. 301.) In this disregard for rank and leadership caused I [believe](#) a stalemate in our fighting and therefore we could no longer progress. In Judith [Coburn's](#) account she mentioned a man named Henry Rollins who was one such officer that punched a sergeant major in his face for telling him he was out of uniform, which became a [regular](#) instance on some bases.

With Nixon now in office, and the corruption that was Watergate which ended the Nixon [Administration](#). It goes to show that with the lack of proper leadership including the President, that more lives were lost and the [corruption](#) continued until we finally pulled out of Vietnam in 1975. Judith herself witnessed the Easter Offensive and was

eventually kicked out of Vietnam because of her reports that were written about the unnecessary shelling from American destroyers that killed hundreds of refugees fleeing the attacks. Even after all the bombing attempts throughout the war, the cost, and loss of life seems sad. Reading that maybe we could have pulled out sooner, then we did gives me a sense of wonder of what the hell was going on? In the end did we ever really know what we were doing over there? It proves that even before the Tet Offensive we had illusions that the war was coming to an end when it was just escalating. Illusions that we were going to pullout in a couple of years, when it turned out to be six. Moral of soldiers fell and ultimately caused soldiers not to fight their potential. A president who lied and ultimately made the war worse. It almost did seem like a domino effect, but for the U.S. Judith Coburn went back to Cambodia and Vietnam years later and went to village after village seeing the mass graves and wondering how such a beautiful country with such humble people witnessed the bloodshed so many years.

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