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One story I found rather intriguing was that of Vo N. Giap. His perspective on the war seemed to have both a positive and negative feel to it. In the negative aspect, he seemed to talk down the Americans quite a bit, as if we knew nothing. This isn't surprising in the least that North Vietnam's military architect would feel this way. However, as an American, it really is a blow to our pride as a world power and so called "Protector of Democratic values" to say we underestimated the Vietnamese. Which, in my opinion, is not true. I believe that we knew full well their potential, and their weaknesses, but we did not utilize those weaknesses. After reading Giap's story, I almost felt...talked down to, as if a parent to a child. He mentioned all these atrocities that the Americans inflicted upon the North Vietnamese, but seemed to have forgotten that it is war, and people perish. He is so quick to criticize us, but for the North Vietnamese it was a glorious struggle, or as he claims "a noble sacrifice"

In the positive aspect, he sees the war as a blessing. A sacrifice to be made for the good of Vietnam. For thousands of years the Vietnamese have always contested their independence with foreign powers. Which, for me, was a positive way to look at a negative situation. I have actually never thought about the war as something good, seeing as I'm an American. We viewed it as something of a tragedy, as a great mistake, something we don't talk about in a positive light. However Giap got me to thinking that the other side sees it as their war for independence, a war to be celebrated. If anything positive came out of Giap's testimony, it would be that it got me to think outside the box and look at something differently. One man's tragedy is another man's victory.

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