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Being one of the most publicly played out wars in American history there was no shortage of controversy surrounding the Vietnam War. Our involvement was masked and later glorified to the American public by more than one presidential administration over the years. From 1965 to 1967 drastic increases of American soldiers came with a not only a monetary price tag, but also one of greater public scrutiny and civil unrest over our policies in Vietnam.

Our progress in the war was so difficult to decipher that the "body count" of the enemy that was killed in action became our only measure of success. The problem with those reports was that, "Throughout the chain of command there was heavy pressure to produce favorable figures, and padding occurred at each level until by the time the numbers reached Washington, they bore little resemblance to reality"(Herring, 187). With hopeful, positive numbers being conveyed by Washington, and less optimistic reports by the media being released, the American public had to start to question the credibility of the Government and their reports of progress. With the war being played out so much in the public eye our government officials were held to a greater standard of accountability and in turn more pressure was put on them for the resolution of our involvement in Vietnam. Barry Zorthian, the director of the Joint United States Public Affairs Office stated in his account of the Tet Offensive to Christian Appy that, "The sudden shock of these attacks, and the fact that they hit so many of places at the same time, was a tremendous blow to the U.S. public thinking and particularly to government officials and Congress. Our credibility was very low of course" (Appy, 291). With the attacks of the cities brought more media attention and even greater public awareness and protest, even though the from a military standpoint Tet was not a loss the ever growing public doubt and opinion that ruled the times was definitely a turning point of the war.

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