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Clark Dougan's story that "he wanted most to tell" illustrated the biggest example of a turning point. Coming from Ohio he went to Valley Forge High school whose mascot happened to be the "Patriots". It's not so much a turning point for him, but for "middle America".

He talks of an article written by the *Cleveland Press* titled "He Was Only 19—Did You Know Him?" It was written about the death in Vietnam of a kid he went to school with. It was the proverbial kid next door, the kid "who had worked in the local pharmacy", the kind of kid that we all know. The editorial was asking how many more people like this kid "are we willing to waste." What was interesting about the article was that the *Cleveland Press* was part of a chain that was very conservative and had strongly supported the war. This was an indicator of the growing attitudes and beliefs of working-class communities. Dougan says that even a lot of the WW2 vets were starting to think or even say that the war wasn't worth the cost of American lives. Couple this with Walter Cronkite, who was the trusted, familiar face of the news saying that the war was unwinnable, and people are going to start questioning what they'd been fed and what they believed to be true about the war.

Truong Tran hit the nail on the head. Vietnamese people have been fighting for their freedom for many, many years. When America, "the most powerful country in the world" came over with assistance, it was a rallying point for both Northerners and Southerners in that it was just another invading force to them. When a people have been raised since childhood to be "courageous enough to fight foreign aggressors", no matter what our intentions are, we were still foreigners occupying their land. U.S. soldiers in Vietnam had a far-reaching effect. Tran says that it not only destroyed their political cause, but also their economy and their social fabric. It was great insight to see that the best the South could hope for was to keep half their country, where as the worst the North could do was keep half their country. Since all Vietnamese wanted a unified country, the North had a more persuasive goal.

American troops occupying Vietnam was the beginning of the end. Egos, legacies, conventional war strategies are just some of the reasons it took so long to come to an end.

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