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Part I

Throughout every major American conflict there has been a "turning point" in a war. The War of Independence had Washington crossing the Delaware, The Civil War had the battle of Gettysburg, the First World War had the unexpected joining of the Italians to the cause, in the Second Great War ~~we had~~ the Battle of Stalingrad, and in the Vietnam War we had what was known as the Tet Offensive. Its easy to say what was the turning point in a war from a military point of view, but what about through the eyes of those involved? Could the turning point be different for those soldiers who fought and gave their lives for the cause? In many cases these events are not going to be the same. In Christian Appy's book *Patriots* there are many interviews that all have to do with the "turning point" in the Vietnam War, ~~the~~ ^{but} the interview I feel most signifies the "turning point" is the interview with Douglas Kinnard. Kinnard was a General and later created an interview much like Appy did. Kinnard sent out questionnaires to all 173 generals who served in Vietnam (321) Kinnard performed this questionnaire in mid 1970 but I still think this was a very poignant interview regardless of how late in the war it was. Kinnard states that many of those he interviewed admitted that they didn't know why they were there in the first place, or what their objectives were (321) This just goes to show you that people including those high up are starting to question why they are there. At the beginning of the war, people seemed to think they were there to stave off the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. But as time went on that objective became not to be the case, and most started to question it. Kinnard also said he was astonished to find out that most Generals were very critical of the media (322) For the first time in American history the media was especially critical of the War, they has always been protestors of war but not like this, the Vietnam War was the most heavily protested war in History. "The Generals felt that the media was undercutting the war, and they were reporting things just for the headline factor"(322) This was also the first war to be heavily filmed, for the first time Americans were able to have the war in their living rooms every night, the violence, the poverty, all welcomed you into your living rooms every night after dinner. The major issue Kinnard saw was how they saw the North Vietnamese, they didn't consider them a real threat, South Vietnamese economy was bursting at the seems, mainly due to all the US dollars floating around in the economy, and that burst of economic growth overflowed into Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia

, thus the threat of South Vietnam being that one domino that caused all the others to fall to communism wasn't a real threat anymore. (322) It was all of this that I feel makes this story the turning point, while Kinnard did his questionnaire late in the war it was easy to see that the "turning point" happened far earlier but it wasn't clear until then. No one really knew the objective of the war, they fought to stop communism from spreading, most generals were concerned with body counts like Julian Ewell.(323) They struggled with the media and how they were being portrayed, but that's it. It wasn't clear objectives of taking a piece of land like in previous wars, this was a war without clear lines, without distinguishing, this was a war that had blurred lines that people jumped on and over all the time. Its safe to say that's its difficult to determine an exact "turning point" in the Vietnam War, for most it was Tet, but its going to be different for each person, I really feel that the "Turning Point" happened after Kinnards questionnaire, after that we learn just how the generals really felt and what they had to deal with while they were in the

war, weather it be other Generals, the Media, or their fellow Soldiers

Part 2

Much like in the question of the "turning point" in a war there is also an "ending" to every war. The War of Independent had Yorktown, The Civil War had the signing at Appomattox Courthouse, The First Great War had the Treaty of Versailles, In the Second Great War it was the dropping of the Atomic Bombs, and in Vietnam it was Saigon falling to the communists. All these events signified the end of a war but is it really the end? Could the end have happened sooner? Again just like in the question of "turning point" we must discover what the real "end" of the war was, what was it and when was it? Most Historians agree that the "end" of the Vietnam War was the fall of Saigon but do those involved actually think this to be true? Could the end have happened before 1975? In the Christin Appy book *Patriots* there is one interview that really strikes me as a true "ending" to the war, in the App book he interviewed George Evans. Evans grew up in the streets of Pittsburg and his father was a blue collar worker who was the leader of the VFW, he grew up surrounded by veterans of WWII. Every year he would participate in Flag Day every year, he remembered placing the flags on all the graves of the Veterans and hearing stories about the men from his father and his fathers friends.(449-450) Evans was part of that generation where he knew the threat of communism and trusted and loved his government. He also didn't want to disappoint his father, who was a WWII veteran. He finally ended up going to Vietnam and realized his perception of our Government was completely skewed. "I had certain expectations of my government but they were exploded almost immediately" (451) People like Evans began to realize that their government wasn't being completely honest with them, nor were they treating the soldiers like they thought. The hospital that he walked into he saw "so much needless pain and suffering" (451) He was then told to "clean up the gook" when he pulled the curtain he saw a young Vietnamese boy who was about eight or nine, he was dead and his brother laid right next to him, neither had a scratch o them, no bruises(452) It was then that Evans realized, this wasn't the same war that their fathers have told them, this war was much different, there wasn't the honor that their was in wars previous. Many civilians went into the war with Patriotic dreams and ideological views of heroes and doing what's right for America, many of these young boys who signed up listening to stories of their fathers, of war, of becoming a man, and doing what's right for ones country. So many signed up or was drafted, regardless of how they got there once they got there many realized this was not their fathers war, this war was completely different, and once they realized that the war was over, if you don't have the support of the men fighting you have lost the war, many believe the Vietnamese won the war because of their loyalty towards Uncle Ho, they loved him and all were willing to die if need be to serve the common good.

grammar and proofreading ~~are~~ remain
real problems in your work. I like
the story choices & can guess what points
you are trying to make, but the
readability is a real ~~is~~ issue you need
to work on.