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HST 195

Assignment #2

Part 1

1907
75/100
very long.
Will it be good?
or will it ramble?

No hyp? —
? —
WW
PT

Vietnam ^{was} a war many to this day are confused about and who many admit was a grave American defeat. (However how did America lose to such a small country of people whose wealth and technology were laughable compared to that of the USA.) ^{click} Clark Dougan a man from Parma Heights, Ohio was not a Vietnam Veteran but he exemplifies the state of American society during the height of the Vietnam War (in America). Vietnam was not a war that stood upon the foundation of American Pride and ideals, it was not a war full of embraced heroes and stunning victories. It was not a war where Americans would gloat over a pint and ruddy cheeks the great battle won and the awesomeness of this nation. Clark Dougan like many in our country at the time represented middle class America, the very backbone of the people. He recalls to us a guy he knew in school who chose to join the Marines during the Vietnam war and who died. (Dougan's town and high school are like many throughout the country.) ^{when?} It a school with young men who are either ready to serve or who are terrified of the draft. The fear mixed with the high energy of a country at war forced a town of people to come together in more ways then one. On Memorial Day 1968 a pro supporter of the war, the *Cleveland Press* newspaper headlined with "He was only 19 - Did you know Him?" It was a question fueled by the outrage and confusion of a nation that had after many years united against the war in Vietnam. Are you a hawk or a dove? In reading we learned of these factions in our country, which was basically are you pro war or anti war? During the time of Greg Fishers death (the boy who chose to become a marine from the same school as Clark Dougan), the doves had become dominate. The Vietnam war was plagued by government secrecy, lies, illegal action and more. In so doing the Government had hoped to exact more freedom on how to fight and win what was the Vietnam war. As with all secrets and deceptions the truth does eventually find it's way out. ^{click} America fought wars before but never so publicized and the threat of defeat seems closer to home, more real and urgent. People believed in what they were fighting for and knew what it was. ^{confused / contradictory}

No hyp? ?
No
AWK

it seems like we are heading way off topic here

Vietnam then was a war that was shrouded in secrecy where Americans were fed bits and pieces, vaguely, to support the war. It was not until the draft and the deployment of US ground troops that we truly begin to see Americans "wake up" and question the government. As the lies come out, as nothing seems to progress, many hawks turn to doves until we see Middle America whose sons have left to

fight and die in a war people have no faith or trust in, turn to becoming a dove. In all my readings and viewings and thoughts I have come to the conclusion that we lost so bitterly in Vietnam because of the change in union at home and the corruption of the government itself. The story of Clark Dougan, a man who never even went to Vietnam shows us the viewpoint from those at home. It shows a change of support to a nation divided to that of a nation brought together again under the unity of peace to promote change and end the war. At least so the people then thought and felt. The rallying of the American People who stood up against the Government in marchers, letters, media and more were one of the biggest turning points in the war on Vietnam. The enemy knew they could play the emotions of the American people and it worked perfectly. Clark Dougan said it well "I think a lot of World War II vets who had been sitting around the kitchen table saying, "You've got to fight for your country," were starting to say, "Fuck this, It's not worth Greg Fisher's life or his buddy's life". (pg 306 Patriots) This was the spreading sentiment of the American People. They saw the war as far away, senseless and pointless. They could not understand why their sons were sent so far away to die in this tiny patch of land for a threat that no longer loomed with an iron grip. None of it made sense and the Government lies and shuffling for years made it all the more worse. America shifted away from a country that appeared powerful, confident, honest. America was very much like the iconic image of Captain America but as the war continued and more people questioned the point of it all, America began to lose the image is fought to hard to have and began to look more like the villain to those of the public and abroad.

Part 1 makes its turning point, but does
Part 2 ramble vaguely w/out including any data or specifics
from hearing or videos to support your claims.

Morton Halperin was the deputy assistant of defense during the end years of the Vietnam War. As in part 1, Morton was not a soldier but worked in Washington. While he may not have seen firsthand the end of the fighting his story represents the end of the war in its own way and perhaps the end of things even more important to our country itself. As I said before it is my union that the Vietnam war was lost for America not because our soldiers were weak, our technology lacking or anything to do with the actual fighting of the battle. We lost because of illegal government practices and secrecy as well as because of the antiwar movement fueled by the media and American civilians. This quote I feel tells us just how far away and misunderstood the Vietnam war truly was. If those working on the war in Washington are so clueless then imagine the confusion of middle Americans at the time. "By the way, I refused to have a map of Vietnam in my office until the Tet Offensive. I just had the big wall map of the world you see in many Pentagon offices. People would in and they'd start to tell me something the

vague?

out of place here

back on track?

the small vocal minority?

NOT Accurate

was it all image?

redundant

your own theme?

5-11 sp

long quote

Mekong Delta or the Ho chi Minh Trail and they would say, "Where's your map of Vietnam? I'd say, "Use that map." Half of them couldn't find Vietnam on the world map and the other half would say, "Vietnam is too small on this map to show you what I want to show you." I would look at them and say, "That's the point!!" (pg. 403-404, *Patriots*) This was shortly before Tet and people who were being paid to work on the Vietnam war could not even find it on a map. Morton continues to identify the character of President Nixon and Henry Kissinger during this time of the war. Prior to them coming into power Vietnam had been raging on for many years. LBJ was much like Nixon a man of secrecy. The entire war was shrouded in it. However LBJ was far more indecisive and tried to play by the rules or at least look like he did. Nixon and Kissinger however seemed to be more comfortable with taking action even if that action was illegal or immoral. This was where I feel the war began to spin out of control, it began this early when these two men met and came up with their master plan. I consider their coming together the mark of the end of Vietnam not because they pulled troops but because their actions turned the American People upon its own country, because their actions destroyed the image of America. Morton tells us of approved wire taps of civilians and government officials, illegal operations by the CIA, FBI and more. We come to learn that the war is very much alive back in the USA and that innocent people are being spied upon and worse and that major military actions were taking place while the rest of the country was blindfolded. As the American people turn more to Doves, the Media rallies against the war and the lies come spilling out, Nixon and Kissinger seem to spiral out of control. The lies become more common and twisted, secrecy seems almost like delusions and paranoia and the cries of the people fall upon deaf ears as the few in power abuse their power. It is in this that Government betrayed their country (well a select few now all the government) and in that betrayal forced an uprising of the people. Hanoi however was aware of all of this thanks to the media. Hanoi banked upon the people not tolerating the war, they banked upon a torn and divided American Government. In the end Hanoi was correct and read America like a book, the American People were the ultimate weapon in the defeat of American Military in Vietnam. It is sadly poetic really, the very people against the war and Americans dying in Vietnam only helped to get many more people murdered and eventually lose the war. The turning point in the Vietnam war was when the American majority and media became anti-war and forced massive civil unrest which in turn severely divided the American Government which many of them now leaning towards the "dove" side. The end point of the war to me, was when the Government could no longer hide and make excuses, the people had reached a critical point of unrest and were dangerous. While the rest of the world lost respect for America. It was the death of an image and idea of what America was, what it meant and what it could be. It showed Americans and the world another darker side of war and politics. I can not help

Some people

PT

Problem
LBJ
played
by the
rules?
NOT
Accurate

out of
control
in Jan
1969
onward?
Nixon
only?

NOT
Accurate

Yes
but
contradictory
to your
point

You have also
strayed from the
assigned topic.

Your claims are so
far from being historically
accurate.

1968
Dem
Convention
(look it up)

but agree with Morton when he says; "The question that's unresolved is, would the South have collapsed even with massive U.S. bombing and contuse massive U.S. military aid in the absence of U.S. ground forced?" (pg. 406, Patriots) This is the same question I have and the question that makes me wish I could somehow go back in time to change things. The American Government, Kissinger and Nixon got caught with their pants down. America knew it, Hanoi knew it, Saigon knew it, the world knew it. The American people then ranted and raved and managed to bully those leading this war. Congress began a war against Nixon and wanted his impeachment. This rapid aggression against Nixon and Kissinger forced their hand so to speak to making poor choices. These poor choices cost the people of Vietnam thousand of lives and destruction. Our rapidly pulling out made us look selfish, weak and bullied by our own people. I can only wonder that if Nixon and Kissinger had not been caught or if naive college kids afraid of the draft had not protested or backseat war tacticians left war to the military or if congress was not so focused on abusing the war for selfish power struggles then maybe just maybe they could have listened to their military generals such as Abrams who was actually in Vietnam leading and fighting and made a real difference instead of wasting tons of lives for what amounted to a bunch of nothing gained.

proofreading needed

Can you, You really needed to heed my advice & instructions & stick to the topic & LIMIT your paper to the smaller turning points & endings presented in these short stories.

I read, you tried to do FAN too much in a short paper, (lacking citations / sources, & evidence to support your claims. AND a # of inaccuracies were historically with the facts.

Yikes

ego here

Change history?

FAN from assignment.