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Legacy
by Joe Escobar - Friday, November 25, 2016, 3:18 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Legacy topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which legacy you have chosen. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Legacy

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Divided house
by Andrew Kilmer - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 9:45 AM

To me the most lasting impression or legacy of what I have learned in this class is the division of a country. Not only literally, as was the case in Vietnam, but also here in America. Doris Goodwin said in the legacy video that no foreign war could succeed without domestic support. I think this could be linked to South Vietnam and America. Herring shows us several times throughout his text that the Americans political system was not only unaligned with itself but also with a great portion of American people and that gap only grew as the war aged. In South Vietnam, there was perhaps even a larger divide in the people and the “Puppet government”. While we see clear division in American and South Vietnam, we are shown a strong national commitment in North Vietnam. Stories in the Appy book show this division also, whether the story is from the battlefield or the leadership, the stories draw clear lines in the sand that divide opinions. Abraham Lincoln said, “that a house divided against itself cannot stand”, and I think this held true 100 years later. Advantages in money, soldiers, and equipment could not prevail against the strong national will. I think this legacy also stands out to me, because it is as relevant today as it was during the time we are studying.

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Re: Divided house

by Mason Fisher - Sunday, December 4, 2016, 8:25 PM

Andrew -

I agree we see division on both sides and I feel as though it goes deeper than that, especially for America. Division was prevalent between the general public on if they supported the war or not but also between whether people supported the people fighting. As we have learned, a lot of these people were drafted so how are they to blame for being ordered to do things that people look down upon? You raised a very good point. How do you think people should have reacted? How would you feel as a person in the general public at this time? How do you think those same people criticizing the soldiers feel if they were in those brave mens' shoes? Just food for thought.

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the greatest legacy?

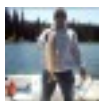
by Amber Gaboriault - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 7:14 PM

With all the information I have learned in this class, I feel the greatest legacy is the change in how America viewed their government. In history Vietnam was the first war that the American people protested. After watching the video War Protesters and Hard Hats, it clearly showed how divided our country became with the example

of watching the hardhats attack the protestors. Micheal Beschless from the video Legacy states "we currently now don't have confidence in our government and looking back we can see it stems from the war in Vietnam." I feel it was a turning point and the American people woke up to what the government was capable of. Stanly Karnow stated " People didn't ask questions we trusted the government and now we look back and realized the government lied" (Legacy). I agree that America had a more innocent feel before the Vietnam war, and just sat back and allowed our government to do whatever with no questions asked. Today we still experience the corruption and lies of the government, and people definitely feel more confident in speaking out with disagreeing and protesting. We can see with our latest Presidential election that people will go to extremes to make sure the government knows of their disapproval.

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Re: the greatest legacy?

by Andrew Kilmer - Thursday, December 1, 2016, 12:01 PM

Amber-I enjoyed your post. I wrote something very similar and when I read yours I started to think that maybe I left something out of the legacy. The media. I feel like the media created a legacy just as lasting during the time frame we are studin. As we learns from PBS and AIM the media had a profound effect not only during the war, but also the way it was viewed historically. What I find the most disturbing is that over 50 years later and we still have the exact same problems a split country and a self-motivated media.

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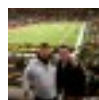
Re: the greatest legacy?

by Amber Gaboriault - Thursday, December 1, 2016, 8:34 PM

Hi Andrew, I agree that 50 years later we have the same problem. Vietnam was the first televised war, and media had a part in that, and how much of a coincidence that when the media became involved the United States became split in half. I feel the media realized how much power it had over the public and what they publish. I believe Nixon realized this as well. Nixon stated " I think it is time in this country to quit making national heroes out of those who steal secrets and publish them in the newspapers"(PBS Episode 11, 11:21). Nixon's comment leads me to believe he new the media was a big part of why the war was so complicated.

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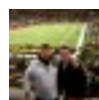
Re: the greatest legacy?

by Mason Fisher - Sunday, December 4, 2016, 8:37 PM

Amber, like you said, this is heavily prevalent to this very day. Our in depth analysis of the media during the Vietnam war can be translated to the media we see now. Like Nixon did I feel as though our leaders today would acknowledge how our media can twist things and misconstrue information to benefit the views of other people and groups.

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Legacy huh?

by Mason Fisher - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 9:49 PM

I think the single biggest legacy that came from the Vietnam war was the absolute huge amounts of animosity that arose from the american people against the soldiers fighting in the war and the government that sent said soldiers. Its plastered all over every single source we have gone over this entire term. People didn't want to go to war, support the war or have anything to do with what was going on in Vietnam. This is especially prevalent in the video where young men say they don't want to be drafted because "they don't want to die". The Vietnam war provided a huge lesson to future government leaders regarding its general public's opinion on going to war. Turmoil in a country can arise very easily if people do not agree with your actions, especially if it involves these same people to go fight in a war involuntarily.

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Re: Legacy huh?

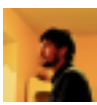
by Amber Gaboriault - Thursday, December 1, 2016, 9:03 PM

Hi Mason, do you think the media played a part in forming the public's opinion? I see people scared to go to war because they see the death and destruction on their TV and newspapers. I don't think anyone goes to war unafraid of dying. War is never a beautiful thing, but is sometimes necessary. I do believe the government should take into the publics support when there is no progress or looking at options for a successful win. With the Vietnam War, I think the media played a big part in dividing our nation by bringing the reality of the war to their living rooms and also making biased articles and reports like AIM and PBS series. What do you think?

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Re: Legacy huh?



by Nick Cervantes - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9:59 PM

I appreciated your concise post. I wrote of the anti-war movement being a legacy, but the animosity you mentioned speaks to the intense feelings the public had at the time and what a sticky situation it must have been between those trying to shape public opinion and those responding to the reality that the media presented. And, as Amber said in the next reply, that media played a big role into the animosity towards the war. That's not to say that public opinion might not have turned negative without the violent nightly news images being broadcast. I think the war in Vietnam was built on fundamentally flawed understandings, and that would have been manifest to the public one way or another.

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The Anti-War Legacy

by Nick Cervantes - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 6:15 AM

For the US, the most significant legacy of the war in Vietnam is the anti-war protest. No doubt there had been objections to previous wars, but not on the scale of Vietnam. Divisions in the US grew stronger as the war dragged on. As the first televised war, the American people saw grisly images of battle, brought into their homes. Though defending against communism was the idea at the inception of the war (handed over from France), many Americans saw no clear reason why we were there losing thousands of young men. As it was young Americans fighting, possibly to injury or death, war opposition spread around college campuses and the first televised war had the first televised protests. In the episode of News Hour, Doris Kearns Goodwin said "No foreign war can succeed without that domestic support," in regards to the American people, and that "You have to make them understand the price they're paying." US presidents and policy-makers at the time did try to keep popular support for the war but as we've learned, those leaders often disagreed on the appropriate level of involvement. The anti-war movement became a kind of institution during the Vietnam war, and the war's most lasting legacy.

PBS. The News Hour with Jim Lehrer. "Series: Legacy."

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