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Determining the Truth

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, October 8, 2016, 10:23 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Determining the Truth 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 question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Determining the Truth

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Struggle with the Truth

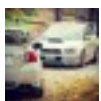
by Andrew Kilmer - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 4:18 PM

I have to admit, I may be more confused now, than when I started this class. The information that I've watched and read have led me to several different conclusions. The most glaring contrast I noticed between the PBS documentary and the AIM video is the perception of Ho Chi Minh (nationalist or communist?) To further my confusion is my reading of Herring which I feel does not give me a definite answer, like that of Dolf Droge in the AIM video who says Ho was an international communist organizer. The PBS video episode 1 paints a picture of a Revolutionary that only want independence for his people. I feel like Herring supports this, but only prior to 1950. Herring cites diplomatic reform (pg7), dreams of independence and unification of centuries old nationalist dreams (pg8), Ho appealing to the US for support from 1945-49, even offering the U.S. a military base (pg14), also recanting the "Moscow Puppet" by stating he had received more support from the United States than from the Soviet Union. Herring also writes that the U.S. assumptions were wrong about the connections between Ho and the Soviet Union. He writes Ho Chi Minh was no tool of the Kremlin. (pg24) Once the Soviet Union and Chinese recognized the Viet Minh government the AIM video makes sense to me.

To answer the second part of the forum question, I feel obligated to do more research. I like the Appy book, I think the firsthand accounts give me a raw feel for the time, and post 1950, Herring goes deep into detail and cites many references for his material. I might also like to read a historical book written by an author from Vietnam. Academically I feel it our obligation to always question the sources of information and seek to validate/invalidate them. I would love to hear feedback on others perception of this topic.

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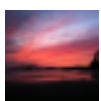
Re: Struggle with the Truth

by Trevor Neal - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 11:16 AM

I think I too may be a little more confused now then when I started this class, mainly due to the contradicting information we've encountered. From what I saw and read, Ho was just a nationalist who wanted independence for Vietnam. The Herring book even mentions, "Ho Chi Minh was the best-known nationalist leader in all of Vietnam." (p.56). As much as I enjoy the combination of the first hand accounts of the Appy book and the detail of the Herring book, I feel additional research may be needed to verify the information presented.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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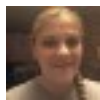
Re: Struggle with the Truth

by Jennifer Wilson - Friday, October 14, 2016, 10:03 PM

In the PBS episodes that we have watched, I kept asking myself, is Ho Chi Minh the bad guy? He comes off as a peaceful, kind, if not frail, man. And he seemed to be loved by his people, and he had a great following. I am glad I am not the only one in this class right now that is confused as ever. But I am suspicious of the possible political motivation of the AIM video, considering who was the host/narrator. I believe (or hope) that in the coming weeks we will learn which version is more factual.

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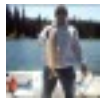
Re: Struggle with the Truth

by Leslie Stockton - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 11:20 AM

I too found it interesting how much Minh was portrayed as a loved and well like he was by his north Vietnamese people. Again so was Hitler. Ho was a slight man, seaming harmless but the atrocities contributed to him in the AIM video make him a monster. The confusion for me is why is he portrayed so differently in each video. I too hope we get clarification and more consistent information.

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Re: Struggle with the Truth

by Andrew Kilmer - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 12:50 PM

Jennifer- I did a limited search on AIM and if certainly seems that it has a Right Wing motivation. As I have read through Herring I found a passage that only added to my questions. Herring says on pg 136 that in 1963 a group of hardliners seized control from moderates such as Ho Chi Minh. Later on the same page it says that Ho continued to be a diplomatic figure head but had negligible influence on the policy. It makes me go back to the 1950's and wonder how much different it might have been had we had a better understanding of this country.

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LJB and the American People

by Scott Woods - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 6:58 PM

I think the most telling thing about the video and the chapters we read this week was how Lyndon Johnson kept the people of America in the dark about the dealing in Vietnam. Vietnam a Television History only makes a slight note of the fact that during

the Johnson's run for his next term he hides the conversation of the war almost entirely. Yet, uses an attack ad against Goldwater which I found a little harsher than anything we have seen on TV in recent years. The image of a girl picking a flower, and then a count down to a nuclear explosion was a little shocking to say the least.

Yet, in our book America's Longest War, it points out a couple of times that the administration lies to the American people. "United Secretary General U Thant of Burma had been trying for months to arrange private talks between the United States and North Vietnam. When the administration ignored his overtures and initiated the bombing, he publicly charged that Washington was withholding the truth from the American people (ALW p.165)." After the UN General comment, the White House quickly went on what could only be called a PR blitz called "Target: College Campuses," where young troops were sent to campuses to talk to students about the War. Not only that, but Washington would bring in news reporters, foreign officials, members of Congress, and anyone else that might need convincing to what they called, "seminars." Normally these seminars would last three hours or more to defend the White House's foreign policy.

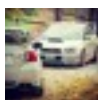
Finally, the most troubling thing I found in the reading was this.

"To appease skeptics such as Mansfield, Johnson implied that he would give equal priority to seeking a diplomatic settlement, without divulging his certainty that such efforts were doomed to failure. Although he had approved the immediate deployment of 100,000 troops followed by another 100,000 in 1966, he revealed publicly only that he was sending 50,000. He made that move as painless as possible by refusing to call up the reserves and increase taxes. He announced his decision on July 28th at a noon press conference instead of at prime time and lumped it in with other items in a way that obscured its significance. He continued to deny that he had authorized any change in policy and did not give a clear indication – even in the sense that he understood it at the time – of what lay ahead (ALW p. 172,3)."

This act of lying is troubling to me a little, however, I can understand why. Before his re-election the book goes on to tell us that his major goal while in office wasn't Vietnam, but domestic policies, which he called "The Great Society." LBJ wanted nothing more than to end poverty and crush segregation. Yet the fact that he misled his fellow Americans overshadows his good intentions at home.

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Ho Chi Minh

by Trevor Neal - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 7:40 PM

There are quite a few contradictions that I noticed while watching the AIM video compared to the PBS series. One of the contradictions that stuck out to me the most was how the PBS videos portrayed Ho Chi Minh and the North Vietnamese. The AIM video says the North Vietnamese were portrayed as nationalists rather than communists and that they were fighting for the independence and unity of Vietnam. I got the feeling that Uncle Ho was a genuinely good person and loved by many from the reading and after watching the PBS videos. Minh was shown as the hero of Vietnam in the PBS series and the United States and South Vietnamese were the villains. In reality, according to the AIM video, any non-communists who may have threatened Minh's power were met with violence. I think the best way to deal with the conflicting information academically would be to reference the two textbooks and do more research on Ho Chi Minh.

(PBS Episode 1) (AIM historian Loeb) (AIM historian Morris)

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Re: Ho Chi Minh

by Scott Woods - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 10:55 AM

Trever, the book and the films do a good job of explaining how Minh was loved by not only his family but the nationals of the north as well. Let's not forget that he was indeed a Communist, yet he wanted to unify all of Vietnam. Yet, as we get deeper into the reading and viewing I am starting to wonder if he was more of a puppet figure head for Vietnam Communist Party, then that of actual leader?

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Re: Ho Chi Minh

by Trevor Neal - Friday, October 14, 2016, 6:07 PM

Scott you bring up a good point, rather than being the actual leader, maybe Minh was just used as a figure head of North Vietnam because of how well loved he was by everyone in the north.

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Re: Ho Chi Minh

by Zachery Brown - Friday, October 14, 2016, 6:08 PM

Trever, I completely agree with your conclusion here to the contradicting information between the AIM video and the PBS documentary. As I stated earlier in my first post, it seems as though Minh, was clearly looking for support to help his country start on the right path and become a government controlled country. I am certainly confused on some of the conflicting information relating to our videos and book chapters. It is hard to determine the truth between the nationalist and communist connections. I feel as though there is quite a bit of twisted documented history. Can you agree with me there or what? Id like to get your opinion on the nationalist/communist connection and where you side with on the issue.

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Re: Ho Chi Minh

by Trevor Neal - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 6:30 PM

I do have to agree with you Zachery, it appears Minh is a nationalist, but is truly a communist.

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Slowly changing history?

by Will Lawhon - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 9:04 PM

Of the information presented in the AIM video, what was the most glaring contradiction you discovered (compared to any claim you've already been exposed to in the PBS series)? How do you (how should we) deal academically with conflicting information, as has been presented in the PBS videos and AIM video clip? How can your two textbooks help you to approach this video information and be confident that you are learning accurate historical knowledge?

After watching the video, I was very surprised to find out how much important detailed information was left out while viewing the PBS documentary episodes. As Stephen Morris states, The pbs documentary failed to mention that Ho Chi Minh(proclaimed uncle and savior of Vietnam) arranged assassinations of all Independent nationalist remaining in north Vietnam during the year 1945-46. He also states the real reason over a million people (mostly catholic) fled to the south to avoid the communist regime. In the year 1950, Ho Chi Minh launched an unprovoked attack against the Catholics living within north Vietnam borders. The PBS documentary claimed that the Catholics were collaborating with the French.

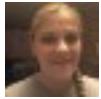
Towards the end of this video, Bruce Loeb makes an interesting point that the pbs documentary deliberately portrayed Ho Chi Minh as the hero and the United States and Diem as the villains. In fact the Geneva agreements never even mentioned an

Election Day. The NLF was also said to be a politely group in the south against diems government when in reality it was a plot organized in Hanoi by the communist.

I believe the only way to prevent this conflicting information is to have more than one source when doing your research . Because some of the stories are told from all sides of the people that fought and experience the war, I think that our textbooks provide more than enough information to assure only factual evidence of events that took place during the war.

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Re: Slowly changing history?

by Leslie Stockton - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 12:21 PM

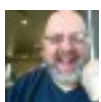
Having more than one source sure does help in situations like this. In the AIM and PBS documentaries they are like glaring contradictions of themselves. AIM portrays Minh as a vicious ruthless leader responsible for thousands of deaths. Yet PBS portrays him as a frail, caring leader that is well loved by his people. Having a third or fourth party view on this would definitely would help shed light on both inconsistencies.

Election day was also a key factor for me when viewing the sources. While PBS makes us sound like we prevented elections from happening, AIM states that the United States had not agreed to anything on elections nor was it bound by the Geneva Convention.

So Which source is more reliable? Without a third party to refer to, we cannot take either video at face value.

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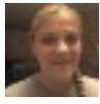
Slowly changing history? or playing the largest game of connecting the dots

by Scott Woods - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 12:43 PM

Will, you bring up a good point. When finding information from any source it is always good to look at it from different angles, have an open unbiased mind about it, and be able to split reality from fiction. I am glad you brought up some of the stuff about Ho Chi Minh. I saw him throughout the videos as a somewhat caring leader, when they talked about him. Also I felt the book painted him more communist, but willing to work with all sides. From your point of view and the insight you gathered from our material I can now go back and look at it in a different light.

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**Re: Determining the Truth**

by Leslie Stockton - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 11:02 PM

The biggest contradiction I found between the PBS documentary and the AIM (Accuracy In Media) video was the elections and how they were portrayed. The idea that PBS showed America and the South Vietnamese people as the villains and Ho Chi Minh out to be the hero was disheartening. As Bruce Loeb, Department of Speech Communications, Idaho State University points out, 11 different times in the PBS documentary the United States and S. Vietnam were to blame for not holding elections as promised. The United States was not bound by the Geneva Accords and already had stated in Article 17 of the final declarations that we opposed any elections unless supervised by the United Nations to make sure they were free. PBS tried to justify and rationalize the actions of Ho Chi Minh by making us the bad guys even ignoring a speech by President Eisenhower on July 21, 1954 stating "America was not a party to and is not bound by the decisions taken in the Geneva Conference". Because of the actions of PBS tension was high and people were rioting. I can only make an assumption as to why PBS neglected to tell the whole story, when fact checking would have been so easy, is that they were anti-war and trying to say that Ho Chi Minh had a right to take back the country that was rightfully his. As the true ruler he was only conquering his own country. Again this is only speculation, I believe that PBS was trying to say why Americans had no right to be there.

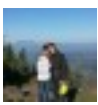
Sources:

http://media.lanecc.edu/users/escobarj/195/forums/week3/Part_1.mp4

Television's Vietnam: The Real Story part 1

http://media.lanecc.edu/users/escobarj/195/forums/week3/Part_1.mp4

Vietnam a Television History 1983



by Dan Johnson - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 11:44 PM

To start, the dramatic music, the title of the "Real Story", the dramatic voice over, the singular blaming of PBS for social unrest, suggest that the show has a conservative slant. Then, once Charlton Heston comes on screen it becomes clear that the documentary will be an attempt to fill a right-wing agenda as Charlton Heston is a prominent right wing activist and leader of the NRA. That being said, it does not mean the entirety of what the documentary has to say is factually inaccurate. It just means it likely will find facts that fit a right-wing narrative, or at the very least, a counter weight to whatever the film creators found in the PBS documentary to be leftist. However, from the onset, criticizing PBS with vigorous objection makes them suspicious. PBS was able to interview highly-involved Vietnamese as well as high-level members of the American government at the time. It also fills a fairly standard sequence of events over what happened in Vietnam which is not to say the standard narrative is correct; however, PBS does show an attempt to be objective by allowing for all sides to have a voice without making outrageous claims themselves. PBS could have demonstrated an effort to show a larger context of the reasons behind fears of communist aggression to show some of the perceived and likely stakes of the conflict for the region and United States. It also could have perhaps shown North Vietnamese hypocrisy along side American hypocrisy to demonstrate the potential shortfalls the North Vietnamese control. There is much more to discuss; however, it's good to have some context and consideration of the sources.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Charlton Heston gives it away quickly

by Andrew Kilmer - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 9:49 AM

Dan-Great Post. After reading your post and several others I was curious to learn more about AIM. I did my own research and it really help me understand the Video that we watched. I won't put my opinion of the organization out there, others can look for themselves, but thanks again for the post.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Charlton Heston gives it away quickly

by Jennifer Wilson - Friday, October 14, 2016, 9:52 PM

I won't lie, when Charlton Heston appeared on the screen, I was immediately thinking to myself the same exact thoughts you had. Political motivation. I am not saying that ALL of the arguments made against PBS are politically motivated.

Honestly, I am feeling "lost at sea" about which version is correct. I am instantly hesitant anymore when agendas are present, I find that the facts can be altered in a way to prove a point. I really hope things become clearer as each week comes and goes. I have a very limited understanding and having this new view on the events of the Vietnam War thrown in there, makes me yearn for transparency!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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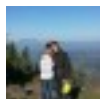
Re: Charlton Heston gives it away quickly

by Leslie Stockton - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 12:02 PM

While I agree that Charlton Heston is a leader for the NRA and does have his own agenda, I thought the AIM video provided a very detailed fact based presentation. I felt that the AIM video criticizing PBS's lack of showing the truth to be interesting also. I felt that they were upset that the "rules" were not followed through by PBS. PBS had a duty to give all facts not just the ones that they felt needed to be introduced. Showing Minh as a nationalist instead of a communist was mind boggling. When according to AIM this was not the case and could have easily been fact checked to find the correct information. What was PBS's intention to make Ho look like a savior? A well liked man who had ties the the soviet communist party.

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Re: Charlton Heston gives it away quickly

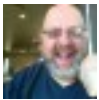
by Dan Johnson - Sunday, October 16, 2016, 8:42 PM

Hey Leslie, I really appreciate your response. I think the PBS documentary and the AIM documentary both have correct information, but they still can be misleading in their own way. To some degree, it takes a critical mind-set to ask, "is this likely or realistic?" along side asking "is that how people would likely operate and what does that say about them?" and of course, "is their more to the story?" At some point, in piecing together facts and the bits and pieces that we know, it's important to try to see what the information suggests about Minh: his intentions, his integrity, and his likely behavior, and how those tenants of Minh's personhood changed over the course of time or didn't change. In my mind, from what I can see at this point, I don't see Minh as a savior or a calloused and brutal communist. I see him as somebody with deep sympathies for his country and the Vietnamese people who was well-educated and approached solving the problems of Vietnam with a deep suspicion of capitalism and at times dogmatic opposition to it. Even though horrible, I see even his worst actions line up with this narrative. The worst of people is exposed during times of war, and I think the worst of Minh came out during and directly after the war as the AIM video pointed out with large executions on

political opponents and attacks on Catholics. The North Vietnamese also organized forced "re-education" programs in the South which had grueling labor and highlights their overbearing social-control. However, the United State's foreign policy treated Minh as someone no different from other communists. With the 20 million dead in USSR at the hands of Stalin or the 50 million dead in China at the hands of Mao and the way in which those leaders lead, it can be seen clearly that Minh was not in the same league or archetype of personality as them. Once again Leslie, I really appreciate you taking the time to respond!

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Charlton Heston gives it away quickly

by Scott Woods - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 12:54 PM

Dan, I like that you picked out an agenda in the "Real Story." When looking for information though, sometimes it's good to get that right-wing agenda because there might be a bit of truth in the language. What I do like is that PBS is giving me as much information as they can within the hour they have. Maybe they didn't have time to fit in the communist aggression fear on this episode, and hopefully the next one will have more info about it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Ho Chi Minh: Communist, not Nationalist

by Jennifer Wilson - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 11:47 PM

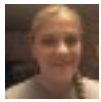
While watching "*Vietnam, A Television History*", one thing that had me questioning my understanding was the way Ho Chi Minh was continually portrayed. Often described as small, frail and almost seemingly gentle in nature. I knew that Ho was the communist leader/organizer that fueled the war in Vietnam, so I was somewhat confused by the way he was given an almost mild role. Sometimes I wondered if I had misunderstood who were the "good guys" and the "bad guys". (And maybe that will be clearer in upcoming episodes and reading.) But in the "*Television's Vietnam: The Real Story {Part One}*", Ho was described as an international communist organizer, who led a "campaign of assassination" of non-communist nationalist leaders, killing more than 10,000 people in a year. *{Television's Vietnam: The Real Story {Part One}}*, Also, murdering Catholics that had fled from North Vietnam. The PBS documentary has not portrayed the man responsible for so many deaths. (So far.)

I admit to not knowing which of the accounts of Vietnam to believe. How do we know what really happened and how? Which source is the most reliable? I do recognize the missing events that are detailed in the "Real Story" and the outrage that was

demonstrated after the release of the PBS documentary. This makes me appreciate the Patriots book even more, the individual accounts by people from all sides of the war sharing their stories.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Ho Chi Minh: Communist, not Nationalist

by Leslie Stockton - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 9:21 AM

I too found it interesting to see how Ho Chi Minh was portrayed as a nationalist even though with a little fact checking and research PBS easily could have seen the communist lurking. So many deaths and murders at the hands of Minh.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Ho Chi Minh: Communist, not Nationalist

by Andrew Kilmer - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 9:42 AM

I've enjoyed reading this thread. I also find it confusing to hear so many different view points from the same era. I agree with the statements that to this point the PBS series leans towards the United States and the French being the "Bad Guys". The AIM video clearly states that PBS misrepresents facts, or leaves out facts all together. Our text though (at least through Chapter 4) has made little reference to a "bad guy" While Herring certainly has pointed out short comings, he does so equally. Its my opinion that both PBS and AIM were politically motivated, which leads to the truth being seen from different skews. Ironically this is not much different than the United States and Vietnam Governments almost 70 years ago.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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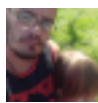
Re: Ho Chi Minh: Communist, not Nationalist

by Will Lawhon - Sunday, October 16, 2016, 5:57 PM

Hey , Jennifer i completely agree with you here. While watching the first episode of 'Vietnam a television history' i couldn't help but notice the Mid role they gave Ho Chi Minh and left me slightly confused until the Aim video generated even more new information. I also find the patriots book to be more of a solid source for our detailed information.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Ho Chi Minh: Communist, not Nationalist

by Shawn Jenkins - Sunday, October 16, 2016, 10:56 PM

In sociology we learn a lot about a theory appropriately named *Labeling Theory*. When we choose to define Ho as a communist, we then ascribe to him all the actions of a communist. I did a little extra looking around and found a paper written by Duc Tran. I found the entire paper to be very helpful in determining my own opinion. I would say that Communism was Ho's means to and end.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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US north/south support

by Zachery Brown - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 11:51 PM

After watching the 29 minute clip, "The Real Story". I thought that it was very odd, how the PBS series did certainly make it look as though the United States for a time were backing Ho Chi Minh up. In the 29 minute clip, at about 15 minutes in, it tells about the clip when, Archimedes Patti explains that we, "muffed" our chances up of making an Allie out of Ho Chi Minh. As the True Story video goes on, it explains a very good point that I am very sure made a difference in the way others viewed the US. Especially when there are outbreaks of protests for what Minh was doing to his country and his people. The fact that they try to make a connection that we had a chance to make Allies with Minh, is not only untrue (from the aspect of the, The Real Story). But it is also makes the US look worse then it already does when it comes to Vietnam. After watching the PBS documentary it would be easy to put together that the US would have sided with Minh and his government even despite his actions that caused the uprisings if it weren't for his connect to Communism. It all just goes back to the US supporting anyone that is against communism. It almost occurs to me that if Minh was not communist, or if it was swapped and South Vietnam was, the US would have supported the North over the south. Like they would have supported whichever side was not communist and fund them to fight against the ones that were communist. Of course I could be wrong, although I feel that there is enough reasoning and information to make this assumption.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: US north/south support

by Andrew Kilmer - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 9:23 AM

Zachery- I enjoyed your post. It did seem to me also that, had Ho Chi Minh not organized under the ideals of communist, things may have been very different. His ideals and actions from 1930-1949 seemed to be loyal to Vietnam and not any party. Herring says Roosevelt viewed the Vietnamese as an inferior, backward and politically immature people.(pg11) This is supported by the way United States and

Soviets ignored to correspond or support Ho during those years. Herring goes on to say, "after years of trying to play all sides, Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh officially joined the emerging Communist Bloc". Now the United States had to worry. I think the U.S. still didn't respect Minh or his views, but saw them as just an extension of China and the Soviet Union. At the same time we had to contend with France and their shortcomings in Vietnam. Hide sight is always better, but I wonder had we respected and communicated with Ho, how might have that changed the landscape of the conflicts.

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Re: US north/south support

by Scott Woods - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 10:49 AM

Andrew, you make very good points, but a hugely underlying factor from the book is that the US did in fact believe that Ho Chi Minh had strong ties to Soviet Union in particular. Even though the Soviets really didn't want anything to do with him. This was the reason for us not aiding North Vietnam in the first place. Yet more so, do you think that Minh and his followers leaned more toward the communist because they thought that the US was taking over for France in the south?

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Re: US north/south support

by Andrew Kilmer - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 1:06 PM

Scott- Great questions. Yes we seem to be playing to both sides of the ball with the Viet Minh and the French. At first we seem to support the French, and ignore the people of Vietnam, then we needed them because of the Japanese, then we needed the French, due to the fear of Communist, but when our money and the French failed, it became about the people of Vietnam. That is why I think Minh aligned with the communist bloc, America's interest was never about Vietnam, it was about communism, trade, and politics. While those all might be viable reasons, they didn't help anyone in that country, except for maybe the Southern Leaders who we threw money at.

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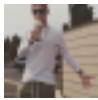


Re: US north/south support

by Jennifer Wilson - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 9:03 PM

I absolutely agree that the war was about communism, trade and politics. In America's Longest War, while denying being a "Moscow puppet", Ho Chi Minh stated that he had received more money from the U.S. than the Soviet Union. And Ho attempted to entice the U.S. with incentives: Naval Base in Cam Ranh Bay, enterprise possibilities and tax free monopolies. The U.S. didn't get involved until the threat of losing Indochina to communism became alarmingly possible, which would in turn "tip the balance of power" against the U.S. and also could tempt European allies to join the communist rule. Which is something the U.S couldn't risk.

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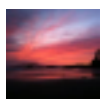


Re: US north/south support

by Zachery Brown - Friday, October 14, 2016, 5:05 PM

I appreciate the acknowledgment of my post. And you make a very good point that back this information up. Although you would have to think past the information given and decipher the fact that with the statements given in all of our recourses. Including the Herring book, when he does state that the way Roosevelt looked at the Vietnamese as inferior. And in this case they were ignored and not paid any attention too. Also ignoring the fact they Minh was looking for funding to create his country. And since we ignored Minh's request for support to run his country. With this being the case, of course he is going to turn to the next large powerhouse of a nation, like the Soviet Union. Which then once the US discovered this information, they immediately saw this as a threat and scare of the spreading of Communism. Therefore, they immediately got involved and supported South Vietnam in order to attempt to contain the spread of the "Red Scare". And this is repeated throughout history of the US getting involved and supporting whoever is willing to fight against the Communist'.

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Re: US north/south support

by Jennifer Wilson - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 9:15 PM

The spread of communism was a fear felt by more than just the U.S. Indochina was "the most strategically important area of Southeast Asia", and invaluable due to its raw materials, rice and naval bases. The loss of these things would create what they termed "domino theory". Indochina falling to communism could in turn cause the collapse of the remaining of Southeast

Asia. While some say the U.S stepped up and entered the war in Vietnam to help liberate the south from the north, the reasons are much more personal. In my opinion, of course. And we still have much to learn to that effect.

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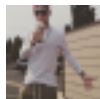
Re: US north/south support

by Trevor Neal - Friday, October 14, 2016, 5:58 PM

Zachery, I enjoyed your post, you made a point I had not thought of. I have to imagine that the US probably would have sided with Minh had it not been for his communist ties. I do agree the US would have sided with whichever side was not communist.

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Re: US north/south support

by Zachery Brown - Friday, October 14, 2016, 7:06 PM

Thank you Trever, I am glad to know that you are able to make that connection as well. I actually happen to state this in the first forum, but this is what completely convinces me to believe that that the US government will side with whoever is against the Communist', whether it be a completely ruthless dictator that murders innocent villagers etc. I stand by this assumption due to the events that occurred before the very next war that the US was involved in. Which was the, "Gulf War." The United States actually supported Sadam Hussein and his government before the events leading up to his invasion of Kuwait. I know that this is a bit off topic but it does support my assumption on the US ties to Minh, and supporting South Vietnam. I found an article that may better help explain my theory and the origin of what I speak of. The most related information that confirms the US support of Iraq and Sadam was the following statements. "

By 1955, the United States enlisted Iraq as a charter member of the Baghdad Pact, an anti-Soviet defense partnership linking Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, and Britain, with informal U.S. backing.

Briefly, it appeared that the United States had found a formula for ensuring the long-term stability and anti-communism of Iraq.

But that appearance evaporated quickly in July 1958, when a coalition of Iraqi military officers, disillusioned by the monarchy's subservience to the West and inspired by revolutionary leader Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, overthrew the king in a bloody *coup d'état* and instituted a new regime with a distinctly anti-western flavor."

So, you see the connection between the US support of Saddam and Iraq against the Soviet Union and Communism. It almost is a complete similarity to that of what happened with Vietnam. It really defines the term of, "History will always repeat itself."

My connection: The US will support, and side with any Government, Dictatorship, and so on, as long as it benefits the West's fight over communism.

If Minh would not have sided with the Soviet Union for support, the US would have then supported Minh and his terms of Government and power if they were willing to ensure there was no threat of, or ties to Communism. Which is exactly what happened with the Gulf War. Until things changed of course but that is off subject.

I have been reading different Historical Web articles in an attempt to confirm my theory of the reasoning behind the US involvement in Vietnam in addition to our text and video series. As much of my information is based off of more of my bias' and feelings of what the truth really was. And much of it may be very incorrect and wrong.

This is the reason for our forums and ability to converse with each other In attempt to discover the truth. Which is exactly what the forum is about.

I would love for your, and every one else's input, and ideas about all of our, "truthful", and not so, "truthful and argumentative" information on this topic.

Lets get the ball rolling on this. Good day to you all. Cant wait for anyone's feedback. Harsh or praise, It is all welcomed as I am wanting to hear everyone's opinions.

Including, Professor Escobar. Who I know from past experience will very rarely hop in on the forum to correct or give an outstanding opinion.

Hopefully This post is either enough to rowel the impressive historians opinions.

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Ho Chi Mihn

by Dan Johnson - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 12:12 PM

In the clipped we watched "The First War in Vietnam", it explains Ho Chi Mihn's desire to have a peace deal with the French. His tone sounded more of a desire to peacefully compromise with the French, and as the French appointed Admiral

d'Argenlieu, the French took the approach of re-colonializing and installed Bao Dai as the leader of South Vietnam. When this action was advanced, Ho Chi Minh's tone as the video presented it changed. His reliance on non-ideological rhetoric changed to more ideological rhetoric with a more radical tone. In his 1946 speech, "Wage Resistance War!" Minh says, "The hour of national liberation has struck! We must sacrifice to our last drop of blood to save our country. Whatever hardships we must endure, we are ready to endure them. With the determination to sacrifice, victory will be ours!" In this line, Minh shows his radical nature in a tone conscripting whatever means necessary to have "victory", which is subtle; however, generally speaking, radical communist rhetoric points to the likelihood of death while embracing it while a conservative approach denies or detracts from the concept of pain and suffering. This point goes to the communist concept of "righteous struggle". In a somewhat contradictory note, Ho Chi Minh says in the same speech, "Men and women, old and young, regardless of creeds, political parties, or nationalities, all the Vietnamese must stand up to fight the French colonialists to save the Fatherland. Those who have rifles will use their rifles. Those who have swords will use their swords. Those who have no swords will use their spades, hoes, and sticks. Everyone must endeavor to oppose the colonialists and save his country." This statement suggests his fight for Vietnam over his fight for communism. Also, Ho Chi Minh's willingness to allow for U.S. monopolies of key industries for U.S. aid also shows a pragmatism, which coincides with the nationalist sentiment that disregards certain communist principles. Also, throughout his rhetoric his focus is more on French colonialism rather than economic modeling. In regards to the AIM video and the PBS documentary, it's important to note that Ho Chi Minh was an intelligent, complex individual who had lived a multi-faceted life in many different countries and places and non-coincidentally was multi-faceted person. He certainly cannot be described as a monolith. It can also be said though that he wasn't without rough edges, or he didn't make mistakes. It can also be said that U.S. foreign policy to some degree had an understanding that Ho wasn't the same as Mao or Stalin and that he was somewhat pliable, but in the mind of general U.S. foreign policy, he was potentially vulnerable to the persuasions, coercions, and sympathies of Russia and China. This vulnerability made them fear that although Minh's more pleasant nature, he and his country could be used to perpetuate the worst that communism had to offer and not potentially its best under the designs of a more decent human being in Minh.

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Re: Ho Chi Mihn

by Will Lawhon - Sunday, October 16, 2016, 5:42 PM

Hey dan I liked this post and a couple of your key points you brought up about Ho Chi Minhs "wage resistance war" speech. At this time particular time we the US we're obligated to side with the French due to our major involment in Europe in WW2 which would most definitely complicate things if we were to accept Minhs offer of tax free tariffs. i have mixed feeling about it but I can't help but believe that Ho was attempting to manipulate anyone and everyone in order to bring himself to power.

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Re: Ho Chi Mihn

by Dan Johnson - Sunday, October 16, 2016, 8:52 PM

Hey Will, I completely agree with you that he was saying what he needed to perhaps mixed with both some honesty and dishonesty. The fact though that he was manipulating suggests to me that he didn't feel too comfortable with the idea of going to war with the US, and he would make some concessions. I'm of the belief that if he started making some concessions to be more capitalistic, and Vietnam became more capitalistic as it is today, then Minh's views on capitalism and the west would continue to soften even originally he held those views to be manipulative.

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Opinion Vs Fact

by Shawn Jenkins - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 6:39 PM

After watching the AIM clip i felt compelled to look into the history of the organization. In the past, Mr Escobar has stated, even over stated, that one should always know where the information is coming from. Wikipedia states that AIM is a "Non profit news media watchdog." It is also stated that AIM has been identified as having a politically conservative stance. Now as i just warned , know your sources. A wise man once said Wikipedia is a great source for 2 things. Wars and Elections. So i looked at several of the articles that Wikipedia mentions. The most damning, to me, of AIM was an article written in 1998 by Peter Hart and Steve Randall. Rather than try and type or cut and paste this article I'll share the link. In this article AIM is purported to do relatively little or even no research. They simply have an opinion and choose to share it as fact. Know your source and you know more than they do. I suggest to those of you unfortunate enough to not know any war veterans, go and talk to a Vet. My father served 1967 to 1975 with the Marine Corps. Yes, he served in Vietnam. Yes, he was wounded. Any story or bit of knowledge that came from his mouth I would 100% believe and fight for. In the long run I guess my answer to dealing with

conflicting information is to simply ask more questions. Don't take anything these instructors say to be the unmitigated impartial truth. And always answer D. None Of The Above.

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