



## Week 3 Forum Accuracy in Media

• [Subscribe](#)

[Accuracy in Media](#) ▶

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Move



### Accuracy in Media

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Saturday, April 9, 2016, 9:27 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Accuracy in Media 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: Accuracy in Media

Sum of ratings: –

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



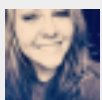
### The importance of Accuracy in Media

by [Titus Young](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 6:55 AM

The media, the one thing that we would all like to trust and hope is accurate. Unfortunately, the media is plagued by everything that plagues modern-day writing, plagiarism, and bias. Even now our own teacher has found a source that provides counter-evidence, for some of the evidenced supposed in our PBS tv series. Imediatly in the video we are told some of the false info that PBS has stated, even going as far as to say that the resons PBS gives that we won the Vietnam war were wrong, and this is just the beginning....

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



### Re: The importance of Accuracy in Media

by [Amelia Hansen](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 10:41 PM

I agree, it is sad that we cannot trust what we hear and read in the news. I thought this week's topic demonstrated perfectly how the media has selectively, biasedly, and falsely reported news for many years, and not just in recent times and events. This week's material (AIM video clip and PBS Episode 3) regarding topics such as the Geneva Conference and Ho Chi Minh, served as a prime example of how important it is as a consumer to be a critical reader and listener for one cannot rely on simply what one source proclaims.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



### Re: Accuracy in Media

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 3:01 PM

The most glaring contradiction that I got front the PBS program and the AIM video was the accusations that the AIM video made about the view and goals of the PBS program. They insinuate that PBS program is making the South look like the “bad guy” and the North as a people who are just trying to govern themselves. The AIM video

accuses the PBS program for almost being sympathetic of the Ho Chi Min regime and is “soft” on them by hiding the killing of many northern nationalists by the Viet Cong and their true brutality. In addition the most shocking thing to me was the AIM’s accusation that the PBS series clearly portrays Prime Minister Diem as a puppet of the American Government but in reality was a well known nationalist among the people of Vietnam. In my opinion and understanding the AIM video is trying to portray how the liberal views of the PBS program misleads the audience into thinking that Ho Chi Min was “not as much of a communist as he was a nationalist.” After watching both of these videos I can clearly distinguish the conservative and liberal bias in each the videos. By reading the Appy book I can make a more accurate presumption of what happened in the Vietnam war because they are first hand accounts of people who fought on both sides. Though each case is rewritten by the author the room for inferring a bias is much less.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**AIM Video & PBS Contradiction**  
by [Delynne Frank](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 6:07 PM

After watching the AIM video and episodes 1–3 of the PBS series, I feel that one of the biggest discrepancies is how Ho Chi Minh is portrayed. In episodes 1 and 2 of the PBS series, Ho Chi Minh is represented as a gentle and peaceful man who was loved by many in Vietnam. He was described as a nationalist first and then a communist.

However, this representation of Ho Chi Minh was inaccurate ( AIM video ). He was actually quite violent and ruthless towards non–communist who might threaten his power. The PBS series makes the U.S. and South Vietnam out to be the bad guys when in actuality Ho Chi Minh should have been seen as the villain.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

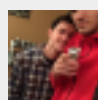


**Re: AIM Video & PBS Contradiction**  
by [David Leavitt](#) – Friday, April 15, 2016, 6:32 PM

I also found that really interesting! How they portrayed him was so far off what he really was. They wanted to make him look like a patriot, like we look at our founding fathers. Like he wanted nothing but peace, and was forced into action to free his country from foreign invaders. But he continually refused to make peace with the US. I found it particularly shocking how they left out the fact that he assonated as many as 10,000 nationalists, when they called him a nationalist. This proves that not to be true.

David Leavitt

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: AIM Video & PBS Contradiction**  
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 12:27 AM

I think the craziest part is Ho Chi Min's time with the French socialist party. I agree with you that it was the biggest surprise and wasn't discussed much in the PBS documentary.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: AIM Video & PBS Contradiction**  
by [Trevor Kaye](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 3:32 AM

I encountered this issue as well. It is very difficult to determine which source is the most valid when presented with so many contrasting recounts of history. From what you wrote, it seems that you are in support of the AIM video over the PBS series regarding the statements on Ho Chi Minh. Keep in mind that just because Accuracy in Media claims to be a conservative "media watchdog organization" for matters of factual inaccuracy does not mean that they weren't influenced by any sort of bias. In reality, neither the AIM video nor the PBS series truly portrayed Ho Chi Minh for everything that he was.

*America's Longest War* by George C. Herring introduces Ho as a "charismatic" man, whose "organizational genius and indomitable will were instrumental to Vietnamese victories over France and the United States"

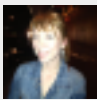
(p.2). Later, the book continues to praise Ho, professing his greatness as the "best known *nationalist* leader in all of Vietnam" (p.56). It's important to note that such a renowned source on the history of the Vietnam War refers to him as a nationalist leader who was "deeply committed to [the] unification" (Herring p.56) of north and south Vietnam.

In first-hand accounts from *Patriots* by Christian G. Appy, Ho Chi Minh is described as a caring individual that met with members from his military on multiple occasions. Luu Huy Chao, an ex-pilot for the North Vietnamese Army, recalls one of these experiences, saying, "He gave us candies and watched some movies with us and offered us words of encouragement" (Appy p.213). Ho Chi Minh is often referred to as "Uncle Ho," suggesting that much of North Vietnam's population genuinely appreciated him. In fact, Ho isn't mentioned in a negative context even once amidst all the stories from Vietnamese citizens present in *Patriots*. However, Ho did indeed support the execution of "as many as 15,000 dissidents" (Herring p.82) following France's withdrawal from the region.

When two sources contradict each other (like the AIM video and the PBS series), it is important to refrain from jumping to any conclusions. Perhaps it was neither South Vietnam nor Ho Chi Minh that "should have been seen as the villain," as you suggest. Considering all the information, it appears that Ho Chi Minh was a passionate nationalist that cared for the people of his country, but was caught in the middle of a brutal war that forced him to take desperate measures in order to win.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

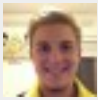


**Re: AIM Video & PBS Contradiction**  
by [Tamara Berge](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 12:51 PM

I agree that just because the media claims it is speaking about truth and fact, does not mean it isn't manipulating the information to suit its own bias agenda. Ho Chi Minh does come off loved and respected by many of his Vietnam people and even an account from an OSS officer confirms this. "It is not an exaggeration that Ho's troops loved him like a father. Their respect was obvious. And when you saw him with his men he really did come across as a man of the people." "At one point someone asked him directly if he was a Communist and he said, 'Yes, I'm a Communist, but there's no reason why we can't be friend, why we can't live together.'" (Henry Prunier, Appy p.40) This one account does not wash away the numbers of people that were killed by the Viet Minh in Ho's attempt to secure North Vietnam. But in the Vietnam War whose hands were clean? "Diem's anti-Communist campaigns executed more than 2,000 suspected Communists, some by guillotine." (Herring p.82)

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: AIM Video & PBS Contradiction**  
by [Justin MacDonald](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 9:00 PM

This couldn't be more true, "...whose hands were clean..."? The correct answer was nobody's. Ngo Diem's rule was incompetent and corrupt. According to Gabriel Kolko, a U.S. foreign policy historian and Harvard Graduate, even by 1958, well before the war, 12,000 of Diem political opponents had been killed, and another 40,000 jailed. He was simply a U.S. puppet, unhinged and a poor answer to the growing favoritism towards communism at the time.

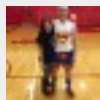
George Herring put it bluntly in our reading: "Truman administration had no interest in championing schemes of international trusteeship that would weaken and alienate the European states whose help we need to balance Soviet power in Europe" (Herring, 10). The U.S. was strictly concerned with appeasing the French after WWII, in concurrence with the Marshall Plan and rebuilding Europe. Strong ties with Western Europe = greater influence there and a stronger counter to Soviet Easter Europe. When the French ultimately failed in reigning in their Vietnamese colony, the U.S. went full force with Domino Theory, exerting massive influence and resources to stop Communism. Even if that meant adopting he lesser of two evils: Ngo Diem as ruler of South Vietnam.

Things could have and should have been handled better. France should have never even been allowed even the thought of gaining Vietnam back. The U.S. should have taken Vietnamese nationalism

seriously, and maybe things would have been different. Ultimately though, going back to my original post I had, if you look at the big picture, at the same time the U.S. was dealing with potential nuclear war and the spread of an evil, immoral ideology that wrecked havoc on nearly every country it touched. In my opinion better we did something than nothing, even if it leaves somewhat of a sour taste in our mouths today.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



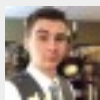
**Should we trust what we are told?**

by [Aaron Ashenfelter](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 9:24 PM

In the AIM video clip, it talks about how the PBS failed to mention that Ho Chi Minh was a French communist that went to the Soviet Union to study and actually became a member of the Soviet Union and actually took out a Soviet passport for and when he finished his schooling in the Soviet union he then went to China as a member of the Soviet Consulate in China. As he was working in China he was helping and putting up Vietnamese people as to study revolution and if they chose to be communist in their beliefs then he let them stay, but if they chose to stick to their nationalist beliefs then they would be turned into the French Police when they returned to Vietnam. Now, it is never stated on why they chose to leave this out but I feel as though this is a huge part of the story that we as students should learn. Now, to answer the second question about how to deal with this issue, I feel like we should do some more research before we believe anything that we read. We should always be questioning what we are told and we should always be trying to look deeper to find out exactly what we are trying to find out. One way that our textbooks can help is by confirming out information of giving us a different part of the story.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



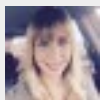
**Re: Should we trust what we are told?**

by [David Leavitt](#) – Friday, April 15, 2016, 9:22 PM

I absolutely agree. This shows that PBS wasn't just presenting the facts, to preserve and teach history, they were showing only parts of history, and even twisting parts, to give a false impression of what really happened, and who the people of the past really were. They were doing it with a agenda, exactly what we accuse the communist of doing. Like you said, critical thinking is very important to understanding what really happened, and the true facts.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



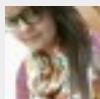
**Re: Should we trust what we are told?**

by [Delynne Frank](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 4:34 PM

This assignment has really made me think about the information that is presented in documentaries. I've been guilty of automatically believing that the information presented in a documentary is true. I agree that spending the time to research the information that has been presented is essential for verifying whether the information is true or not. I feel that our textbooks give an accurate account of past events. These books are not only a great resource for learning about the history of people and events, but also for comparing facts that are given in the documentaries.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Should we trust what we are told?**

by [Mikayla Cervantes](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 6:28 PM

I agree, the PBS video excluded a lot of massively important details on the leaders of Vietnam and it made Ho Chi Minh seem like a patriot and a saint in a sense to the Vietnamese when the AIM video states otherwise. History is always told differently by different textbooks, videos, or even reports because the country decides

that we do not need to know major details. Being cautious about the information we are told or given would allow for us to seek new information because not everything told is correct.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Should we trust what we are told?**

by [Tamara Berge](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 8:03 PM

I believe information was manipulated in accounts from both the AIM video and the PBS series. PBS did in fact touch on the fact that Ho Chi Minh, then Nguyen Ai Quoc, was a part of the French Communist party and had traveled to Moscow. “In 1920 Nguyen Ai Quoc became a founding member of the French Communist party, the first Vietnamese Communist. The Communists sent him to Moscow for training in 1923. He traveled widely, organizing ex-patriot Vietnamese into a revolutionary party. Reports during the next seventeen years placed him in Germany, China, Thailand, France, Russia.” (PBS episode 1, 14:55)

The argument from AIM wasn’t that PBS didn’t include this information it was that PBS “glossed over this negative side of Ho Chi Minh’s career.” I do wonder if maybe PBS didn’t go into depth on that time in Minh’s life because the information was unable to confirm or be proven. It seems to me that AIM should have taken more time explaining how they know the information that was being stated about Ho Chi Minh, during the time he was in the Soviet Union. Dolf Droge, who spoke for the AIM video, makes a claim against Minh, that he betrayed Phan Boi Chau, his “oldest teacher and counselor,” in 1926 by inviting him to Shanghai only to turn him in to the French Police, and that he did it for gold. However, when you google this, there isn’t any information of this betrayal, outside of Wikipedia. I was able to find some information of Phan Boi Chau’s life in the Encyclopedia Britannica, which says very little other than he was arrested in June of 1925 by the French and that he was released after the protests from many Vietnamese people. ( <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Phan-Boi-Chau> ) I had hoped in this case that one of the texts for this class would hold some information but they do not. I guess my point is, that without confirmation of proof, or information from many sources it shouldn’t be taken for fact simply because it stated in a documentary.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Ho Chi Minh: Communist, or freedom fighter**

by [David Leavitt](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 11:11 PM

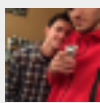
The biggest and most important contradiction in my opinion was how PBS portrayed Ho Chi Minh. PBS says he’s a “nationalist first, then a communist”. (PBS episode 1). They said he was fighting for freedom first, then once they had freedom, that the communist mindset and government would serve the people best (PBS episode 1). They portrayed him as a figure, almost not very political, showing scenes of him with crowds of children around him, while calling him “Uncle Ho”. The video by AIM says otherwise, saying he was very much a communist, and all the talk about him being a nationalist was him trying to get the support of the people. They said he even carried out assassinations on nationalists that didn’t operate under his control over a 12-month period, killing as many as 10,000 people, something PBS completely skipped (AIM, 20 mins).

How Ho Chi Minh is portrayed is very important, because it completely changes how we look at who the North Vietnamese were. Were they oppressive communist, or freedom fighters such as our founding fathers. Looking back on history, we can have 20/20 vision on what really happened. I think to get a accurate reading on something that has many view points that are vastly different such as the Vietnam war, you have to try to take from historians themselves (such as a book by them, instead of a video edited by someone who has a agenda), or try to get information from all sides, and try to compile a accurate reading from there.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

**Re: Ho Chi Minh: Communist, or freedom fighter**



by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 12:34 AM

It is interesting to see the differences between the two, I totally agree! I could really see the bias that both documentaries were influencing their material and subject matter. Very interesting to see the different views of this war from both sides of the political spectrum. On top of that it makes me wonder the bias of any media source that discusses our involvement in the middle east and what they are trying to hide and why.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Ho Chi Minh: Communist, or freedom fighter**

by [Tamara Berge](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 10:41 AM

I noticed this contradiction as well. At first the distinction between Ho being a Nationalist or an International Communist seemed trivial, but the more I watched the AIM video the more I realized the intentions of the video and the near hostility toward the PBS series seemed to be that there was not enough blame put on the communist party. Throughout the portion of the video that we watched, that point is driven home again and again. From their perspective nothing Ho Chi Minh did was to better the Vietnam people, only the communist party. But in the textbook by Herring it states, “He [Minh] and the other Communists who constituted the Viet Minh leadership skillfully tapped the deep reservoir of Vietnamese nationalism, muting their commitment to social revolution and adopting a broad platform stressing independence and ‘democratic’ reforms. (Herring P. 7)

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



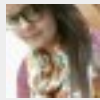
**Re: Ho Chi Minh: Communist, or freedom fighter**

by [Mikayla Cervantes](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 6:37 PM

The PBS document did indeed show Ho as a patriot to the needs of the Vietnamese when in reality he was the opposite of what many of them wanted. He was a communist, he worked for the french, he lived in the soviet union under a different alias. The fact that his name had been changed once he lived in Vietnam should always be something of question since many people change their names due to a huge underlying factor in which the PBS document did not explain or talk about why he had his name changed. Neither video really confirmed anything about Ho Chi Minh though, everything said was stated with almost no background knowledge because a person should not just believe the information given in a single video or a few videos, because the length of the video will decide how much information a company places into it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



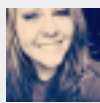
**Ho Chi Minh is not a Patriot**

by [Mikayla Cervantes](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 11:48 PM

The most contradicting information found in the Real Story of Vietnam was that Ho Chi Minh was a french communist that went and worked for the Soviet Union (American's Mandarin) and yet in the PBS film Ho Chi Minh was said to be a patriot before becoming the leader of Vietnam. Academically speaking dealing with conflicting information can be fixed by researching that question at hand away from the PBS documentary and by looking at the facts stated in a textbook. No information will be absolute though unless it is coming from an actual veteran of the war itself, and even then it may not be hundred percent correct because soldiers at the time were not told very much information on the situation at hand.The two textbooks bring a different perspective of what occurred in Vietnam because the information is given by people that lived in that time and the information is either going to agree or disagree with the information given during the PBS films. Can any information given about the past be 100% accurate and truthful, or will everything be tampered with in order to make a certain side of the war seem right?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

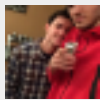


**The Elections**  
by [Amelia Hansen](#) – Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 11:54 PM

For me, the most glaring contradiction presented in the AIM video clip was of that regarding the elections and the Geneva Conference. I found it very intriguing to compare the two stories provided by PBS and AIM concerning Geneva and though the stories are on the same exact topic, they contradict each other a vast amount. In a particular instance, the PBS series (Episode 2) gives the viewer the impression that the South Vietnam's leader, Ngo Dinh Diem, lacked legitimacy because he refused to hold the elections that were provided for him, according to the Geneva accords. However, in the AIM video clip (6:45 minutes into AIM), it claims that no election was actually promised at Geneva. According to the AIM video clip, PBS excluded a very clear and coherent statement made by the late U.S. Ambassador Walter Bedell Smith: *"The United States is not bound by the Geneva accords, that with specific reference to elections as expressed in Article 7 of the Final Declaration, the United States opposed elections unless they are supervised by the United Nations to make sure they are free"*. The AIM video clip claims that the main reason for PBS to omit this explicit statement was an attempt to rationalize Ho Chi Minh's aggression against South Vietnam (6:30 minutes into AIM). In conclusion, I found this week's assignment to be very interesting, enlightening, and one that serves as a good reminder to not believe everything you see or read, and to always research the topic further before developing a strong opinion. In this case, I think the best way to deal with academically conflicting information is to locate many informative sources and research the topic(s) to the best of your ability. I think that this class does an excellent job by not only providing textbooks that are written by people who experienced Vietnam firsthand, but also providing textbooks that share a great amount of the same information that the documentaries and video clips do as well, which makes me feel more confident that I am learning the true history of the Vietnam War.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

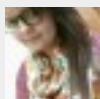


**Re: The Elections**  
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 12:57 AM

I thought this was a very intriguing contradiction. The facts of the Geneva Accords would be something that would not be a focus of altering in order to sway a viewers opinion. The PBS documentary did discuss it very briefly. I also found it very interesting and compelling when the AIM video stated that the PBS series showed viewers that Diem was only looked upon as a puppet of America to preserve their interests in South Vietnam and was by no means popular or well known amongst the people of Vietnam. The AIM video shows an Interview of Edward Lansdale who says he was there the day Diem was elected and he was very well known among the people of Vietnam, even more than Ho Chi Min which was a huge shock and major discrepancy between the PBS and AIM video.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

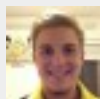


**Re: The Elections**  
by [Mikayla Cervantes](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 6:47 PM

The PBS series barely talked about the Geneva Conference and did not give any quotes from the conference itself in order to prove the information they stated was true, and I think if the quote was given in the PBS series they would not had been able to make the claim that Diem was an American puppet. I think it was compelling that the AIM video stated that PBS showed Diem as an American puppet to preserve their interests in South Vietnam and he was not popular among the Vietnamese. The AIM video gave a lot more information on how the people knew more about Diem and that he was more popular than Ho Chi Minh. The information the AIM video gave showed some major differences during the war than the PBS video did. The AIM video showed more information on the Presidents of Vietnam than they did in the PBS video.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Accuracy in Media**  
by [Justin MacDonald](#) – Thursday, April 14, 2016, 12:12 AM

“You have to understand history to plan ahead.” Charlton Heston, host of the “Accuracy in Media: The Real Story” video, opens up his lines of rebuttal to the PBS Vietnam Televised Series with this line. After watching AIM’s video, something hit me hard. In the video, Douglas Pike, former Director of the Indochina Archive, presented 4

promises PBS’s pitch for their series promised to deliver. Pike argues that PBS didn’t hit any of the promises, but one in particular stuck me as particularly disheartening. The third promise PBS gave was, quote: “The series will contribute to healing and to national esteem in the post war era.” Now, we are only three episodes into this series, so by no means are we finished, or really even close to done, but I felt this first needed to be brought up before I delve into further discussion.

The United States lost almost 60,000 men in a prolonged conflict, after which 43% of the population thought it had been a “terrible mistake.” (<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu>). A further 53% thought it was a “well intentioned mistake.” With that kind of data, it’s a fair take away something went wrong with this war. The most wealthy and powerful nation on the planet lost morale and countless lives in a hard fought war. But let us not forget what that war was for. It was to stop communism; maybe not forever but at least to try and stop East Asia from falling. Henry Kissinger’s Domino theory proved true after we pulled out. Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam had a combined total of over 4 million deaths from reeducation camps, famine, and mass government shootings after we pulled and people the likes of Ho Chi Minh took power. Sadly these deaths are but a drop in a sea of over 100 million deaths related to communism, not counting war (<http://www.fas.harvard.edu>, Black Book of Communism). Communism was a threat to the U.S.’s way of life, and literally life itself. Although the war was very poorly managed and the leadership failed to utilize the U.S.’s resources efficiently, ultimately it can be argued what America fought for was moral, no matter how much it acted in self-interest. Lee Kuan Yew, former prime minister of Singapore, argues “by giving the nations of ASEAN time to consolidate and engage in economic growth, prevented a wider domino effect.” (The Singapore Story). Take a look at South Korea, the 12th largest economy in the world, and then compare that to North Korea. At a great cost the U.S. saved millions of lives and economically helped lift them to the status they enjoy today.

So by PBS saying Ho Chi Minh, a Communist for half a century before the war, was acting out of nationalist sentiment (Episode 1), is a gross mascaraed to make the U.S. seem like a colonial power filling in the ranks after France pulled out. Again, sure how the war was conducted could be argued back and forth for hours, but ultimately how can you contribute to the nations healing process when you make the U.S. out to be an aggressor and imperial power? Ho Chi Minh was by no means a simple freedom loving citizen. He proved himself to be a power hungry revolutionist. But, don't believe me, listen to Stephen Morris, of Berkley's Institute of East Asian Studies. In AIM he breaks down Ho Chi Minh's 1920 Communist French Party membership, his study at the Lenin Institute in Moscow, and his repression of Vietnamese nationalists in Canton China at the Soviet Consulate. Evidence shows Minh's heart first lay with Communism ideology, all else second.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply

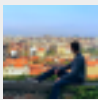


**Re: Accuracy in Media**  
by [David Leavitt](#) – Friday, April 15, 2016, 9:49 PM

The amount of deaths due to communism is astounding, but sadly true, and something most people don’t know. I think one of the reasons so many people were opposed to the war was that they didn’t grasp how bad communism was as a whole. And even though many people would say that we “failed” in Vietnam, we really don’t know what South Asia would look like today had we not gone in. You made a great point when you said “Evidence shows Minh’s heart first lay with communism ideology, all else second”. This I found to be very true from what I found on my own, and from reading yours.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



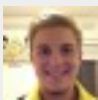
**Re: Accuracy in Media**  
by [Trevor Kaye](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 4:07 AM

Communism throughout Asia has almost always resulted in the substantial loss of human life. In the midst of the Cold War, the United States saw Vietnam as an opportune target to halt the supposed westward expansion of communism. While communist powers have been historically responsible for terrible atrocities (Khaibakh and Khatyn massacres, Tiananmen Square are a few examples), it is important to note that the capitalist powers didn't hold the moral high ground in the case of the Vietnam War. Ngo Dinh Diem carried out anti-Communist campaigns that "executed more than 2,000 *suspected* Communists, some by guillotine" (Herring p.82). Intense fear of communism also led to McCarthyism in the United States, where wild accusations were thrown at honest citizens for suspicion of "being communists or communist sympathizers" (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCarthyism>). Reputations were tarnished, and many innocent people were imprisoned as a result.

On another note, regarding the four promises made by PBS, you brought up the promise, “The series will contribute to healing and to national esteem in the post war era.” I find it strange that a series handling a story of such great historical significance concerns themselves with national "healing" and "self esteem." I also find it difficult to believe that this series contributed to national healing, as it portrayed Ho Chi Minh and his forces as noble people fighting for a noble cause. If national healing had been their true objective, don't you think it would have been better to portray them as evil Communists that the U.S. had no choice but to fight?

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Accuracy in Media**  
by [Justin MacDonald](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 10:17 PM

Re David: It is truly a sad thing. There is interesting blog I read talking about a poll, where 11% of Americans think Communism would better serve this country as a system. Scary thought...especially if the numbers are anywhere close to accurate.

link: <http://reason.com/blog/2013/03/13/communism-killed-94m-in-20th-century>

"And even though many people would say that we “failed” in Vietnam, we really don’t know what South Asia would look like today had we not gone in..." – this couldn't be more true in my opinion. Hindsight is always 20/20. Leadership could have been better, planning more sound. But once we got involved with Diem, the U.S. "entangled themselves more tightly in their fateful web" (Herring 94). For better or worse the U.S. was committed to the regions future. One can hope that commitment, even through a seemingly tide of failures, did some good. Singapore's ex-mayor certainly thought it did.

Re Trevor: Agreed, the U.S. certainly weren't some white knights doing God's work. Another example of this was the My Lai massacre. Sending in poorly trained soldiers into a conflict with poor leadership that gravely mismanaged the conflict was a recipe for disaster. Ultimately though, knowing what the CIA knew about Ho Chi Mien, and the millions upon millions already dead from Mao and Stalin, it becomes a numbers game. I hate to say it, but although Diem was a monster, Ho Chi Minh would ultimately be a killer on an industrial scale. The U.S. and any informed human at the time had a right to fear and combat Communism. The numbers linked in my post and this reply show that. As I've said though, no side came out clean from this conflict. Certainly a little different from WWII, with America battling Hitler and the "Axis of Evil." Morality becomes a bit more blurred in this conflict.

Regarding the promise of "healing" the nation, I couldn't agree more! Many veterans were and still are disillusioned from the war, so why not at least paint the U.S. just a bit more nicely. I can understand PBS running a purely informative series from their perspective (maybe they could get away with that), but then they decide to take on the emotional task of participating in the "healing process" of America post-war. AIM's video really speaks to the fact that omitting so many facts, like that of Ho Chi Minh's true driving forces and background, says otherwise about their stated goal.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Bias and the "Bad Guys"**  
by [Trevor Kaye](#) – Thursday, April 14, 2016, 4:02 AM

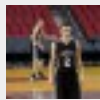
The underlying message presented in the Accuracy in Media video is the South Vietnamese and American soldiers were fighting for a righteous cause, and that the Communist government of North Vietnam was responsible for "great human tragedy" (AIM chairman "Irvine"). This comes as a stark contrast to *Vietnam: A Television History*, which presents the war as an unfortunate series of events for everyone involved, particularly for the citizens of Vietnam.

The main speaker of the AIM series claims that *Vietnam: A Television History* "portrayed the Communists as principled nationalists fighting for the independence and unity of Vietnam" and that "the series shows the South

Vietnamese as the bad guys" (16:44). He uses language like "our friends" to convey a sense of brotherhood and pathos and to sway the viewers' judgement. However, this isn't necessarily true. The PBS series provides several examples of vicious attacks carried out by the Viet Cong. For example, in the second episode, it references the assassination of "500 civilians and Diem officials" by Viet Cong forces. According to *America's Longest War* by George C. Herring, both sides of the conflict were responsible for the aforementioned "great human tragedy." South Vietnam was responsible for the execution of "more than 2,000 suspected communists" while North Vietnam executed "as many as 15,000 dissidents" (Herring p.82) in an effort to minimize capitalist influence. The book, which appears to be a very legitimate source, sides more with *Vietnam: A Television History* than with the AIM series in this case. Ultimately, although the AIM series presents interesting points on certain information (like the portrayal of Ngo Dinh Diem in the PBS series), the underlying message and rhetoric is misleading, as the intention of the PBS series was not to paint either side as the "bad guys."

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



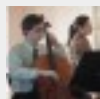
### Re: Accuracy in Media

by [Bryce Tilton](#) - Thursday, April 14, 2016, 11:07 AM

Forgot to reply by wednesday

Sum of ratings: (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



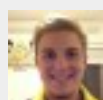
### How PBS failed.

by [Titus Young](#) - Friday, April 15, 2016, 7:41 PM

As we have been watching the PBS documentary it seems that all the "facts" that PBS supplies us with that seem ligament. When I was watching the "Accuracy in Media" clip I found it interesting that there multiple points that PBS was promising to do that they did not. The most compelling thing, to me, was that their goal was to contribute to the clarification of historical evidence. The video points out that in fact they accomplished the opposite. Another point that was described was the one thing that PBS should have said was the reason for all the events in Vietnam, but did not..."The institution of communist rule in indo-china.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



### Re: How PBS failed.

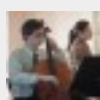
by [Justin MacDonald](#) - Sunday, April 17, 2016, 9:11 PM

Nearly, if not all facts PBS presented were true. The problem is with what they left out. The AIM video showed another side to the story. The PBS television series is awesome to watch, and easily gets the viewer hooked. The problem becomes if this is your only source for what happened in the Vietnam war, and for many it is, one can develop a rather uninformed opinion of the larger picture.

"The institution of Communist rule in Indo-China," was definitely an important point left out in the PBS video...achingly so.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



### Ho Chi Minh and PBS

by [Titus Young](#) - Friday, April 15, 2016, 7:57 PM

Ho Chi Minh seems to be a big part of the "Accuracy in Media" video. The video states that PBS paints Ho Chi Minh as the "hero" of the story. To me, this is like painting Hitler as the "hero" of WW II. Obviously, no one would do that, but in essence, that is what PBS did with the Vietnam war. Up until the very last video, Ho Chi Minh is shown to be the good guy. Stephen Moore says that PBS describes Ho Chi Minh as a nationalist rather than a communist, a HUGE misnomer. Ho Chi Minh is described in the "Accuracy in Media" video as a "...real professional communist". PBS even goes as far as to say that Ho Chi Minh was a hero in the eyes of the Vietnamese for 25 years when in reality he was a hero for really only one year. Ho Chi Minh committed a great amount of violence and was one of the last true "international communist".

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Ho Chi Minh and PBS**  
by [Bryce Tilton](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 10:55 AM

That was the main part that caught my attention in the perception of Ho Chi Minh. One of the main things I got out of the PBS series was that Ho Chi Minh was a nationalist than a communist. I highlighted that in my notes. But it turns out that in the AIM video, said that Ho was a real professional communist as you said in your post. That blows my mind that its that easy for media to bend the truth about someone, and make people view the person differently than he really was. Pretty interesting stuff.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

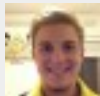


**The exodus from North Vietnam.**  
by [Titus Young](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 11:14 AM

One major flaw that the PBS documentary has is their description of the massive exodus from North Vietnam. The main problem that PBS has goes back to the fact that they try to picture Ho Chi Minh as a hero of the Vietnamese people. In reality, Ho Chi Minh provoked the exodus from North Vietnam by declaring an unprovoked attack on the catholic people of North Vietnam. This glaring evidence was overlooked by the PBS documentary and the reason they give for the exodus from North Vietnam, was that the catholic Vietnamese were forced to leave by CIA "black propaganda", this is a myth and the reason that PBS gave this reason was that they wanted to make Ho Chi Minh seem like a hero.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



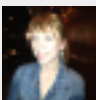
**Re: The exodus from North Vietnam.**  
by [Justin MacDonald](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 9:25 PM

Not to mention the boat people fleeing South Vietnam after the U.S. pulled out was "interestingly" portrayed and is a similar parallel to how PBS described the exodus from North Vietnam. The boat people were thousands of South Vietnamese who feared Communist persecution under Ho Chi Minh, and risked their lives, taking their chances in the open seas to escape. PBS intends this to be viewed as aftermath the U.S. instigated war, merely escaping the devastation left behind.

But this instance is several videos ahead, so perhaps I'm jumping forward too much. The more I watch the PBS documentary, the more cynical I get. Few things are bias-free about such a devastating conflict I guess.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**conflicting information**  
by [Tamara Berge](#) – Sunday, April 17, 2016, 9:21 AM

The first contradictory claim that caught my attention in the video, “Television’s Vietnam: the real story,” was the insistence that Ho Chi Minh was virtually an unknown individual to the Vietnamese people in 1944. The speaker, Dolf Droge (AID), states that Ho Chi Minh was in a Chinese prison in 1941 and was not released until 1944. PBS states that Ho Chi Minh was in Vietnam in 1941 and that he founded the Viet Minh that same year (episode 1). The conflicting stories paint a very different picture of Ho Chi Minh in through the early 1940’s. In one account he was standing up against the Japanese and the widespread starvation that was killing his people by creating and leading the Viet Minh, but in the other he was a man, still in China, with no loyalties to his people and would turn his back on, or betray, anyone that did not support communism.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

