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75/100

Charlotte Thomas

Assignment 1

HST 195

Part 1:

The story that caught my attention the most from part one was the story of Tran Thi Gung, the story about the petite little woman who killed an uncountable number of Americans. This first caught my attention because she was a woman and she was the only woman in her unit. From the description of the photograph from 1966, I imagine her to look like any young Vietnamese woman just starting her life would, but she is lying in the grass aiming a rifle. She is practicing her shooting and learning how to be a soldier. From what head she seems like a trustworthy person and it doesn't seem that she is bending the truth. I also find it easier to believe her story because, unlike western culture, asian cultures are more tightly knit and they tend to be honest. Lying isn't as common or acceptable in their culture as it is here, in the U.S. Also in her story she doesn't go into a lot detail except for when she is describing the first time she shot and killed an American soldier, but I don't find it hard to believe that she remembered that.

Not accurate

No real analysis offered here

Part 2:

The most disappointing story in part two to me was the story of Paul Hare, and it wasn't what Hare said or his attitude but what Appy chose to write about. What disappointed me was the emphasis on the cockfighting. I feel that while Appy was initially interviewing Hare that they probably talked a bit more about more important things during Vietnam. I'm pretty sure they didn't just sit and talk for only fifteen minutes and all they talked about was cockfighting, yet he chose to write about cockfighting. We don't really hear much of what Hare did and by the end of the story it seemed like that was all he did was just sat around and participate in some local cockfighting. I don't know if Hare actually did anything more than just cockfighting and if he didn't then this story shouldn't even be in the book. Appy only chose a third of the interviews to put in the book and this story just seems like a bad choice. Although if Hare and Appy did talk about more important

and relevant matters then it's a shame that Appy wrote what he did and if I was Hare, I would have been extremely disappointed.

On another note, I really enjoyed the story of Malcolm Browne. I find that the stories from journalists are the most real feeling and most accurate accounts. He wasn't a General for the U.S. military or a North Vietnamese soldier; he was just a reporter in the middle of a war reporting what he saw to the American people. He met his wife in Vietnam and created lasting friendships with Buddhists monks. He was able to watch and record the great sacrifice of Thich Quang Duc and feel the compassion for that fearless old monk. He also witnessed the ruthlessness of the Viet Cong at Dam Doi and what they were capable of. I see both the good and the bad in this story. The good being Browne met his wife and was able to create friendships in the middle of a terrible war, and the bad being that he also witnessed horrible things that we wouldn't dare imagine.

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AWKWARD
Good
bad

Paper definitely lacked a depth of analysis throughout.