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60/100



Part 1

Paying the price, account of Ta Quang Thinh, caught my attention because of the familiar sound of the story, not from an American veteran, but a Vietnamese veteran. The different perspective was new for me to hear, despite some differences in the details of the story, it could have been told by an American veteran. The speaker of the story seems a reliable source though some of the more dramatic details, such as checking his watch just before the bombs fell, seem a bit of a stretch. To an extent, anyone who was there at that point in time has some loss of credibility in their memory of trivial details and of emotional events. But those same people also gain credibility for being present to witness the events firsthand and, literally, have the scars to prove it, mental or otherwise. The subjectivity of the speaker is undeniable, the speaker is telling of his understanding of events after a large amount of time passed from the time of the events to his retelling.



Part 2

Paradise Island, account of John Singlaub, was disappointing on various dimensions. So many things throughout the account were idiotic or were disappointingly true. The idea of our allies, with the help of our special forces, kidnapping coastal villagers  trying to convert them to being anti-communist I find moronic. That being said I make no judgment on the time, back then it seemed a viable option. But the tactic of dropping in your best commandos into enemy territory and trying to establish a resistance against the government of the north after evacuating all of those who would have resisted years before makes no logical sense. Although that is a poor tactic, the continuation of the tactic, at the behest of a political appointee, after intelligence has proven it is ineffective, was the most disheartening for me.



I find it hard to see "goodness" in the accounts. The most I can find is a hope to a quick end to the war in most of them. The desire for peaceful end to the war within the text seems to be the most encouraging aspect of most of the accounts. Other than that the accounts seem rather dark, even in the more upbeat accounts.

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While I think you are "getting" some of the material and have a basic comprehension of the topic, you need to take the time and words to express yourself more convincingly in these assignments.