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65/100

Assignment 1

Part 1

TRAN THI GUNG, "I was stuck in a tunnel for seven days."

The thing I found most captivating in this entire selection of stories was the part where her comrades gave her a "funeral mass for the dead". A ceremony that honors the achievements of a fallen comrade while the stand still living and are told how they died in action, how much they are missed and how nobel their sacrifice was. The psychological impact that such a ceremony would have on a person, especially a person who's political and cultural background was so rooted in ceremony and community, seems deeply profound. I found it to be a moving metaphor, capturing to me the essence of what the Vietnam war must have meant for the Vietnamese. Her accomplishments may have been exaggerated, her actions glorified but I don't see why she might lie about this ceremony.



Part 2

EVELYN COLBERT, "Dissent which contradicted the public optimism was ignored."

The most disappointing thing about these accounts is just how much evidence, historical, social, rhetorical, and statistical evidence was being ignored in the forming of the U.S. policy in Vietnam. The motivation seems so monolithic. It is as if the policy makers did not intend to win the war. more than that it is as if the war was a small part of a larger and **equally absurd conflict**. It seems as if going to war is not the correct term even. we did not go to war, we were militarily involved. and our involvement was never based on the success of that involvement, we never seemed to have clear objectives, we just needed to be involved, we needed to proliferate the cold war. I find it illuminating and repugnant.



SERGEI KHRUSHCHEV, "The Vietnamese had their own ideas."

I enjoyed the perspective that this story had, and I think that it is an important one to remember. Vietnam seems to have been basically a nationalist struggle, or at least civil war, that was blown

of proportions by cold war rhetoric. Every world power seemed to casting their image in Vietnam with little understanding or concern for the will of the Vietnamese. I think that the lessons of vietnam should help the world view military involvement with skepticism. I would hope in the future we might act with purpose and in ways that achieve specific goals instead of wasting life and money pursuing ideological ends.

What, no commentary on our current time?

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At 400 words, you are just over half the requirement for this assignment.

As with the forums in US History, I know that you possess the glimmers of brilliance... I just want to see more of it.

Oh yes, and be certain to address the posed questions.