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An important theme that was constantly in my mind while reading Part Three is discovery. The discovery I am talking about is not that of physical or land-based discovery, but personal discovery of belief. (I am always enlightened when a person's opinion is altered and changed in a way that brings them self-revelation.) With war, so many different ideas of the truth are held by each individual person. Not until the end of the war is the outcome and "truth" known, and even then the area is grey. It takes a strong man or woman to admit that their entire way of thinking was wrong, and they usually had to endure much heartache and struggle to reach that place in their mind.

very necessary definition...
GOOD

Jim Soular ~~is a man who~~ went through the exact process of discovery that I described. Soular was born into a working-class family and was drafted into the Vietnam War, which he says did not upset him. Soular's exact quote was, "...I was a patriot. I believed in the flag. I believed in serving my country." (Appy 157). Soular's opinion of how credible the war and the military was changed during his tour. His best friend was killed by another American soldier, and when Soular testified against the killer, the military sentenced the man to five years of hard labor. Soular said, "To the military, a goddamn chopper was worth three times more than David. That's when the war started unraveling for me." (Appy 161). Soular went into the war as a steadfast soldier who loved his country and thought serving was simply part of his patriotic duty. When he left, his feelings were ~~much~~ ^{very} different. It is a powerful thing when your entire way of life and belief system is turned around after experiencing something tragic and mind-altering. Soular was like many American men during his time who believed that our country was right in this war, and that the military would make a man out of them. Soular ~~goes on to say~~ ^{went} "...everything I'd been raised to believe in was contrary to what I saw in Vietnam." (Appy 161). He discovered a different side to the war and to himself. Soular no longer gave complete faith to the military and its actions.

past tense

Jonathan Schell is another example of a man who went into Vietnam (as a member of the press and not a soldier however) with one idea of what the war stood for, and came home with an idea that was the opposite. Schell was a young, prospective reporter who claimed to not have much of an opinion about Vietnam, or politics in general. Schell was quoted, "I didn't see how we could pull out and I suppose I bought into the domino theory." (Appy 203). While Schell was in Vietnam he witnessed such atrocities, and he set himself aside from other reporters. It was in Vietnam that Schell discovered that most other members of the press were