

The Vietnam War was far from a "black and white" conflict. So far, this term, we have looked at the Vietnam War with different resources with their own perspectives. In Christian G. Appy's narrative *"Patriots"* the Vietnam War is portrayed through the experiences of individuals that "participated" in the conflict. While reading this, in my opinion, I felt that the Vietnam War was a conflict that created unrest and even a feeling of discontent for some of the individuals involved. While reading Appy's narrative I felt that some of the "participants" were unhappy with the war and the overall outcome. The Vietnam War created a lot of tension throughout the world but especially in America and Vietnam. American and Vietnamese citizens, alike, even felt compelled to make a life changing "stand" in regards to the war. Overall, in my opinion, *"Patriots"* showed the true nature of the war and when those who were involved "looked back" at the war it seemed that it was remembered with resentment and confusion.

What's the theme?

Sylvia Lutz Holland recalled her experience as a nurse in Vietnam during the war. Holland worked as a nurse and witnessed many horrific events. She recalled taking Librium because of a lack of sleep due to her depression. She even recalled a Vietnamese woman going into labor and dying and the doctor then throwing the baby in the garbage. In *"Patriots"* Christian Appy states, "Like many Vietnam veterans, she doesn't want her children or anyone else, "to experience what I experienced."" (175). Holland seemed to have a depressing view of war and her experience in Vietnam is probably the reason for this. Sylvia Holland witnessed some of the greatest tragedies of the war and gave her best effort to help those wounded by the "fighting." In my opinion, Holland has a truly horrific memory of the war because she was a nurse. A nurse in Vietnam witnessed those wounded by war most and this is probably not a "pleasant" experience. When she remembers the Vietnam War she remembers death, missing limbs, and the gruesomeness of fighting a "modern war." With these memories, in my opinion, it seems nearly impossible to support an armed struggle as "justifiable" because she has the knowledge of the impact of war created for the people involved. In 1991 she told her children that they were "conscientious objectors" because she does not want anyone to experience war. In my opinion, Holland's account is remembered with a lot of resentment because she focuses her story on the tragedies she experienced. When retelling her "story" it seemed that she really wanted to put an emphasis on the horrors of the war.

THEME ?

Luu Huy Chao was a pilot in North Vietnam and fought against American planes bombing the north. He recalled his success as a fighter pilot and never even flew a plane when he was made a pilot.