

At the end of his story he reflected on the war and concluded that "we were only soldiers, we didn't cause the war...The suffering caused by war is immeasurable. The dead are only a small part of a whole." (215). In my opinion, Chao did not see the American pilots as an enemy but as soldiers obeying orders. He does not seem proud of the "killing" he did and even ordered soldiers not to shoot at parachuting G.I.'s. He saw the conflict between soldiers as "obeying orders" and concludes that he wishes, "that there be no war." In my opinion, when Chao reflected on his experience it seemed as though he is resentful towards the conflict. It seemed that he felt that war is an awful circumstance to be placed in and that it should be avoided. When he talked about the suffering created by war it gives testimony too this because (he analyzed the whole impact of a person dying. It seems that to analyze death like this is a realization of the value in human life and this could create an uneasy feeling towards the war. (His memory as a pilot also could be the reason why he wished for "no more war" because he remembers the war and the tragedies it created.)

- past tense

this needs explanation

unclear

Paul Warnke traveled to Vietnam with three different secretaries of defense and has a political insight on the conflict. Warnke seems to remember the Vietnam War as a mistake and even admits, "I think most of our friends have concluded it was a mistake and everyone makes mistakes." (281). In Warnke's account he seemed to remember the war as an "error" and even called it a "civilian misadventure." In my opinion, Warnke remembered the war as a mistake and this memory could be politically skewed. He probably remembers the political situation as a mistake because that is what he felt, personally. (However, the fact that a member of the general counsel for the secretary of defense felt this way implies that there was confusion in the head of the government. This confusion, in my opinion, is what created so much division in our society.) If the people most involved were displaying these feelings and seemed divided then it seems that Vietnam truly was a mistake. Warnke's feelings towards the war, in my opinion, proved that we had uneasy feelings about Vietnam and there was great confusion on different aspects of the war. This could be the reason that some people view the Vietnam War and America's participation with resentment and confusion because if the people creating the policy displayed these beliefs then maybe Vietnam was a bitter, unjust conflict.

redundant

tremendous jump in logic here

unsupported

redundant

Close this window

Moodle Docs for this page

Last # theme became "war was a mistake", vs. the earlier theme of "resentment". Theme was not clear from the start. #1 = strongest #2 weaker #3 very vague political situation?