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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.

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 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, "...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.

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

willing to write hard-hitting articles that contained less truth than falsehood. He recounted, "In Vietnam I learned about the capacity of the human mind to build a model of experience that screens out even very dramatic and obvious realities." (Appy 205). When Schell was invited along with other members of the press to a false election campaign, he opted to take a helicopter out of the area instead of sit through the "campaign" and report lies back to his country. Schell went from being neutral on his view of the war, with a slight emphasis on believing what he was told about the Viet Cong starting a domino effect with Communism in the area, to someone who strongly opposed what was going on in the war on America's part. Schell believed, "It was hard to maintain that we were fighting for freedom or democracy in South Vietnam since the government we were defending was so obviously corrupt and dictatorial. Even the domino theory seemed to fall apart in the face of intense nationalism.." (Appy 208). Through his own personal experiences and occurrences that he witnessed with his own eyes, Schell discovered that he had an entirely new way of believing, and tried to open others' eyes to the same ideas.

The story that Duong Thanh Phong told of his experiences during Vietnam were considerably different than the previous stories I described. Phong was a photographer for the North Vietnamese and had no prior knowledge of the Americans his side was fighting against. While Phong's job in the war was to increase anti-American propaganda, he hadn't ever met an American. He recalls his first time seeing an American soldier, "For the first time I witnessed an American crying and it occurred to me that the Americans are like the Vietnamese. Suffering is universal. I realized they were human beings, not aliens, that they were like us." (Appy 248). Phong was like many Vietnamese fighting for their freedom who only thought of Americans as alien-like enemies who they couldn't relate to. They were simply told to kill them, and not think about the people living inside the bodies. It was a revelation when Phong saw the emotion coming from his enemy. Although it didn't stop him from wanting the Americans to lose the war, Phong discovered that his enemy was his equal in life.

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