

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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