

what he experienced, not just because of the atrocities he witnessed and was a part of, but because to lie or even embellish on killing members of his own society would have completely gone against the traditional Vietnamese way of life.

Part 2

red Out of all the stories in part two of "Patriots, The Vietnam Remembered from All Sides," by Christian Appy, the story that was the most disappointing to me was by Le Lieu Browne, titled "There was one coup after another." Browne worked for President Diem's Ministry of Information as a censor, and it was her job to keep the citizens of South Vietnam in the dark and make sure they were only receiving information that was "democratic" and approved by the government. She read through Vietnamese citizen's personal mail, decided if magazines and novels could be sold based on if they had any pro-Communist ideas, and even had to order that an English-French dictionary be hidden in the back of bookstores because it contained the translation for the word "Communism." She was forced to go to "Personalization" lectures, where the government's rules and ideals of a "free" society were drilled into her head. This story really upset me because even though we were supposedly helping South Vietnam become a free and democratic nation, these control tactics seem no different to me than those of Communism, only it is on the other end of the belief spectrum. The cornerstone of freedom and democracy is the ability of individuals to make their own choices as to how they conduct their lives; so how are these ultra-controlling government policies that Browne is describing any different than Communism? *clicked* Is this what millions of people died for during the Vietnam War? Even Browne herself states, "It sounded to me more like Communism than democracy," (Appy, pg. 74).

Why no hypothesis? Out of all the stories in part two of the Patriots book by Christian Appy, the one that conveys the most hope and actually brought me to tears was by Luyen Nguyen, titled "She divorced her second husband and waited for me." In this story, Nguyen tells of his time in the South Vietnamese army when he was one of the soldiers in a top-secret reconnaissance mission that the United States sent into North Vietnam...a mission that the US knew would fail, but would not pull the plug on for fear that the South Vietnamese soldiers would reveal pertinent strategic information to the enemy. The text has an excerpt from "The Secret War Against Hanoi," which talks about this mission, saying "We had to get rid of them [the South Vietnamese soldiers]...our solution was to put them up North." Nguyen was captured a month after he infiltrated North Vietnam, and was a POW for 1966 to 1987, spending most of his time in shackles. Despite leaving a pregnant wife and children at home, he never wrote to her, knowing that she would be more at peace believing he was dead than thinking he was alive and suffering. Nguyen's wife remarried in 1974, but in 1983, when one of his friends from the POW camp was released, he found Nguyen's wife and told her that he was alive. She divorced her husband and waited for Nguyen, and they reunited in 1987 and are now living in the US. This story was so touching to me, not because I am a hopeless romantic, but because it is reassuring to see that not everyone's spirit was crushed during the war, and that even during a time of horrible suffering there is still a place for compassion and love.

Extremely well written paper. One of the best in the class. Be sure not to miss future deadlines. I + would have been a crime to give this paper a zero.