

Due date: Sunday, 9 October 2011, 11:55 PM

Last edited: Sunday, 9 October 2011, 11:48 PM (612 words)

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History of the Vietnam War

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October 8th 2011

Assignment 1

Recalling my readings of part 1 of *Patriots* Bernard Trainor's recollection of the war "Commanders" caught my attention the most. I think a lot of it had to do with the fact that I had never read a book on the Vietnam war or heard anyones first hand recollection of the war. I thoroughly enjoyed all the accounts in part 1 because the Vietnam war has been something I have always found interesting but never got around to learning about it and with my little knowledge and high interest everything in this book thus far has expand what I knew previously ten fold. I also kept my interest at a high level throughout the my reading. I think it interested me so much because it seemed so real. I felt very connected to his account and experiences in the war. I felt that he was a very trustworthy person and so was reflected in his writings. I found that it was very interesting that his unit stumbled upon the entrance to the cave simply by playing frisbee to pass the time, it made me think of how it must feel to accomplish something so important just by chance. Bernard's account of the war although not incredibly detailed was still very intriguing to me and definitely something I that I valued reading.

After reading part 2 of *Patriots* I was rather disappointed after reading Vo Nguyen Giap's account of the war. I felt that his attitude was rather arrogant. I felt that he felt that his

Vietnamese army was far superior to that of the United States. I didn't like the way that he recounted the events. One thing he said that particularly disappointed me was when he said "we know how to use our intelligence against the power of steel" It gave me the impression that the United States lacked intelligence and all we had were our "guns". Previous to reading this segment I had very high hopes of this book, I'm not saying that one disappointing story ruins the whole book but I was very turned off while reading it. It did however offer a point of view that was different then what I'm used to reading about when reading about the Vietnam War, especially how he referred to it as the American war. The thought simply never crossed my mind of Vietnamese people would refer to the war.

Although I had many negative things to say about Vo Nguyen Giap's recollection of the war I also found some positives in his writings. One thing he said really showed me how the Vietnamese people felt about this situation and the heart that they had to keep fighting. Giap says "Don't worry, if we have the people, we have the weapons" pg 43. To me this shows the sense of unity that the Vietnamese had when fighting the war. It also shows that they weren't going to back down to anyone and they were fighting for pride and honor. He also stated that "Americans should understand more about Vietnamese history and culture" pg 43 I found this statement to be very true and powerful. I as well as many other people don't have much knowledge of what happened in this war what it was for or anything about the culture. I feel like it is definitely something we should all be educated about it was a major part of American history and the people need to educate themselves properly on what really happened.

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