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One of the stories that caught my attention the most in part 1 was the account of Tran Thi Gung. This story grabbed my attention and was interesting by nature considering that she was the only woman in her unit. Her father was a Viet Cong and was killed by southern soldiers in 1962. She joined the guerrillas in 1963 when she was only 17 years old to continue her fathers cause and fight for Northern Vietnam. I believe that her cause was a noble one and I respect her for standing up and fighting for what she believed in. She felt compelled to help liberate her country from poverty and police brutality that was apparent at the time. I believe that she is a reliable source of information and she definitely has more credibility than I to speak about the happenings in Vietnam at the time. However, I also believe that she clearly has a subjective viewpoint about the objective realities that compelled her to fight for her country in the first place. I can see that her commitment to Northern Vietnam came from an emotional standpoint, and loyalty to her fathers point of view and her upbringing. It seems that there isn't much of a way to escape subjectivity in her situation. She wasn't an outside observer, she was right in the middle of everything that was going on and therefore I feel that her take on things is naturally a bit bias. Despite that, I admire her courage and loyalty to the cause that she stood for. I can't imagine the bravery it would take for a 17 year old girl to stand up against grown men in a war setting and accomplish everything she did for the guerrillas. Tran Thi Gung's personal rendition of her experience in Vietnam stood out to me more so than any other story in Part One of Patriots, and that is why I chose to write about that piece.

The story in part two that I was most disappointed with was that of Ngo Vinh Long. His account was disappointing to me because many people seemed to think he was naive and wrong, but I feel that he had quite a bit of insight in to the happenings of Vietnam regarding the American policy and American involvement in Vietnam. The part that got me the most was the negative response by Vietnamese Americans in America during his talk that he gave at Harvard and his support of the antiwar movement. I feel that his intentions were good, and it upsets me that he was subjected to so much hatred and violence from his own people at that time. In the beginning of his account the author states that " Several in the audience threw molotov cocktails at him." (Appy) and

he continuously received death threats and had to "change his residence eight times" (Appy) over the following year. I don't think anyone should have to live in a constant state of fear because of their beliefs, and that is why I was so shocked and disappointed when I read the section about and by Ngo Vinh Long.

While the account of Ngo Vinh Long was one of the most disappointing to me, it was also one of the more positive accounts in my opinion. I feel that he was an extremely intelligent and enthusiastic realist and didn't fall victim to a subjective viewpoint. Though he was raised in the Mekong Delta, he realized that what was going on in Vietnam was wrong and he was willing to speak out against American policy and involvement in Vietnam once he realized the reality of what was going on. I think it takes a lot of courage to stand up with the viewpoint that he did despite where he was from. He didn't blindly follow any cause, but instead looked at things objectively with an open mind and made his decisions accordingly. Reading his account instilled hope in me. It was nice to read about someone standing on principle and speaking up for what they believe is right despite many conflicting points of view. I believe that if more people had the courage and intelligence that Ngo Vinh Long did, the situation and outcome of the Vietnam War would have been very different. His story was sweet and sour for me, but very inspiring, and that is why I chose to write both sections of part two on his account.

Works Cited:

"Patriots" 'The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides'- Christian G. Appy, pg.54

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