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Patriots- The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides by Christian Appy

Part 1

The story, "I was stuck in a tunnel for seven days", told by Tran Thi Gung, really caught my attention. It was surprising to see a female's account of the Vietnam War from a fighter's perspective. When I think of this particular war, I think of only men, and American men at that. I thought it was very interesting to hear her perspective on the war and why she believed in what she was doing. When she stated that Americans had killed her father and she was acting out of revenge, I could relate to her anger and determination. I did believe that her accounts of the event were probably accurate in her eyes. How she viewed the American soldiers, how she stated that she felt no remorse because we were in her country, and how she even went as far as to say that the soldiers became easier targets when one soldier would get injured or killed and more would come to retrieve him.

I did have some trouble though believing the entire story though. I believe that there is a great deal of trauma associated with her life during those years and with that, I believe, a clouded judgment of events and how they took place. I am sure this is true with anybody that has suffered so much during such a long period of time. When Tran Thi Gung stated that she would go in and out of enemy camps to gain further information, or how she was an expert marksman seemed a bit glorified. However, for the most part, I do believe her accounts of the Vietnam War and her place in it/

Part 2

The story told by Sergei Khrushchev, "The Vietnamese had their own ideas, "was disappointing to me. His claims and statements of Americans seemed ignorant at some points. Sergei states that Americans believed more in propaganda and less in the facts of what events were really happening. I disagree and think that Americans felt that our reporters had integrity and would not lie about the events over in Vietnam. What we

have grown to realize is everything through is swayed by a person's own beliefs. If a reporter was against war, then he would show things that favored his view. If a reporter was in favor of our occupation in Vietnam then the view would take a different light. According to Khrushchev, the Soviet Union presented a biased look at the same event, "Soviet propaganda presented the war as an example of American imperialists battling against the brave freedom fighters." This type of personal bias is alive in each and every one of us.

However, I did find it interesting when he stated that Vietnam caused Americans to awaken by truly grasping that even with a willful government, not every war can be won. I thought this was a very important insight and view. When people are fighting for freedom of belief or choice, then it has been proven, they will fight and win or die trying. This has been proven over time in many battles.

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