

Due date: Sunday, 27 May 2012, 11:55 PM

Last edited: Monday, 21 May 2012, 10:49 PM (751 words)

A turning point in Part 4 of Christian Appy's *Patriots*, occurred during the story from the, "Families At War" section. The Vietnam war must have resulted in disagreements in families, causing strain within them. John Douglas Marshall and his grandfather had always been close. John looked to his grandfather with admiration. "Growing up, I thought more about making my grandfather proud than my own father." (*Patriots*: pg 328) John's grandfather was known as "SLAM" Marshall during the war. "SLAM" Marshall was one of the most committed defenders of American policy in Vietnam. He was the author of several books and a published column. Despite how John Douglas Marshall adored his grandfather, he was not a supporter of the war. John did what was "expected" of him in the eyes of his family and joined the army. John soon applied for honorable discharge. He wrote a letter to leave the army as a conscientious objector. Rather than admiring the fact that John stood up for what he believed in, his grandfather accused him of chickening out. "We know why you quite. It wasn't conscience. You simply chickened out. You didn't have the guts it takes." (*Patriots*: pg 329) Hearing such a thing from someone you have looked up to your whole life would be a turning point in Marshall's life, as would be being seen as a failure to the family. Never speaking to your family again because of acting on what you believed in would seem to cause emotional anguish. It would seem concise that a family would feel relief that the loved one does not have to see the horrors of war, but with John Marshall's family, this was not the case. Word's cannot express how John Marshall must have been feeling. An example of the ending of the war in Part 5, from "The World Was Coming To An End" section, was an account by Frank Maguire. Frank served three tours in Vietnam as an advisor. During his time as an advisor, he believed that they were making process with the people of South Vietnam. After his first return home, he felt proud to tell the story of his time in Vietnam. "...I remember making speeches and telling people we weren't just running around killing people, that we were building and trying to improve people's lives. I felt good and so did the country." (*Patriots*: pg. 441) Frank Maguire's tours back to Vietnam were not as rewarding as the first. American's idea of winning the war would be to win the war on their own. The war was being fought for the Vietnamese. After the Vietnamization of the war, the Vietnamese were left to fight a war that had been fought for them for such a long time. Our armed forces' efforts to prepare the Vietnamese for fighting in the war only backfired and set them up to parish. The end of the war seemed to present itself to Maguire when there was no longer positivity coming from the American's being in Vietnam. Whether or not the United States being in Vietnam was it's place to begin with, is still the toughest, unanswered question concerning the

Vietnam War today. According to Frank Maguire's account, many American's carried little or no respect for the Vietnamese. "Some of our young officers and troops didn't identify the Vietnamese as people. It wasn't so much a question of skin color, it had to do with the fact that they didn't have American houses, they didn't have television..." (Patriots: pg. 444) The United States has always done what they believed was beneficial to it's own country as a whole. This outlook on what is good for us, must be good for everyone else, is one flaw that the United States faces when dealing with international affairs. "I think it's a national trait that we always feel we know what's better for everybody. It was an attitude of misguided benevolence---that we know what's good for them and they don't really understand what's happening." (Patriots: pg. 445) This quote summarizes Frank Maguire's idea of the strategies of the United States when becoming involved in warfare. This characteristic of the United States is potentially one of it's biggest flaws and is something that may always be a detail that makes up one of the characteristics of the United States.

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