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Part 1

In part four of the Appy book I found that the turning point in the war came in the account of Barry Zorthan (pg. 290-294.) Barry who was the director of the Joint United States Public Affairs Office, was head of all relations involving media and public relations through his time in Vietnam from 1964-1968. Many referred to him as the, "official voice of America in Vietnam," and that he could always find "some way to make it sound good." Barry believes that the media always has the ability to look over the good and find the critics who can stay what they want, and in turn make a more exciting and head turning story despite its accuracy.

Throughout Barry's account and his story about the attack on the US embassy during the Tet, nothing led me to skepticism and disbelief in Barry's story. The point in this section that I found to be the turning point in the war comes when Barry describes the arrival of Walter Cronkite, and his reaction and actions towards the war. Barry states the famous world of Walter that, "this war is at a standstill and we're not going to win." It was also stated previously in the section that when informed about Westmoreland's prediction and advanced preparation for the Tet period Walter ignored the statements and never "ran that story." With Walter not displaying or stating any support or hope for the war what were all the viewers at home suppose to think when their beloved evening news anchor had even lost hope? The loss such a well known and iconic figure in such a desperate time is summed up by Lyndon B Johnson, in that "if I've lost Walter Cronkite, I've lost Middle America." This is where I find the turning point of the war to be. If the government has lost the support of its largest population what support do they have? For many middle class Americans at the time college was not a thought, and it was these middle class that were entering the military. The middle class makes up the majority of the population and with the majority protesting in revolt and disapproval the country was in shambles. I find that the turning point was not the physical attack on the troops during the Tet, but it was the lies and misguided information that was attacking the Americans and the government at home. The lies of progress and movement to secure Vietnam were further expressed during and after the Tet. The attack was the final straw for many Americans who were on the fence about the issues in Vietnam and the sign of an apparent never ending story that Vietnam was unraveling to the American Government.

Part 2

In part five of the Appy book I found the best example of the war coming to an end in the account of Judith Coburn (pg.407-412,) who was a reporter for various establishments. The official end of the Vietnam war came when Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese army on April 30, 1975, yet according to Judith the capital of Saigon had fallen much sooner. When Judith Coburn arrived in Vietnam in 1970 it had not yet fallen to the North Vietnamese Communist, yet the structure and rule that had perviously been holding the capital together had crumbled to the ground. The amount of "corruption and war profiteering were just incredible," Morton exclaims as she tells about knowing a man who ran a string of hookers that where connected with a USO show. It is this type of lack of leadership and apparent corruption that I find to be the end of the war in Vietnam. People not only had home had given up, the men serving had as well. The South Vietnamese government was corrupt and its own military was nothing but, "paper tigers," as Judith exclaims. The way Saigon was disorganized and ran set itself up for and easy take over. Saigon was nothing but layers of corruption and lies, it was even stated that, "there wasn;t anything you couldn't buy." Also In Judith's account she recalls men going into the jungle and calling fake bombing coordinates and smoking, "a little weed." This just points all the fingers to what was always inevitable, the end. Therefore I find the end of the war to be the moment the US lost control of the actions and events that where occurring in Saigon, the lose of leadership and commitment was ultimately the fall of Saigon and the end of the war far before the Communists had set foot inside the city.

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