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(504 words) - *far below min length*

21 There were many different turning points throughout the Vietnam War: whether they are personal, in the nation, in the war, or in politics. One such turning point is illustrated by "Memorial Day 1968." The narrator describes the feeling of having some small town, ordinary kid die in the war, and the town's reaction to it. It describes the feeling that the country began to experience overall about weighing the cost between winning the war and sacrificing more of their children. Prior to the 1967-1968 era, many people felt that the Vietnam war was a war worth fighting. There was a real and pressing danger in the minds of the people, and they were willing and ready to send their sons and, if necessary, themselves to the front line to protect democracy from communism. However, as time wore on, people began to weigh the costs of defending some tiny country across the ocean against the lives of their sons and themselves. It didn't seem worth it anymore. People began to turn on the war because of totally innocent kids, like Greg, being killed in a war that seemed remote and unimportant. This shift was so monumental, in fact, that it could be argued that it was the most important turning point in the war. LBJ had long relied on the public support of the war in order to continue waging it. However, when the public turned against the war, he lost all of his support, and thus the support of Congress. It became an unpopular war. It turned from a war of containment to a war for peace. - ?

*very vague & generalized*

22 "The merriment was short-lived." This statement alone describes the feeling that was left with both North Vietnam and the United States at the end of the war. For the North Vietnamese, the merriment was short lived for the reasons that Le Minh Kue described. She contrasted the unity between everyone during the war, and the detachment afterwards. She used the contrasting cultures that she experienced to cite the end of the war. When the war came to an end, so too did the unity that they experienced the sense that they could rely on one another unquestioningly. It went from a patriotic culture to a culture of consumerism. While the principle was the same in the United States (the idea that merriment was short-lived), the reasons were different. For many, there was merriment that we had finally pulled out of an endless war. There was merriment for the lives that would no longer be lost. However, this was quickly overshadowed by the gravity of the war and what it had cost. People quickly went from celebration to mourning and resentment. The true ending of the war was not in the merriment, but in the resentment. The years that followed afterwards saw the people of both the United States and Vietnam resenting their government. It's sad, really, that the war had to end not in merriment, but in resentment on both sides.

*Again, very vague. Was there a tech problem or time issue that affected this paper?*