

Maraya Maxson

(767 words)

For part one of the assignment I choose to discuss Clark Dougan's account of the Vietnam War (pg 304-306 of Appy's *Patriots*). I chose this because I felt that it signified the beginning of war's unpopularity to the American public. Although he never experienced the war through the eyes of a soldier he talked about the effects it had on the American people at home, which in my opinion is equally as significant. What Dougan's interview helped me understand, in a way that Herring couldn't was the emotion behind being at home. It seems to me that most everyone not in enlisted knew someone ^{who} that was. The anxiety that must have been circulating throughout our country must have been unimaginable. Up until 1968 there were a lot of people that disagreed strongly with the war, however I feel like that's when the American public really began to express their feelings against the war.

Careful
Herring
was
alive
throughout
the war.

not according to the polls

This being the first real television war Americans got to be up and close to the action in the comfort of their living room making it impossible for the government to completely ^{dictate/control} form the nation's opinion on the War. It was a factor the sped up the pace at which information was being revealed and the government was being distrusted. "The classic photo of a Vietcong captive by the Saigon police chief brought home to Americans the savagery of the Battle of Tet, and aroused growing concern about the type of government and war they were supporting" (224 Herring). Reading Dougan's interview really supported this statement and brought to light the feeling that were associated with the thought, "it could have been me". Even people who otherwise supported the war were at this point questioning their stance, Dougan spoke of this saying, "I think a lot of WWII vets who had been sitting around saying, 'you've got to fight for your country,' were now saying, 'fuck this. It's not worth Greg Fisher's or his buddy's life.'" Or maybe they weren't saying it, but they were starting to feel it." (306 Appy).

clique

Good

Tet was an obvious turning point in the war but I feel like the impact it had on the people at home had a very important role on our losing the war. After Tet, "an overwhelming amount of Americans (78 percent) were certain the united states were not making any progress in the Vietnam" (243 Herring). After Tet the American public began to feel as though we were in a war we had no chance of winning. A war that isn't supported by its own country has a very strong disadvantage and in my opinion Dougan's story illustrates that well.

nicely incorporated citations.

I chose Beverly Gologorsky's recollection of the anti-war movement for part two of this assignment. The reason I made this decision is two fold. One, I really wanted to discuss a woman's role, and two, I felt like it displayed what I think was a major cause of America's loss of the war. Not only did the majority of the American public turn its back on the war but so did the soldiers themselves. What was being done in Vietnam had an effect on the American public and the American public had an effect on the soldiers in Vietnam. Gologorsky recounts what she saw, "A long, long line of guys in army jackets and other military apparel snaking past the Capitol, throwing away their Purple Hearts and other metals they received"(417, Appy). Soldiers had such little respect for the war that they would throw away the highest honor. *careful*

Gologorsky talks about the way anti-war protesters were treated by police, "I have a girlfriend who was beaten by cops at a demonstration. She was more stunned than hurt. "How could they do this to me?" You know like, "I'm a privileged white girl. My father runs a hospital"(416, Appy). No one, not even rich white girls were safe to protest the war. The big problem became the war that developed here in response to the Vietnam War. A war in which even the veterans and soldiers are against the government is doomed to fail. I think that things began to get really shaky when the government really realized how unpopular this whole thing was becoming. With the creation of the VVAW and their actions such as the "winter soldier" investigation, Americas moral became so low that winning the war had become apparently impossible to even the most stubborn aggressors.

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★ -
excellent
The only
student
to point
this
out.

Part 2 a bit brief
but overall, very
well done.

Much better
than your
1st paper.

You included
citations
REALLY helped to
support your positions
& strong
choices.