

[\(Type of Historian\) Next >](#)**Legacy - News Hour** by **Joe Escobar** - Sunday, June 2, 2013, 5:06 PM**This forum thread is for Legacy - News Hour posts and replies.**

After studying the required materials, address the individual questions in SEPARATE posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post.

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Legacy - News Hour** by **Rebekah Rundstrom** - Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 6:32 AM

I think the single most significant legacy of the War in Vietnam are all the soldiers. These young men were drafted, some of them volunteered, but most of them were drafted into the war. They gave their lives or took lives, then came home and were treated poorly. A lot of what I was taught about Vietnam prior to this class was about the soldiers returning from war and being mistreated. That wasn't the only topic we learned about in relation to this war, but it was pretty significant to me. Then this class gave more evidence to mistreated soldiers.

I would say that it is a legacy because from what I have heard and from all that I've read confirming previous classes on this war. Also, I think that I made it a legacy in my own mind because I think that it's a shame that we as people could treat others that way, having such a negative outlook on the soldiers when it wasn't even their fault in the first place for having gone to war. I said this earlier, some of them volunteered or were drafted. They didn't know that volunteering or getting drafted would make them the subject to being mistreated.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Ian MacDonald - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 10:52 AM

I very much agree that the soldiers who fought the war is a significant legacy. I think that also goes for just about any war that is fought. It is the soldiers who put their lives on the line and end up paying the ultimate price at the end of the day. Now, that's not to say that others (i.e. - people on the political side) do not take certain risks, and that the war doesn't have a hard impact on them. But ultimately, it is the troops who have to experience the terror of war first hand.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Elizabeth Gambee - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 11:36 PM

Well put. While there is no denying that the soldiers who fought in the war provided with a very significant legacy to the Vietnam War, I too believe that that also goes for most battles fought. The troops really are those who are put out in dire circumstances to experience war firsthand and I think that for those of us who are not in the military, it is hard for us to relate to them. In my opinion, I think that it is pretty safe to say that the soldiers do, in a sense, carry most of the legacy of the war on their backs.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Cameron Cole - Saturday, June 8, 2013, 2:20 PM

The legacy of the Vietnam soldiers is very significant. The treatment of the soldiers that returned home was very terrible. They were left without jobs, and were forced into a country that was falling apart. The emotional stress that they endured really put a damper on their mental abilities to rejoin society, they were broken down mentally and physically, only to be treated as such when they returned home. I have also had previous knowledge of how mistreated Vietnam soldiers were treated by this country before taking this class. But I did not understand the severity of it. From news broadcasts, to movies, newspapers, and homeless men on the street with sign depicting, "Vietnam Vet, Please help" all have been in the back of my mind when looking upon the Vietnam war and the men who fought their. With that being said, when reading all of the texts for

this class, I have learned in more detail about just how terrible the life's of these soldiers where. One being drafted into a war that most had no idea about what it was for or why they were being forced to fight. Those who decided to honor their patriotic duty went to fight honorably and died only to be treated like dirt by their own people. These men definitely deserve the title of a "legacy" because they fought and sacrificed so much with all the commotion going on back at home.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Saturday, June 8, 2013, 8:09 PM

Those are good reminders, I was forgetting all that they went through coming "home" it probably didn't feel much like a home because no one was welcoming them home. Definitely makes me want to tell those soldiers sorry. I do feel bad for the way that they were treated. But it has opened my eyes for how I can treat anyone who has gone through some hard things in their lives.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Elizabeth Gambee - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 11:40 PM

They really are good, but unfortunate reminders. It seems as though the Vietnam War was the first American battle to produce such hostility to returning veterans. It's too bad that this can be recognized as a rather prominent legacy of the Vietnam War. I hope it serves as a reminder to American society to remember not to misplace their anger in such an unrealistic and uncompassionate manner.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Hao Qiu - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 1:31 PM

Good point, the war did hurt soldiers' mental abilities to rejoin society, they had to face the people who judge them and blame them. And, they were broken down, as you said, mentally and physically, so it was hard for them to accept the new society to them, I heard a lot of them got the post-war syndrome, which could highly affect their daily life.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Hao Qiu - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 6:48 PM

The soldiers were treated badly after they were returning from the war, the society misunderstood them, the war had huge effort on them. And they were drafted, most of them were not volunteered, it was physical and mentally damage to them.

Sum of ratings: (1)

0

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Skyla Brocksmith - Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 5:57 PM

I would say that the most significant legacy of the Vietnam War could be the soldiers who served. It was stated in the video that we, America, still bear the scars of this war. One of the major reminders is the memorial wall engraved with the names of all those who lost their lives fighting in the Vietnam War. The soldiers who made it home are able to tell their stories and open our understanding of how things were in Vietnam during the war that the government and media may otherwise not release to the public.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Jungmin Um - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 8:20 AM

Yes, I thought the most significant legacy was the policy US have made regarding foreign country's war, which was making the war Vietnamization in the Vietnam War.

Nevertheless, I think the soldiers are important legacy as well because they played very important role in the war and they even dedicated themselves for another country. They if all of the soldiers were dead, it was going to be hard to learn about the war itself specifically, but thanks to those who came back alive, we can learn more details about the war and we can also learn more different perspectives from different individual soldiers.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 8:56 AM

I thought the same thing with the soldiers. They left home, some never to return again. Their lives speak volumes to us, about courage and honor.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Cameron Cole - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 11:39 AM

I agree, In my opinion, in every single war that America has fought the legacy lies with the soldiers who have fought in them. They are the ones that have sacrificed so much and have saved so many life's in the process. They were just as upset as Americans back home about the war, but they still fought with all the tensions and made something out of nothing.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Hao Qiu - Friday, June 7, 2013, 6:49 PM

Yes, I do agree with you that the soldiers who served is one of the most significant legacy, and also I think that people know more about how hurtful war is to their family, their country, this is also the legacy to us. We know it more, we do not want it more.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Elizabeth Gambee - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 11:44 PM

I agree. The veterans themselves provide a very vivid legacy of the Vietnam War seeing as they, in many respects, assist in keeping it alive and available to other Americans. Even those who did not make it sustain the legacy through their service. And as you mentioned, monuments such as the memorial wall engraved with the names of all of those lost to the Vietnam War provide us with reminders and enable us to maintain its legacy.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Jungmin Um - Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 7:11 PM

In case of Vietnam War, I think "Vietnamization" was the single, most significant legacy for the USA. The USA participated in other country's war for several times. The other country may be very pleased with the massive support from the States; however, if I imagine being a American who sent my husband, dad, or son to the war, I do not think it is a good idea to help them as far as they can. Bigger amount of US troops is definitely going to be helpful, but it is Vietnam's war, but not America's. Therefore, I think the most significant legacy for the USA was the policy regarding foreign country's war that America will support the war of other countries, but not fight for them.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Saturday, June 8, 2013, 10:32 AM

I like that, that America should support the war, rather than fight for them. But how far does a country have to go to support another? Do they have to help with the cost of the war? Or just back them up with encouragement? I think that it is a great idea for a country to back another country up, especially during the war.

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Hao Qiu - Saturday, June 8, 2013, 12:15 PM

Good point. The Vietnamization did help the USA get out of the war, and made less American soldiers die. It is a good idea the USA should help other countries if they have a war, but is it really necessary? The government always have their reasons, and they would not easily help some country to fight with others just because they have a good diplomatic relationship, they want to get benefits from the war, such as oil, land, or something else.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Saturday, June 8, 2013, 1:38 PM

Very good point. I think it could be viewed as I help you out in your time of need, you help me out in my time of need. It's good to be in an alliance

with countries, especially when you need it the most. Take the EU for instance with all their debt, they are needing to rely on one another or on the "traditional" form of bonds. At humans we are reliant on one another in times of need, and I think that, might have been the initial motive, to get a good hand and a good deal out of helping out, and then it progressed into something else.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Ian MacDonald - Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 9:22 PM

I think the most significant legacy of the Vietnam War can be characterized by the massive impact it had on the families of the troops who served, the troops themselves, and the people associated with politics during that time (i.e. - Robert McNamara). Every war causes devastation in the lives of those who lose loved ones, or even veterans that return home shaken by the terror of what they just experienced. What sets Vietnam apart from other wars however, is that it was the first and only war America has ever lost. A lot of people think that things could have been handled differently that might have led to better outcomes and reduced the number of casualties. And towards the beginning of the war, people didn't realize how long of war it was going to turn out to be or what the outcome would even be. And when you don't know what the outcome of something (especially a war) is going to be, I can see why it would cause someone to question what the purpose of it is. According to Doris Goodwin in the news clip, people expected there to be "light at the end of the tunnel." With Vietnam, it's hard to know what that light at the end of the tunnel was. I guess you could say one positive outcome was that it was perhaps somewhat enlightening. As with any decision that is made, we can look at it and decide whether or not it was a right or wrong decision. And if it was a wrong decision, hopefully we know what to do differently when faced with a similar situation again.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Celese Mauser - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 9:38 PM

I agree with you that the war had a massive impact on the families of the troops, the troops themselves, and the people associated with it. I have found myself most curious of Robert McNamara throughout our material. After reading the story in *Patriots* of Anne Morrison Welsh, who discusses the immolation of her husband in view of McNamara's office, she goes on to say that she had a conversation with McNamara about that day. She had forgiven him after reading his book, *In Retrospect*, where he acknowledged his position had changed, and he now believes that the war was wrong and a tragic mistake. In that conversation, McNamara tells Anne that him and his family were deeply

affected by her husband, Norman's, immolation and they were never able to talk about it. That really surprised me to learn that McNamara had felt empathy towards Norman and his family. It just seemed so misplaced, considering how he continued to escalate the war and send our young troops overseas, often to their deaths. None the less, I had never thought about the level of stress that the policy makers were under. Any wrong move, could have dire consequences, and I'm sure they felt guilt to some degree for the remainder of their lives. It reminds me that during that time, it was hard for any American to escape The Vietnam War without having suffered in some way.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Hao Qiu - Saturday, June 8, 2013, 1:54 PM

I agree with you that the war had massive impact on the families of the troops, some of them served, but some of them did not. So this is a huge effect on them because it is really hurt for a family who lose their lovers, their kids, their fathers.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Hao Qiu - Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 9:58 PM

I think the most significant legacy of the War in Vietnam for the USA, just like Doris Kearns Goodwin said in the videoclip Legacy- News hour, the American people left the draft go. They did not want the draft that they had in the war. When soldiers came back from the Vietnam, they were treated badly by so many people who were against the war, and that was horrible memory for them. But after couple decades, they had much greater respect, and much greater understanding. The people started to think about what really caused the war, what the soldiers have been went through in the Vietnam, and they need to care about them more. The soldiers were harmed, not only physically, also mentally. Some of them might get the post-war syndrome. It was really bad for them. Also, the war was way too heavily for working class, because most of their kids went to join the army. They have to take all the effect for their family, maybe they lose their sons, lovers, fathers. The war was really a tragedy for all American families. Today, the wound is still there, but it has been healed partly, and it will be healed soon.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Celese Mauser - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 8:04 PM



The fact that many American soldiers experienced post-traumatic stress syndrome, as you mentioned, had a terrible impact on many of our service men and women, as well as the families that suffered their losses. I am curious if the Vietnamese (either North or South) experienced similar mental disorders. I can't imagine living in a war-torn country, as I have never had to. At some point in the PBS documentary, it mentioned the civilians walking around "shell-shocked" (I think this was the Cambodia/Laos episode) But, because their culture is so different from ours, I wonder if these mental disorders are recognized? If so, I wonder if they were able to provide help to their soldiers who were suffering? The Vietnam war was a terrible tragedy that will have an impact on generations to come. It was so recent, I don't think that the scars have had time to heal, or will anytime soon. The social-political-economic impacts on Vietnam have been too extreme.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Elizabeth Gambee - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 11:51 PM

I would imagine that the Vietnamese experienced similar post traumatic stress disorders as many American veterans did. However, I wouldn't be surprised if the country of Vietnam in general experienced PTSD on a much larger scale considering it essentially hosted the war. Rather than the PTSD being somewhat limited to those Americans who actually served in the war, I would imagine that the effects of PTSD extended much further in Vietnam to its ordinary civilians. As you mentioned, the war left behind a war-torn Vietnam with a long road to recovery.

I think you raised a great question..I too wonder if the Vietnamese were able to provide help to those within their country experiencing these effects of the war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Maraya Maxson - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 11:02 PM

I don't think the fact that Vietnam was the end of the draft is discussed enough. I think that in and of itself speaks volumes about the reaction of the American people and the pressure they put the government under.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Celese Mauser - Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 11:21 PM

Through the discovery of the leaked Pentagon Papers, the secret bombings of Cambodia, and secret Peace talks, our nation begin to question the actions and motives of our government. Many people had never thought to question our leaders, but with time, it became apparent that the people were not sufficiently informed as to what was happening in Vietnam. It was the first televised war, and the media also portrayed a very different image from what the civilians at home were being told. This added to the distrust, and many people protested in response. After the war ended, Americans continued to question their policy makers and it became more socially acceptable to do so. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been widely protested by many Americans. I think The Vietnam War opened many people's eyes to the mistakes we are all capable of-even those we democratically elect into office can be wrong. It helped to create a culture that is able to question its leaders and to engage in non-violent protest. Although many were ashamed of our involvement in the war, it empowered our nation to seek the truth and to act on our moral convictions.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 8:44 PM

I think we should still continue to question those in a political position.

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Celese Mauser - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 9:43 PM

I couldn't agree more. I believe that it is our responsibility as American citizens to become as informed as possible and to challenge policies and political leaders that we disagree with.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 10:28 PM

The thing I struggle with is where do we get the correct information? How do we make sure we aren't fed opinionated news, or information? I just realized how deceptive that "Acuracy in the Media" video was and made me believe it, before cross referencing the

information. But do we have to wait twenty or so years to see if the information we have been given was correct? Sorry for all the questions, I just am curious what your thoughts are on this.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Celese Mauser - Saturday, June 8, 2013, 12:35 PM

I think it's important to remember that just a handful of people (3, I believe) own the mainstream media in America, and therefore the information that's shared on these networks are often biased. There are clearly stations that tend to lean towards more conservative views as well as stations who have more liberal views. Reviewing several different sources, especially those that have conflicting information, allows us to define our position better. I find that most people I know have bi-partisan views. I don't know anyone that is well informed and identifies as a Republican that only watches Fox News, or a Democrat that only watches CNN. I have more liberal views, but I also watch Fox News every so often to try to understand opposing perspectives. I also like to look at news media from other countries, like BBC news, to get an outsider's perspective. Remembering these biases when we are getting our news is important in understanding the information that we're receiving.

What made you think that Accuracy in the Media was more deceptive than the PBS program? It seems like there were so many different perspectives on the war, it's entirely impossible to describe them as one collective experience. I think that no matter how the war was/is portrayed, people are going to disagree.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Michelle Coming - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 4:21 PM

Like Stanley Karnow said in the video clip "...leaders are employees, we pay their salary, we have a right to know what they're doing." I think that many people have forgotten this and are afraid to question those in power.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Elizabeth Gambee - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 11:53 PM

I agree. It's vital to emphasize the importance of questioning those in authority and uncovering their true motives. It's disturbing how easy it can be to manipulate a society based off of distorted and dishonest outputs.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Georgia Haskell - Friday, June 7, 2013, 5:13 PM

Yes, I think if anything good came out of Americas experience in the war it is our questioning of political leaders. We should be informed and I think today because of the Vietnam War we would never fight a war like that without a declaration of war (I hope).

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Cameron Cole - Friday, June 7, 2013, 11:27 PM

I completely understand where you guys are coming from. The benefits that came from the war in Vietnam was that the people all over America were beginning to get accurate information in an age of multiple types of media. People all over stayed to their own ideologies and did not bow down to American leaders. We started to second guess the decisions that were being made because they were not reasonable. And those decisions should not go unpunished our brought out to the public through protests.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Maraya Maxson - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 10:19 PM

I agree whole heartedly that questioning our government is a very important role in maintaining balance in our country. When a group of people that all have a similar opinion on a situation are making all the decisions it makes little room for adjusting the plan and realizing when the wrong choices are being made. A difference in opinion leads to alternative game plans and possibly a different outcome all together. The problem I feel like we facing today is that the two sides refuse to listen to eachother creating animosity rather than resolve.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Legacy of the Vietnam War

by Georgia Haskell - Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 11:22 PM

Herring said "In Vietnam itself, the principal legacy of the war was continued human suffering". I think the Legacy of Vietnam War for "The People" of the United States was suffering, not only human suffering but the suffering of many things. The family and friends and fellow soldiers suffer over the loss of soldiers killed in the war. Our faith in government suffered over the lies and deception received during the war. The soldiers suffered when they returned home in so many ways, but also by Americans against the war. Our political ego suffered a huge blow by losing our first foreign war. As they addressed in the Legacy - News Hour clip the morals of the American People suffered as a result of the Vietnam War.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The Legacy of the Vietnam War

by Skyla Brocksmith - Friday, June 7, 2013, 4:23 PM

That's a great way to look at it. The toll this war took on the U.S., as well as Vietnam, was huge. Though the type of suffering Vietnam went through was much different. On top of enduring all the damage during the war, such as the bombings and raids of villages, after the war the South Vietnamese endured poverty, oppression, and forced labor (Herring 342).

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Legacy of the Vietnam War

by Jungmin Um - Saturday, June 8, 2013, 1:38 PM

I didn't think that the suffering of "The People" can be a legacy, but I think it is a great idea to look at it. Nevertheless, after reading your response, I think that without those people's suffering toward whatever it maybe, nothing would have been left now because sufferings and regrets are the ones that can bring people a lesson or changes.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Legacy of the Vietnam War

by Hao Qiu - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 1:01 AM

The Vietnam war did a huge impact to the American families, and their daily life.

Soldiers need to heal their wound, and some families need to suffer when their lovers, kids, fathers were gone.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: The Legacy of the Vietnam War

by Maraya Maxson - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 10:25 PM

I liked the way you put that, "Our political ego". America has always seemed to carry with it a "top dog" attitude that suffered a damaging blow with the loss of Vietnam. Although I think that we have a slightly more aware government I don't think we learned much from our mistakes. I would like to believe that a fractured ego would lead to change however I feel more like it lowed our self-esteem to a point that we feel like we have to compensate to get back our good name.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Maraya Maxson - Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 11:27 PM

Although there are plenty of ways by which we have to remember the Vietnam War the most visual account (at least here in Oregon) is the mistreatment of the Veterans. I think above all else that is what people remember today when discussing the long term wounds of Americas first lost war. When the American people lost faith in the government they unjustifiably abandoned our soldiers along with it, creating a divide that I believe still exist to this day. The problem lies in association of our soldiers with the decisions made by the government. This continues to be a problem today, all too often I her people against the war verbally attacking the troops, people who are usually there because it's the only reasonable financial decision. I believe the true legacy of the Vietnam war is the divided state it left our country in.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 8:58 AM

I agree, there is very much still a divide in our country. I wonder if it comes from our first lost war, or if its a compilation of situations that got us to where we are today.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Ian MacDonald - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 11:24 AM

Excellent point about the division of the country during the Vietnam War. And that is one thing I have certainly noticed too while learning about the war. Before Vietnam, you really don't hear much of anything about war protests. With World War I you don't, and World War II, you really don't either. I think back in those days, it was more of just a thing you did out of respect and love for your country. And then when Vietnam came, the uproar in protests from people who were against the war started.

So in a lot of ways, the Vietnam War did leave our country divided. Sometimes, I can't help but think how things might have turned out differently if we hadn't had the number of anti-war protests as we did. Chances are good the outcome would have been a lot better.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Celese Mauser - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 7:48 PM

I really like what you said, "when the American people lost faith in the government, they unjustifiably abandoned our soldiers along with it, creating a divide that I believe still exists to this day. The problem lies in the association of our soldiers with the decisions made by the government."

I completely agree. I think that too often, that association is made between the soldier fighting the war and the policy makers that are creating the battles. It seems as though Americans forget the systematic reasons why many soldiers are forced into the armed services. More often than not, like in the Vietnam War, these soldiers are from poorer neighborhoods and are disadvantaged when it comes to access to education and careers. In The Vietnam War, there was also a disproportionate amount of African-American soldiers fighting. I try to support the troops regardless of whether I support the actual policies in place. Unfortunately, we do not provide adequate services for these young men and women when they come home from serving their country. We "abandon" them as you said.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Cameron Cole - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 10:08 PM

America completely abanded its troops along with the faith of the American

government. Around this time period America was suffering dearly in all of situations, and the blame was primarily thrown against the Vietnam war, and that the Vietnam war was the source to all of America's problems. The American government wanted to revive America's name and started to completely oppose war in general and the men who fought so hard in it. The American people wanted nothing to do with war.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Georgia Haskell - Saturday, June 8, 2013, 11:39 PM

The Vietnam War did leave our country in a divided state. People were finger pointing and blaming everyone else. This quote from Fred Branfman is a good example of how divided we really were; "The most disturbing legacy of the war is that we don't teach our children that our country is capable of conducting mass murder of civilians. I agree with William Bennett and the right wing that there's been a coarsening of American life, a desensitization to the value of human life. But most of it began with our war in Indochina and conservatives bear most of the blame" (Appy, p.217). This guy just accused the conservatives of causing the mass murder of civilians.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Skyla Brocksmit - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 6:56 PM

I completely agree. The mistreatment of veterans, though it wasn't in the media, was a huge problem. As we read in the Register Guard letters, people may not have believed veterans were being spit on or being treated badly because they never found any reports in the media, but as many of the letters stated, the extreme disrespect to the returning men did in fact occur. Just because there were no reports of mistreatment and it didn't happen to every returning soldier, doesn't mean it never happened and wasn't a problem.

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Cameron Cole - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 10:48 AM

One notable legacy in the Vietnam War was the quest for intelligence on the Missing in Action or "lost soldiers" that could not be found. These soldiers were either dead or captured during battles that ranged all over Vietnam. In 1975, the United States government declined to distinguish the Democratic Republic of Vietnam's political

and economic affairs because they would not reveal information that would lead to the findings of over 2,000 Americans who were Missing in Action. President Ford prevented Vietnam's admittance into the United Nations, demanding that they must provide us with relevant Intel in regards to all MIAs before they would be admitted into the peace accord. Ford also went ahead and enforced a trade prohibition in an attempt to bring Vietnam down so that the Vietnamese government would be obligated to discharge all knowledge on United States soldiers

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Re: Legacy - News Hour

by Cameron Cole - Thursday, June 6, 2013, 10:12 PM

In 1978 President Jimmy Carter allowed Vietnam to join the United Nations because he thought it was a politically correct thing to do. He did this because he wanted supplementary intelligence about the MIAs. Basically in other terms, he was completely abandoning the soldiers and their families to gain a political edge. This topic of Vietnam's entrance into the United Nations was extremely disliked among Americans because their empathies were with the MIAs and their loved ones.

Even all the way into the 1980s within the Reagan Administration the American government was still searching for information about the lost soldiers. Regan even went to the extents of sending a delegation to Vietnam to study MIAs. In the 1990's President Clinton promised to reject regularization of relations with Vietnam until the release all information they had in their procession. Finally, in 1994, the trade prohibition that had been going on for 3 decades was over after the Vietnamese government discharged an enormous amount of information about United States MIAs. The United States formally recognized the Democratic Republic of Vietnam one year later.

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Domestic Support

by Michelle Coming - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 11:43 AM

I would have to say the most significant legacy of the Vietnam War would have to be that without the support of the people no foreign war can succeed. In the Legacy-News Hour video clip, Doris Kearns Goodwin says "The most important lesson the people have to take from the war... is that no foreign war can succeed without that large domestic support." And I have to agree with her. Despite what Nixon called the silent majority being....well, silent, the Nation was still split on the subject of the Vietnam War, which had an enormous impact on the US' success rate. The Vietnam War shows us that if we are not unified at home it will negatively impact our endeavors in other nations. Doris goes on to say "It's like looking back on a parade and no one is following you. You can't go forward." Kennedy, LBJ, and Nixon all

understood this concept which in my opinion lead to the deception of what they were really doing in Vietnam.

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Re: Domestic Support

by Rebekah Rundstrom - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 6:24 PM

Very true, the support of the people do help. Do you think that was a big contributor to the US not winning the war? By not having the full support of the US behind the soldiers.

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Re: Domestic Support

by Michelle Coming - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 8:11 PM

I do think that if the policy makes and those in power were more honest about thier policies and reasoning behind certain actions such as the bombing the US might have had a better chance. The chasm between the leftist and rightist gave North Vietnam an edge. They wanted the US to be conflicted at home. They played right into the hands of North Vietnam. In Amaricas Longest War, Herring writes "The continued pounding of a small, backward country by the world's wealthiest and most advanced nation gave the North Vietnamese a propaganda advantage they exploited quite effectively. Opposition of the war at home increasingly focused on the bombing, which, in the eyes of many critics, was at best ineffective, at worst immoral."

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Re: Domestic Support

by Georgia Haskell - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 10:23 PM

I think you two are correct. I do agree that the support of the U.S. behind our soldiers would have helped. It would have helped to be united behind the decisions in the war and to be supportive of the soldiers when they came back.

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by Elizabeth Gambee - Sunday, June 9, 2013, 11:01 PM

Personally, I feel as though the most significant legacy of the War in Vietnam for the USA is the evolution and development of opposition and protesting in the form of demonstration. Indeed, during this era many Americans organized themselves into well thought out demonstrations in order to be heard. Antiwar protests abounded and, in my opinion, assisted in establishing the beginning of utilizing demonstration as a tool in order to support a specific movement.

After studying the Vietnam War, the protests and demonstrations catalyzed by the United States' involvement stand out to me because it was pretty much the first time that a good chunk of the American public openly opposed a war on such a large and organized scale. In my opinion, the Vietnam War protests helped set the stage for future demonstrations stemming from various causes.

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