

Part 1

80/100

In the account from Phan Xuan Sinh he presented a personal view of his experiences in the war, and his feelings towards it. He endured many hardships, from a soldier in his reconnaissance dying from a landmine (Sinh lost his right foot), to his platoon mistakenly killing and wounding fisherman ^{including} with young kids. Sinh was in a position where he was drafted to fight, so he did, but all he wanted was peace between his people. This made him feel no passion behind the war, unlike the passionate Viet Cong, but still he had to endure these hardships which subsequently carried past the ^{end} finish of the War.

Hearing about the people that died, especially the innocent fisherman, hurt but what hurt the most, yet was peculiarly inspiring was hearing about the old couple in the "free fire zone." Sinh took them from there and to a refugee camp to make sure they were safe. Even though he burnt down ^{sp} their house in front of them, so they wouldn't be inclined to come back, they did. Sinh came to them and said, "Uncle, I told you before, this place is too dangerous to live in. Why in the world did you come back?" The old man said, "All my ancestors are buried here and this is our land. We're not going to leave." Land is very important to peasants and it just shows the ^{WN} passion that the Vietnamese have. ^{WN} Even though this was a very dangerous area, they would rather be there with the possibility of death, than in a different place that is safe. This strong will is inspiring, and reading this makes one feel close with the Vietnamese people.

Yet it is tragic and makes one wonder how many innocent people died in these "free fire zones," who were just trying to live their ^{life} life. Also how tragic it is for these people who love their land and country so much, to ^{NS} see it get obliterated in war, along with the people they love. This ruining of the land wasn't done from just the effects of war (bombing, Landmines, and shooting), but was done on purpose by the U.S.'s strategy to get the people out of the country and into the cities. Here they dropped Agent Orange, which had a disastrous effect on the environment. "An estimated 72.4 million liters or 100,000 tons of herbicides were sprayed on South Vietnam, affecting 43% of the cultivated area and 44% of the total area. Seventy per cent of the South's coconut groves and 60% of its rubber plantations were destroyed, together with 110,000 hectares of forest and 150,000 hectares of mangroves, along with enough crops to feed 2 million people. It has also been claimed that 43% of the South's plantations and orchards were destroyed, and 44% of the forest wealth.¹ All of this makes one feel for the Vietnamese people. Often in the U.S. we hear about how hard Vietnam was on our soldiers and youth, which it was, but it must have been ten times harder for the people of Vietnam. Here ^{click} the war was actually on their land, so innocent people and their beloved land took terrible undeserved punishments.

This account from Phan Xuan Sinh seemed very believable. Initially one may think that too much time had passed to really remember, and that people may want to skew the truth somewhat in order to make themselves look better. But Sinh gained credibility through factual truths he presented, showing the good things he did and the bad, especially the bad. Like when talked about how he and his platoon killed innocent fisherman, which included old and young people. (If he was going to skew the truth of what happened, he wouldn't have mentioned this.)

^{yes} too brief here, but great point.

Part 2:

In "The Emperor Has No Clothes," It was disappointing to hear about how the U.S government lied to the people. ^{he} Like when McNamara noticed how much worse Vietnam was after a two day trip, but told the press that there was great progress. Part of this is understandable, where he ^{was} is trying to lift the hopes of the people, but aspects later in this excerpt are even more disappointing. Such as the fact that the U.S was in Vietnam fighting a country for the purpose of fighting communism. Even though Vietnam had no desire to form this alliance that the U.S. spoke of. The Viet Cong was thought of as pawns to the communists of China and

of course

which?
N. or S.

factually inaccurate

Russia, and it was upsetting that the U.S didn't look into the culture and motives of the people of Vietnam before going to battle and destroying people lives and their surroundings. "Since the main enemy was always thought to be located somewhere other than the battlefields of South Vietnam, Washington never regarded it as a top priority to understand the particular cultural, political, and economic realities of the Vietnamese." Then even when it was seen that the War efforts were a lost cause and that the U.S wouldn't win, they still fought on through the egotistical pride of not wanting to lose.

very idealistic view -
All of this deceit the government put people through, was to push their mixed motives. This is extremely upsetting because the government is supposed to be in place for the people (they should never be able to get away with this type of behavior.) The fact that they are bigger than the law, and just make huge decisions for the people, covered by lies, is a terrible thing. They should go to jail for something like this. This resulted in killing of so many people from both countries, and for what? *No hype? ☆*

awk
It was refreshing to hear that there were people, like Chester Cooper (CIA intelligence analyst for Southeast Asia), that were actively trying to get out of this war. He saw the terrible things and did all he could do to chase any possibility of negotiating. "I traveled all over the world chasing every possibility, fighting for every extra day of a bombing halt, and looking for every indication of a diplomatic opening." This is a man that hated the war, and unlike the government officials that deceived people in order to keep the war going, He went around in an unpublicized, unheroic way, to do anything he could to resolve the war into peace.

Again, careful. Why listen to this one man? Index Yes, he is a positive example

1. "Vietnam: war and the environment. Green Left Weekly. Jul. 14, 1993. Web. Apr. 13. 2014

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/node/6044>

*While interesting #3 what "off topic" to focus on
something of obvious interest to you. Then while
I don't dispute the outcome, defoliants were used
to prevent the VC from being able to hide in
the jungles. It was not, first & foremost, an
ecologically based war strategy. Finding/seeing the enemy was.*

*☆ The biggest error is to take one sentence
from one story & "sum up" the whole war.
Not good. Not historically accurate.*

*Proofread. Numerous
grammar errors
hurt readability.*