

501 words

200 word minimum length

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HST 195: History of the Vietnam War (Assignment 1)

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Part 1

One story from our book, "Patriots" that caught my attention the most was the account of an American soldier by the name of George Watkins. He was drafted into the army on June 19, 1967 then was suddenly thrown into a war he knew very little about, as did many Americans at that time. All he knew was that he was to fight for the American government on a war against so-called Communism, which was a vague concept to him at the time. Before he knew it, he was thrown into an unknown country and given a gun in order to fulfill his duties. He recalls clearing out an entire valley of Vietnamese people, and witnessing them moving right back into their homes in the valley within two days. What impacted me was his reaction to the resilience of the Vietnamese people, and discovering their strong-willed nature and determination, regardless of the brutality they were facing in the war. At one point he even states, "I don't hate them." This statement, followed by, "...I don't have much bitterness... I just wish that none of it had ever happened- for everybody's sake." Impacted me the most in realizing how convoluted the Vietnam War was, and the perceptions people carry of how each side felt in reality. I think this speaker has absolute credibility in his opinion, seeing that he was a participant of the war. Regardless of how much time has passed, his view is valid in that he is expressing how he felt about the war. I usually expect a lot of hatred and tension between America and Vietnam after what happened, but hearing stories like this show the complexity of the war, and the reluctance both sides had in being a part of it.

Part 2

I chose the first story in Part 2, which was about Henry Prunier training Viet Minh soldiers and about Vo Nguyen Giap's relation to Ho Chi Minh. Since this is the first time I've ever studied anything about the Vietnam War, it is a little confusing as to who is fighting for who, and all the political ties and dynamics between countries. I suppose it is disappointing that the American government spent so much time and money into training soldiers who would eventually turn on them in the end. It is also disappointing that we stepped into a conflict between countries that has been unraveling for centuries, and assume that we could bully them into submission. In general, it is disappointing hearing about so many people dying for what seems like such a pointless battle. Some country N & S Vietnam.

On a positive note, it is inspiring reading about the determination and dedication the Vietnamese had for their country, as well as the brave people who fought for ours. Although the basis for the war is completely ludicrous, the people who fought in it seemed noble and good-willed.

Paper makes numerous inaccurate comments. (or unsupported)

★ You lack of familiarity with the subject is a major problem. PUP's & textbook readings in the first 2 weeks should have you as an informed track

OOPS
what does THIS mean?

cite your sources

problems
- time changes everything
- expressing his feelings is not what we are interested in. We are after historical truths.

Then, the answer!
You expect hatred. Watkins gives you none. Therefore, Watkins is believable? Logic problem

Problem with source! Communism was vague to no American living here from 1945-1989.

Very unclear

★

not true quality (this)

strange wording

Some grammar & spelling issues

unsubstantiated claim
ww
war from (1954-1975)