

9803

94

## Part One

In Part Four of Patriots, Clark Dougan's narrative is a very intimate and relatable piece of work. This narrative shows a turning point in Dougan's life when he returned home from college in 1968 to see that a classmate had died in Vietnam while Dougan was away at college. This turning point in his life was the realization that the war was a tangible, ever present event in which everyday people were dying for the cost of their country. Despite the fact that Dougan wasn't great friends with the deceased Greg Fischer, he was greatly impacted by the death of his peer. Ank

Dougan's turning point of realizing that he could have been Fischer is something that greatly empowered his thoughts on the war. From being a college student without a care in the world to realizing he was greatly thankful for every chance he had and for not being deployed, this turning point was in a way a change of consciousness of himself and the world. The moment in which he read the Cleveland Press editorial on Fischer's death entitled "He was Only 19- Did You Know Him?" to the moment he visited his grave in 1982, he remembered what the war took from his society. There is more than just fighting and strategy going on in any war. There is always a constant battle being fought in personal lives and in everyone who is associated with anyone away at war. Dougan's story was a relatable narrative that showcased the informality of death in war, which helped emphasize this turning point in his life and understanding of the war. The simple editorial article on Fischer and the one worded epitaph imprinted on his mind. ?

period This turning point was probably not an uncommon one for teens and adults in that time frame, or even today. The same type of activity goes on in the brain when you know someone who dies in war or out of war. The death of a peer is an intense and eye-opening experience, especially if it is related to a war setting. Feeling guilty is a part of life, but Dougan shows that this ~~guiltiness~~ comes from unexpected places at unexpected times. The war greatly affects everyone who is (in any way) in its path.

## Part Two

In Part Five, Le Minh Khue's narrative entitled "The Merriment Was Short Lived" embraced her experiences in the war as a member of the Volunteer Youth Corps in Vietnam. Her parents both died during the Communist land reforms, so she was sent to live with her Communist aunt and uncle. Khue mentions how in her generation "we learned to distinguish truth from falsehood, rectitude from corruption". This realization played into how all of her experiences led to the end of her involvement of the war and the end of her familiarity in the youth corps. ?

Khue explains her experiences with death in the war and how most people she met she never saw again. This ending of people she knew was almost constant. She writes about how she would develop petty crushes on soldiers and never see their faces again. As she puts it, "the letters remain, but the senders are gone forever". This ending of constant relationships definitely plays into her overall end of the war. Khue's ending point of the war was constant. As much as people were dying around her, she never gave up.

When the war officially ended, Khue barely celebrated the event. Her personal ending of

the war was more depressing than uplifting- she no longer was helping with the war because it was over, but her world seemed to collapse. (The economy and cities were turned on their heads, giving away from the comfort and familiarity of home.) Her ending was no happy ending, but rather a maze she couldn't escape. Her ending sentence reads, "It was terrible." They couldn't afford rice or soap and the cities that thrived off of products had no more factories. Her end was no happy ending. The end of any war is at first a happy time, but reality crashes down on happiness and settles into the lives of everyone. What happens when the thing you are working for ends? What does your life have to offer then? Although Khue did not mention specifically that she felt a major difference from her life after the war, it was well implied. War causes havoc on everyone it sets foot by, and she embodied this idea. Her life wasn't necessarily great before the war, but during the war she had purpose. The end of her war was the end of the actual war when she had to go back to living a "normal" life among the economic crisis.

devastated  
the physically and  
country of Vietnam

Part 1 reads  
as a psychologist  
report on Dusan &  
then all of humanity, while  
the focus should have been  
on Timor Part as it relates  
to the war.

Part 2 is similar "the end of"  
but definitely gets the  
theme throughout.

Overall, good paper