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Longest War & Video Documentaries

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Longest War & Video Documentaries
by Joe Escobar - Friday, April 7, 2017, 10:03 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Longest War & Video Documentaries topic.

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.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Use a title to describe which video and historical event you are comparing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Longest War & Video Documentaries

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Longest War, Why Vietnam?, Roots of War and How Ho Chi Minh is Depicted
by Alexandria Villa - Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 1:04 AM

Seeing as how there are many resources to draw on, I picked passages out of the Herring book, Episode One of the documentary series, as well as from the 'Why Vietnam?' video to draw my answers from. All three of these hold the same information about the 'discomfort' of having a Communist leading a country of strategic and economic importance to independence. Each one agrees that the United States worried about the Communists taking over Southeast Asia. However, each resource paints a different picture about the leader, Ho Chi Minh.

'Why Vietnam?' paints 'Uncle Ho' as a man who “plays the kindly smiling grandfather, but behind the smiles is a mind that is planning a reign of terror in South Vietnam in which children and adults alike will be the victims” (6:46 into 'Why Vietnam? video). This paints a picture where the United States seems compelled to help out the Vietnamese in order to save them from a bloodthirsty Communist.

However, the book states: “Frail in appearance, a gentle man who radiated warmth and serenity, he [Ho Chi Minh] was also willing to sanction the most cold-blooded methods to achieve his aims” (Pg. 6, Herring). This makes the entire 'saving the people from Communism' idea valid, but it also paints a picture that shows a man who will go to any lengths for his goal.

Finally, the Documentary incorporates an interview with Abbot Low Moffat of the State Department: “We knew he was a Communist, but we also felt... he was first a Nationalist, and second a Communist. That is, he was interested in getting the independence of his people, and then he thought the best thing for them was the Communist type of government. But he was a Nationalist, first and foremost” (21:40 into Episode One: Roots of War Documentary).

I feel as though, since the anti-Communist sentiment, along with the sense of duty and alliances, are the roots of the Vietnam War, there should be a clearer understanding of the mindset of Ho Chi Minh and the country he was fighting for. It seems that a common thread of misunderstanding starts here, as well as a misunderstanding of the culture, itself. In one setting, Ho Chi Minh is thought of as a Moscovian puppet, placed to spread Communism, while in another he is just a revolutionary wanting to see the best for his country, but had an edge to him that made him dangerous. I cannot help but wonder if, had the sheer levels of Red Scare Paranoia not been as intense, if more understanding levels of communication been employed to understand the nature of the man who led the movement. Paying attention to the events of the time as they occurred on the timeline, I am confused as to the thoughts the United States held.

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3



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Re: Longest War, Why Vietnam?, Roots of War and How Ho Chi Minh is Depicted

by Steven Masone - Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 2:19 PM

Alexandria, I too focused on Ho Chi Minh being underestimated by everyone. Along with political agenda's by the diplomats, and our military leaders having their hands tied, leadership just broke down and they did not know their enemy. “If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.” Sun Tzu...Ho Chi Minh studied Sun Tzu, and we did not study him obviously. I agree with you his (Uncle Ho) Nationalism may have been a place of common ground we could have negotiated better with. What were we thinking? We weren't...our politicians were thinking about their agenda's as usual!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Tzu

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2



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Re: Longest War, Why Vietnam?, Roots of War and How Ho Chi Minh is Depicted

by Brandon Dibble - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 10:28 PM

Ho Chi Minh seemed like a charismatic individual, always smiling in the video documentaries that I had seen him in and looked like a happy old man, and was nicknamed "Uncle Ho" but I believe that he had darker intentions than people at the time realized. His beliefs in nationalism were what was seen to set him apart from the communist party in the eyes of other countries like ourselves. He showed proof of this, even using quotes from our own declaration of independence for his own version of the Vietnamese declaration of independence. This was odd to me because even though he help the ideals of nationalism, he was still a communist at his core. After reading the text and watching the documentary, I feel that this man, (Ho Chi Minh) was very good at hiding his true intentions of conquering South Vietnam and was simply underestimated.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Longest War & Video Documentaries

by Steven Masone - Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 1:00 PM

LEADERSHIP FAIL

Longest War & Video Documentaries)

The most obvious common denominator between the Video Documentaries and Longest War, concerning losing the war, was the complete failure by the French strategy, the geo-political miscalculations by our leadership to back the French in the first place. While the videos gave an overview, with much blame on French resolve to keep as much power as possible even after the Geneva agreement, and then on Diem's failure to put a loyal competent government together, Herring's book detailed the gross mismanagement of the entire war. First of all, from a military view, everyone underestimated Ho Chi Minh. When Ho Chi Minh proclaimed independence from France, using Thomas Jefferson's words; "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal" (Herring,George C., America's Longest War p. 3)...Should have been a clue that this man was a student of our revolutionary war tactics as much as an admirer of our ideals of democracy. Our miscalculation with the "Domino Theory" as our *default* mission purpose, also led to our not seeing the *forest for the trees*. Finally, our overthrow of Diem was too little to late. However, he should not have been allowed to have dictatorial power in the first place.

Herring,George C., America's Longest War ,1936 p. 3,

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Re: Longest War & Video Documentaries

by Joshua Meeker - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 4:18 PM

Its funny that you mention Diem as a dictator. Even though the book or video didn't describe him as such (at least from what I remember) I got the same exact impression. He wasn't even a good politician since it was noted that he only did what he wanted to and did not leave any room for debate. It seems that the only reason he got the position he did was because he liked the US and he was catholic.

**Why we were involved in the Vietnam War: similarities between the herring book and “why Vietnam?”**

by Jerrel Brown - Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 8:03 PM

Jerrel Brown

History 205

April/11/2017

Professor Escobar

Why we were involved in the Vietnam War: similarities between the herring book and “why Vietnam?”

In the government documentary “why Vietnam?” President Lyndon B. Johnson reads a letter that he received from the mother of one of the many young men drafted to fight in the Vietnam War. The woman comments in her letter that her husband fought in WWII, and when he fought, it was because they were at war. But what they were fighting for in Vietnam, she did not know. So she posed the question; ‘Why Vietnam?’ There is a very complicated answer to that question, and to this day people are still asking it. The answer that I collected from both the herring book and the documentary “why Vietnam?” is fear of Communism expanding its net over the world. They called it the Domino theory in the readings (herring P.22) this theory speculated that if one country in a region (in this case Vietnam) came under the influence of communism, then the surrounding countries would follow in a domino effect. The documentary paints the picture a little differently, wording it as such:

Strengthened by that promise, the people of South Vietnam have fought for many long years. Thousands of them have died. Thousands more have been crippled and scarred by war. And we just cannot now dishonor our word, or abandon our commitment, or leave those who believed us and who trusted us, to the terror and repression and murder that would follow.

I believe that it would be a fair assumption that the “the terror and repression and murder that would follow” Is a reference to Communism.

So in conclusion It is my opinion that the main reason provided for why America was fighting someone else’s war was fear of communism from spreading across the map if the south were to lose against the north.



Works Cited

Fod.infobase.com.lanecc.idm.oclc.org. Web. 11 Apr. 2017.

Herring, George C. *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*.

Boston: McGraw-Hill Education, 2014. Print.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Why we were involved in the Vietnam War: similarities between the herring book and “why Vietnam?”

by Jerrel Brown - Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 10:58 PM

I miss labeled the class, meant to put History 195

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Re: Why we were involved in the Vietnam War: similarities between the herring book and “why Vietnam?”

by Brandon Dibble - Saturday, April 15, 2017, 6:37 PM

Hey Jerrel, I completely agree with your assessment and comparison of Herring's book "America's Longest War" and the video documentary "Why Vietnam?" and had a similar opinion on the matter. Both the assigned text and video documentary are definitely saying the reason we went to war was to stop the spread of communism. They just do so in different ways. President Lyndon B. Johnson has a rather long winded way of telling the country what was going on and why we were in Vietnam, never directly saying that we are there to stop the communist party from taking over the southern part of Vietnam but insinuating it very much so. He had to make sure his words were planned carefully and it shows in his speech. In George C. Herring's book, "America's Longest War" he comes right out and says that it is the reason we went to war to protect South Vietnam from communism.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Bao Dai; A French puppet? Similarities/differences between the herring book and "The First War in Vietnam"

by Jerrel Brown - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 12:22 AM

Jerrel Brown

History 195

April 11th, 2017

Professor Escobar

Bao Dai; A French puppet? Similarities/differences between the herring book and "The First War in Vietnam"

If there is anything in common between the Herring book and the documentary 'The First War in Vietnam', it's that Bao Dai didn't belong in power. Bao Dai was the former emperor of Annam, and was asked by the French to lead the "free" Vietnamese government. However the picture painted by both sides is very different. The documentary gives very little thought or explanation to his position as leader of this new Vietnam government, writing him off as Admiral D'Argenlieu's "puppet", and suggesting that the only reason he was put into power was to win over any non-communist Vietnamese to help turn the tables of the war. The Herring book provides a slightly different approach to the French's reasons to installing Bao Dai into office. The book suggests that the French government was hoping to gain support at home by turning the war in Vietnam from an anti-colonization war, into a war against communism. They hoped that doing this would not only pacify the masses in France, but also neutralize American anti-colonialism and insure the aid that they desperately needed to continue the war.

So the documentary make the suggestion that France was merely trying to rally anti-communist Vietnamese to fight on their side of the war, while the book suggests that the French were using Bao Dai for turn the war in Vietnam into a war against Communism, effectively securing American aid in the war. Personally, I agree with the book, but it is very interesting to hear the other opinion presented by the government distributed documentary. Almost as if they didn't want to reveal that they might have been manipulated into joining the war in Vietnam. What do you think?

Works Cited

Fod.infobase.com.lanecc.idm.oclc.org. Web. 12 Apr. 2017.

Herring, George C. *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*.

Boston: McGraw-Hill Education, 2014. Print.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Longest War & Video Documentaries

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 4:09 PM

The Bao Dai Solution

In the video "The first war In Vietnam" and the book "America's Longest War" they discuss the instalment of ex emperor of Annam, Bao Di, to the southern half of Vietnam. Both sources agree that the goal of this French chosen emperor was to show that he was in fact, not a French puppet. However, the French believed the tactic would work, the U.S "Recognized that the so called Bao Dai Solution was a smoke screen for continued French domination of Vietnam and doubted it would work" (America's Longest war pg.18). The French's tactic was to give Bao Di "independent Vietnamese rule" (the first war in Vietnam) and give him access to a larger plot of land than the northern leader Ho Chi Minh. They believed this would win the hearts of the southern Vietnamese. It seems that both sources recognize that the French installed Bao Di with the soul intention of having him be there puppet. The book goes into further analysis of how other countries, specifically the U.S.,saw this tactic for what it really was "A smoke screen for French domination."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Longest War & Video Documentaries

by Jerrel Brown - Saturday, April 15, 2017, 7:59 PM

Reading through this first chapter of the book and watching the 'First War in Vietnam' I think that it is safe to say that it is the general consensus that Bao Dia was nothing more than a French marionette, a mask worn by the French in an attempt to exert its will on the people of Vietnam while simultaneously attempting to fix the image of the government in the eyes of the

people and the U.S, both of which don't appreciate the French colonial attitude. Considering Bao Dia's almost lazy demeanor in ruling the country, it's no surprise that the native population more or less ignored Boa Dia and his rule. Perhaps if the French had made better selections in choosing a ruler or if Boa Dia was more committed to representing his people things would have turned out more positively.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Diem's greatest flaw that caused his downfall.

by Joshua Meeker - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 5:16 PM

"He identified his principles with the nation's welfare and firmly believed that the people must be guided by the paternalist hand of those who knew what was best for them." (*Herring George, The Longest War, pg.78*) This quote demonstrates that Diem never truly had his people's interest at heart, and why he met his fate the way he did; gunned down like a dog during the coup in 1963. Both in the text(ALW) and in the 2nd documentary(Americas Mandarin) it was stated that Diem had the great inability to relate to 90% of his people. This is especially evident when he chose to proceed with "Argoville Program"(Question to the Professor Escobar*: this was referred to in the video as "hamlets", correct ?) which forced villagers to move from their properties to live into communities against their will. This upset the villagers very much, since they had to move from sacred tombs ; a concept Diem should have been very familiar with, and he should have known it would be a disaster . It was also stated in both the text and documentary that he was not willing to compromise on anything whatsoever; a poor trait to have for a government official. This not only created tension between him and his people, but also with the United States for he did as he pleased. His failure to listen to his people, and the lack of awareness to the peoples feelings around him led to his ultimate demise.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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The Reasoning Behind The War. ("Why Vietnam" documentary and "America's Longest War" Text similarities)

by Brandon Dibble - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 7:48 PM

A main topic I noticed throughout the documentary video "Why Vietnam" and the assigned chapters from "America's Longest War" text was why the United States felt they had a responsibility to help prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. The documentary touched on the subject of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) being why they had formed and what their intentions were. The main intention as per the video was to stop the spread of communism over these countries, most notably at the time being South Vietnam. With North Vietnam encroaching upon their southern counterpart, the organization SEATO was obligated to help stop the communist from gaining footing in the southern territory. During President Lyndon B. Johnson's address to the nation, he proceeded to tell the American population why it was important for us to help South Vietnam in their time of need. He told the American population why we were fighting a war against the growing communist threat. (Documentary "Why Vietnam?" 22:32)

Herring, in "America's Longest War", stated that "From Dulle's (John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State) standpoint, SEATO was more than satisfactory" (America's Longest War, pg.55) even though many of the effected neighboring countries were unable to join the organization for various reasons. Herring goes on to say that "The mere existence of the alliance might deter communist aggression in the region." The text puts a lot of emphasis on this organization (SEATO) and how it was supported, even though it seemed far from a perfect scenario at the time to many.

In summary, the topic I noticed through the text of "America's Longest War" and the video documentary (Why Vietnam?) was the reasoning for our time occupying South Vietnam, that being to stop an encroaching communist regime and in turn, stop the spread of communism upon unwilling countries in Southeast Asia.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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The US's decision to side with France (America's longest war & video documentaries)

by Gordon Collver - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 8:34 PM

I believe that the single most important event that took place in either the videos or the text was the U.S's decision to side with the French because that ultimately led to 2nd Vietnam war as the video "The First War in Vietnam" states near the end. While Herring states that the "Truman administration had no interest in championing schemes of international trusteeship that would weaken and Alienate the European states whose help we needed to balance Soviet power in Europe"(10). Meaning he had no choice but to side with the french or risk losing favor with our most important allies in the war against communism.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: The US's decision to side with France (America's longest war & video documentaries)

by Joshua Meeker - Thursday, April 13, 2017, 6:22 PM

Good points made here. I wonder how things would have turned out if we acted on the reality that Vietnam was a bad place to help. Which makes me wonder; since Europe was still unstable from the war, why didn't we just funnel all our aid to Europe as a whole to stabilize them, rather than blasting over a 100 billion dollars on Vietnam for nothing?

Especially since Europe already had close ties to the US, was much more civilized (technologically anyways), and would have been a far more superior force then Vietnam could have ever been. Just a thought.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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Re: The US's decision to side with France (America's longest war & video documentaries)

by Kyle Martinson - Saturday, April 15, 2017, 4:31 PM

You have a good post. I agree with you that the event you describe was important but I wouldn't say it was the single most important.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Re: The US's decision to side with France (America's longest war & video documentaries)

by Gordon Collver - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 1:48 PM

Why do you say that? I'm intrigued as to what you think is the most important event. I believe it was the most important because if the U.S. decided not to aid France we would have never been in our Vietnam war years later. The only other event that may have been more important in my opinion is when France decided to delay the elections by 2 years. This showed that they were power hungry and intended to keep South Vietnam under their control.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: The US's decision to side with France (America's longest war & video documentaries)

by Kelsey Gilseth - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 11:35 PM

Our decision to side with France and the South Vietnamese is by far a huge event that basically shaped the entire war. It was of high importance that we side with France for a few different reasons. First off, it was in our best interests. We were aware that our involvement with France could potentially deter support from other communist nations away from North Vietnam. Additionally, the decision to support a past ally showed promise, and finally, we are a nation that prides itself on freedom. Freedom is exactly what was wanted in Vietnam. However, at first our support was minimal and purely financial. Our real commitment to the war effort began after the fall of Dien Bien Phu. "Isolated, badly bloodied, hopelessly outmanned, without adequate food, water, and medicine, the French surrendered on May 7 after fifty-five days of courageous but futile resistance." (Herring, pg 44). Without the French, the United States saw no choice but to increase their presence in Vietnam.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Re: Longest War & Video Documentaries

by Kyle Martinson - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 9:11 PM

One event I found that was most related between the documentary and the book was the French involvement. More specifically the French defeat in Hanoi. The video stated, "the inevitability of French defeat has become clear. Hanoi in 1954 reflects the ravages of long and bitter warfare. But for now the fighting is over. The French are leaving." (why Vietnam).

Herring, George C. "Chapter 2." *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*. Boston: McGraw-Hill Education, 2014. N. pag. Print.

Why Vietnam.<https://lanecc.idm.oclc.org/login?url=http://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=239336&xtid=48891>

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America's Longest War Ch 1 vs Why Vietnam? video

by Kelsey Gilseth - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 11:35 PM

In reading Chapter 1 in America's Longest War and watching Why Vietnam?, I noticed that the explanations regarding our involvement in Vietnam had different focuses in each source. For instance, in the Why Vietnam? video, President Johnson begins by addressing a letter written by a mother with a son in Vietnam and a wife of a man who served in World War II. She doesn't understand why we are becoming involved in a war so far from our own homeland. The president states that "aggression unchallenged is aggression unleashed" and that Americans have many times gone to farther lands to fight for freedom. (2:55 Why Vietnam? Documentary). He explains that we helped South Vietnam fight for their freedom, because it was the right thing to do. "Retreat does not bring safety, weakness does not bring peace." (3:50 Why Vietnam? Documentary). On the contrary, in America's Longest War, the reason for our involvement in Vietnam was centralized around the desire to keep Communism from spreading. The United States feared that if Southeast Asia fell to communism, that they would lose access to several products they regularly imported. "Southeast Asia was the world's largest producer of natural rubber and a vital source of oil, tin, tungsten, and other strategic commodities." (Herring, p. 22). Therefore, in an attempt to keep Ho Chi Mihn and the Viet Minh of North Vietnam from taking over South Vietnam, the United States began their involvement in the war. Clearly, both of these reasons were true. The United States got involved for the sake of the South Vietnamese, but we also had the best interests of our own country in mind.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: America's Longest War Ch 1 vs Why Vietnam? video

by Alexandria Villa - Thursday, April 13, 2017, 12:26 AM

The United States has always had a more philanthropist version of morals when it comes to other countries we deem less fortunate than ourselves. I feel like the events in the time leading up to the Second Vietnam War reflect this concept. Our country has also proven that there are concepts more important to our cause, like freedom and liberty. When a country is denied the concept our country is holding dear, we usually take action to change this, even when the climate does not really allow for such idealistic tendencies. Just like the documentary and the book stated multiple times, the United States had dealt with the oppression of foreign peoples when dealing with Hitler and Stalin in World War II. Instead of the fear of the Nazi's, though, we turned our sights on the threat of Communism, acting sometimes rashly in our fear. The spread of Communism definitely had more negatives when looking at both the global market/economy, but also for the people who it would affect outright. I just feel like the trends our nation has always been set in (to a degree)

should be taken into consideration when contemplating the sheer aversion to Communism and our 'need' to become involved after we realized the French would lose their war and 'drop the torch' for the fight against Communism.

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Re: America's Longest War Ch 1 vs Why Vietnam? video

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Thursday, April 13, 2017, 1:58 PM

I definitely agree that America has always felt the need to aid countries that are being denied freedom. After all the readings and watching all the videos, I started to see a pattern of the real reasons behind what we did, such as loss of naval bases and loss of economic gain ect. But if we claim to want countries free from abusive government, even a communist government, how could we allow and aid the French presence in Vietnam? I know the awnser is in the text and videos. But it just dosnt seem right to claim wanting freedom for all, when we support oppressive government domination such as the French. At that time Ho Chi Minh and the u.s had a great relationship, he even mentioned a U.S naval base in Saigon, then we just pay 1-2 billion dollars to supply French domination.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: America's Longest War Ch 1 vs Why Vietnam? video

by Joshua Meeker - Thursday, April 13, 2017, 6:02 PM

Hey Mason,

according to the text and the documentaries Indochina was a bit of a disaster. I got the impression that the US did not want to support the colonization of Vietnam, but that it needed to do so to show allegiance to its ally. Especially since there had been a partnership between the US and France since WW2. Due to the growing tension with communism in Asian countries the US feared that a "domino effect"(rapid succession of communism spreading through Indochina) would ensue. As an analogy you could liken this to a sports team; Im sure not everyone on the team likes each other, but you get their back since if you don't you lose. Especially when the enemy team has taken the image of something to fear. Which during that time was the case, the US was very paranoid about Communism taking over. Hence the partnership. Interestingly enough for all the "failures" of France they did tell us that Diem was not a fit leader for Vietnam. I wish we would have listened.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: America's Longest War Ch 1 vs Why Vietnam? video

by Alexandria Villa - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 12:56 AM

I know, right? I cannot understand how any country, especially the United States, can tell another country that there is help to be found with them, and then proceed to fund that country's enemies. I don't understand how there is any form of logic to this, especially when you are dealing with a country that holds the keys to many materials

that are needed in the global economy. Since on the driving forces was the need to keep minerals and materials open, everyone should have been playing nicer with the Vietnamese before everything began to crumble.

I still feel as though I am missing something, because some of the actions do not make sense. How could the French feel compelled to allow violent relations in Vietnam to escalate so quickly, leaving the two countries no other choice but to wage war upon each other? Why did the United States feel compelled to continuously hand over major funding to the French, especially if many of the American's involved knew way before the Dien Bien Phu debacle how 'mismanaged Indochina' had become? It seems illogical, based on the ideas and opinions that were presented at the time, based scattered passages throughout chapter one of Herring's book, *America's Longest War*.

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Re: America's Longest War Ch 1 vs Why Vietnam? video

by Joshua Meeker - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 4:12 PM

I suppose it was due to the fear of communism. If you look back into old movies, propaganda, and commercials it is easy to see that the US(and other allies) were in a panic. Keep in mind that Russia also had spies in our Government. They were planted in such an effective way that they even collected intel to complete their nuclear bomb. The second country on this earth to do so, and only 4 years after we were able to do so. I also thought I was missing something and that something was to put yourself back into that time were news was limited, there was no internet, and Communism was the boogie man. Also the US kept funding France for a reason, they didnt want to deal with the situation alone so they just threw money at the French to keep them busy and happy. Because they knew once France left(and they did) the US would be picking up the scraps by itself(and we did).

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Re: America's Longest War Ch 1 vs Why Vietnam? video

by Brandon Dibble - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 10:03 PM

Very solid post, I do agree that the fear of spreading communism was a very real thing at this point in time; not only for South Vietnam, but the whole of Southeast Asia and it could possibly reach even further given the chance. This "Domino Effect" was a very real threat at the time for these countries. Herring stated in his text that "American policymakers had come to view Vietnam as the key to keeping Southeast Asia out of communist hands" (America's Longest War, pg.22). Helping South Vietnam was, in the eyes of US Forces and South Vietnamese Forces, the way to stop the spread of communism over these neighboring countries.

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Re: America's Longest War Ch 1 vs Why Vietnam? video

by Kyle Martinson - Saturday, April 15, 2017, 4:28 PM

You have a very good post. I noticed the same thing about the explanations having different focuses.

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