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Patriots & PBS
by Joe Escobar - Friday, April 7, 2017, 10:00 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Patriots & PBS topic.

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Allegiances and Confusion
by Tyler Ritter - Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 11:48 AM

Tyler Ritter

Joe Escobar

April 11, 2017

Confusion in Vietnam

After reading the first 30 pages of the Appy book, one thing jugged out at me; the fact that miscommunication, distrust, and underestimations seemed to be rampant in the Vietnam war. I read Roger Dolan's account and it seemed to solidify my understanding. He goes on to say, "of the three hundred members of our strike force it turned out that about a hundred sympathized with the enemy." (Appy, pg.13, Roger Dolan speaker). However, Dolan also says that the Nungs where also very "anti-communist." (Appy, pg.13, Roger Dolan speaker). Not only distrust, but miscommunication got people killed. In the same account by Dolan, he says they should have gotten support within 20 minutes, but since it was Fourth of July weekend, and everyone was partying and didn't fuel planes, it took 2 hours, and they had several more casualties.

We feared that the "fall of China", was the fuel to the fire of communism. In the PBS documentary, it seems we Russia and China as a "hard monolithic bloc" that was "seeking to expand and its dominance". (37:33 into Episode 1, Vietnam Television History video). This seemed to thrust us into action in May, 1950. Although confusion and miscommunication where rampant, I feel that these remarks tie into hard alliances for both sides, the Nung mercenaries, and Americans were set on anti communism, while the Viet Minh fought for communism, but at the same time, some where often confused on where their allegiance lied.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Le Lieu Browne and the "secret police"

by Maile Sur - Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 2:07 PM

In Part 2 of Christian G. Appy's book *Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides*, Le Lieu Browne, a Vietnamese native, tells of her experiences of high school in France and moving back to Vietnam. Many of her friends spoke about communism and how they wanted to move to North Vietnam after school. They'd tell her, "You speak French and English. The North Vietnamese government badly needs people like you and you'll be received with open arms" (Appy, pg. 73, Le Lieu Browne speaker). She thought that was a crazy idea, and found serving her country under Ngo Dinh Diem to be a better plan. When she returned to the south she started working for the Ministry of Information. Browne wanted to further her career and take a higher position, but that required her to convert from Buddhism to Catholicism.

Browne talks in her next paragraph about the "Buddhist crisis in 1963." As you may recall, Thich Quang Duc, a Buddhist monk, decided to "dedicate his body as a torch" and light himself on fire in public (35:12 into Episode 2, Vietnam: A Television History video). American press was covering a lot of the happenings in Vietnam, and Le Lieu's husband, Malcom, also took a picture of the burning monk. The act that Thich Quang Duc took part in struck western society by storm, and also caused an uproar against Diem. Madame Nhu, Diem's sister-in-law, was sent to America to explain what was going on and defend the actions that the Vietnamese government was doing. Mind you, a lot of the reasons why there was an uproar against the Diem Administration had to do with the fact that Diem's brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, started a secret police. "Nhu was at war not only with the communists, but with all critics of the regime" (33:24 into Episode 2, Vietnam: A Television History video). The Diem government would harass and arrest demonstrators and monks. Hence, the uproar.

While Madame Nhu was explaining what had happened with Thich Quang Duc she referred to him as a “barbecued monk” (Appy, pg. 74, Le Lieu Browne speaker). This angered the Buddhist population even more and “caused Diem and Nhu’s downfall.”

I feel that the event of Thich Quang Duc lighting himself on fire really brought a greater light to all that the Diem Administration, primarily with the secret police, was doing. In the video, Dr. Pham The Xuan Que expressed her feelings regarding the Diem Administration. She said, “The manners of tortures inflicted upon these people by Ngo Dinh Diem and his ‘hound dogs,’ this was our term for the secret police, were extremely inhumane” (19:03 into Episode 2, Vietnam: A Television History video). This particular situation frustrates me because I feel that American leaders tried to aid in this war with good intentions, and Ngo Dinh Diem took advantage of that aid. I feel that the secret police completely contradicted the intentions that American leaders had, and in some ways, it took away a lot of the progress that American soldiers risked their lives to make.

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Re: Le Lieu Browne and the "secret police"

by Emily Gibson - Friday, April 14, 2017, 2:45 PM

Malie,

I noticed your post right away, because it just so happens that I wrote my post on Le Lieu Browne as well! I used the same phrase “barbecued monk” and connected with the overthrow of the government. Reading more in the Herring book, I came across more information about the other “critics” of Diem’s government. There were three sets of “rebel” groups, the Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, and the Binh Xugen. These armies had between 15,000 and 25,000 people involved. (Herring, pg.63) In the documentary, the author mentions the Binh Xugen, a.k.a. the gangster group, but doesn’t mention the other two. From what I understand, the police force in Saigon was actually ran by Binh Xugen, and Diem’s government had a hard time getting rid of these groups. In the Herring book, it states “Diem’s mishandling of the sects persuaded top French and U.S. in Saigon that he must be removed.” (Herring, pg.64) I think from the beginning the U.S. had trouble with Diem, and wasn’t sure he was the best fit for the job. I believe that the U.S. got themselves in a sticky situation, and I agree that they had good intentions. Do you think the U.S. had any idea what they were getting themselves into before the outbreak of the war itself? Sometimes I wish I could understand what people were thinking in history. I mean Appy even uses a quote from Lyndon Johnson that says “Vietnam was just a raggedy-ass, little fourth rate country.” (Appy, pg.81) I also find it interesting that later on the communists ended up treating their citizens how they hated being treated by Diem’s government.

Emily

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Re: Emily - In response to your question

by Maile Sur - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 12:46 PM

Hi Emily,

You asked me if I think the U.S. had any idea what they were getting themselves into before the outbreak of the war, and I feel like I'm two-sided on my response. I don't necessarily feel like anyone who took office during this war had any idea that it was going to get this crazy. With that I mean that no one could predict that Diem's Administration would create a "secret police," or that the Buddhist population would protest and hold demonstrations (such as that of Thich Quang Duc), or that everything would get so out of hand, per say. But at the same time, any time you decide to go to war or take part in a war, I feel as though world leaders know that in the back of their minds something could go wrong. I feel that most times we have back-up plans for those situations, but since we were just doing background work towards the end there, I feel that it was sort of taken out of our control. I agree with you and your thoughts on the U.S. getting themselves into a sticky situation. Had the U.S. taken things into their own hands and fought this war the way they had intended (by increasing military aid with U.S. combat troops disguised as flood fighters (25:18 into Episode 2, Vietnam: A Television History video)), who knows, maybe there would be a different outcome. However, I feel that our political and military leaders trusted Diem and his administration to do what was best not only for their country, but for the good of everyone trying to fight North Vietnam's communist movement, and in the end, we all took a huge loss. I completely agree with you on your final note about the communists treating their citizens the same way that they hated being treated previously. I find a lot of irony in much of what we are currently learning about.

Maile

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Early role of military advisors

by Jay Autry - Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 8:30 PM

A story that stood out to me from the "Patriots" book was in fact the first account about Bernard Trainor. Trainor's story is particularly interesting because of his experience as one of the covert operators that acted in an advising role early on in the conflict. As an advisor, Trainor and his team wore no uniforms, carried foreign and unmarked weapons, and operated seamlessly with their South Vietnamese counterparts.

In the PBS documentary, Capt. Edmond Fricke states how, "It was an oddity to them and they can't imagine that an American can put himself in this position," when speaking about U.S. integration with South Vietnamese guerrilla forces (27:45 into Episode 2, Vietnam Television History Video). He then goes on to explain that the man that can give them the most and show the most support will be the one to win their confidence.

These two accounts by two different military advisors shows the methods in which the early strategy of winning the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people was conducted. The accomplishments of these early covert years in Vietnam would however eventually become undone by the South Vietnamese government's inability to gain the trust of its own people.

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Re: Early role of military advisors -- Do you think Diem's Administration played the U.S.?

by Maile Sur - Thursday, April 13, 2017, 7:36 PM

I definitely agree with the point you made about how the U.S. had quality strategies of winning over the support and trust of the Vietnamese people, and how the South Vietnamese government ended up ruining that and losing the trust of their people. I don't know about any of you, but to me I sort of feel as though that was kind of what Ngo Dinh Diem wanted from the U.S. the whole time. On one trip to South Vietnam, "[two of Kennedy's advisors] recommended a big increase in military aid, including U.S. combat troops disguised as flood fighters. Diem said no to the troops. [Diem] needed U.S. support, but he wanted to keep control and he wanted to keep the foreigners out" (25:18 into Episode 2, Vietnam: A Television History video). I was a little stumped by this section of the movie because it seemed to me that the Diem Administration was just using the U.S. Here we have American soldiers not only risking their lives, but also spending time away from their families to make connections with the people of South Vietnam, as well as American politicians working to find ways to aid the South Vietnamese, and towards the end of this video you can see that the Diem Administration had plans of their own. In a way, I feel as though Diem and his administration wanted the Vietnamese people to be distracted by what the U.S. was doing so that they could continue to figure out their own agenda. At the same time, however, could Diem's reason for not wanting any more foreign troops on Vietnamese soil be because of the situation with the leper hospital that Commander Bernard Trainor talked about in his section of *Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides*? If you don't recall, Saigon intelligence said that there was a "rest and recuperation center for Viet Song cadre" but one of the Vietnamese skippers stated that it was instead a leper hospital. Based on Commander Trainor's intelligence, they went in firing. "We sent a team in there firing as they went, and they killed a lot of people. It turned out to be a leper hospital just as the Vietnamese officer had predicted" (Appy, pg. 5, Bernard Trainor speaking). He went on to say, "They had lost all confidence in us." If Diem and his administration had slightly lost faith in the American's based on that scenario, that would kind of make sense, as well. What are your thoughts?

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2



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Re: Early role of military advisors -- Do you think Diem's Administration played the U.S.?

by Jay Autry - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 8:56 PM

Maile,

I would disagree that Diem intentionally made decisions to lose trust in his people. The top reasons Eisenhower supported Diem for was his nationalistic principles and his anti-communist views (pg. 58 Herring). In many ways, it seems as though Ho Chi Mihn and Ngo Dinh Diem had much in common as far as nationalism and dreams for an independent Vietnam. I also see similarities between these two men as far as how they handled their dealings with America. It is almost as if they wanted to have their cake and eat it too. Both men wanted American aide, but Ho Chi Mihn double dipped with the Soviets and Chinese leading to a breakdown in diplomatic relations early on, and Diem accepted American aide but was fiercely resistant to American strategy.

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Deer Team Training of Viet Minh

by Maxwell Ahrenkiel - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 5:55 PM

The connection I found to be most significant with the reading and television series was the realization that the Deer Team had of the Vietnamese people as a whole, when they were assigned to train, aid, and support the Viet Minh. In the Appy book, Henry Prunier writes, "But don't get the wrong impression, this was an elite group that we trained... After teaching them one time, they could almost do it blindfolded. These were not ragtag farmers, and it would be ridiculous to assume that our training and weapons had anything to do with their eventual victories over the French and then the United States. Whatever the Viet Minh learned about guerilla war, they learned on their own. After all, we only worked with them for about two and a half weeks before World War II ended." (Appy, p.39, Henry Prunier speaker) In the video, former OSS Officer Archimedes Patti says, "there for the first time we saw what kind of troops the Viet Minh were. They were a very willing, fine, young nationalist. Really what we used to say gung-ho type. They're willing to risk their lives for their cause and independence against the French." (22:17 into Episode 1, Vietnam Television History Video) The connection made between the two is that they both learned how determined and diligent the Vietnamese were. They weren't just poor farmers in the jungle, they were a proud people that will fight for what they believe in. This is significant because I believe this is a big reason why the result of the war was so shocking. Many people stereotyped the Vietnamese to be weak, but like the Deer Team learned, they are very proud and will defend themselves when their values are threatened, even if it means risking their lives.

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Re: Deer Team Training of Viet Minh

by Sydney Zuelke - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 11:18 PM

Maxwell,

I like the point you made in saying how determined the Vietnamese were. "They weren't just poor farmers in the jungle, they were a proud people that will fight for what they believe in." This really resonates again in Xuan Sinh's story (Appy p. 81). He reflects on a memory of finding an elderly couple, living in a house right in the middle of a "free-fire" zone. They warned them it was incredibly dangerous and told them they have to move -- they transported them, and burned their house down. About two weeks later, he says, they flew over and found a new thatched home in the same spot. It was the same couple. The man simply replied "All my ancestors are buried here and this is our lad. We're not going to leave." I don't think you can get more proud/determined than that. Their land was all the had, and it meant so much to them. So they risked their lives for it, in the end.

-Sydney

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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Le Lieu Browne and the Buddhist Demonstrations

by Emily Gibson - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 7:36 PM

After reading entries found in Christian Appy's book and watching Episode Two of Vietnam: A Television History, I found a connection about the Buddhist demonstrations against Dien's government. Le Lieu Browne, speaks about her experiences as a Vietnamese women during Dien's rule in Vietnam. In her interview, she talks about being forced in her job at the Ministry of Information to wear uniforms and go to political meetings, which she was not fond of. She says "It sounded to me more like Communism than democracy." (Appy, p.74, Le Lieu Browne speaker) Le Lieu then expresses concerns of the time when she was also forced to convert to Catholicism, although her whole family was Buddhist. In the documentary, it shows the viewers of the Buddhist demonstrations of monks setting themselves on fire because of the religious persecution under Diem's government that Browne mentions. Le Lieu asserts to the readers that the demonstrations and violence towards Buddhist people got worse and worse and let to other people get involved including students in Saigon. The documentary shows Madame Nhu, Diem's brother's wife, being interviewed in the United States and saying "they have barbecued one of their monks." (36:37 into Episode Two, Vietnam Television video) Browne mentions exactly this interview in her interview, and she concludes that this was offensive towards Buddhist's and therefore ultimately led to Diem's downfall. She then goes on to say that she doesn't believe Madame Nhu meant to offend the Buddhist people, but it came off that way because of ignorance of their people. I agree with Browne that the disrespectful comments towards the Buddhist people ended up enraging the Buddhist people more. Being insensitive towards the enemies to the government at the time gave the Buddhist population more reasons to fight for the overthrowing of the Diem regime. Diem's army, being mostly Buddhist, then organized a coupe, and eventually assassinated Dien and his brother Nhu. (Episode 2, Vietnam Television video)

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Phan Xuan Sinh's Story + Blurred Lines of the War

by Sydney Zuelke - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 10:19 PM

A significant relation to make between Part 1 of Christian Appy's book and Episode 1 of 'Vietnam a Television History' is the picture it paints of the environment of this war, the amount of innocent blood shed, and cultural aspects of the Vietnamese at this time.

Phan Xuan Sinh's story (p. 79-83) gives us a heartbreaking anecdote in his fisherman story, claiming a group of men, women and children fishing were mistaken for the enemy, and killed. The paranoia and the free-for-all mentality becomes clear. He says, "It's clear that common people on all sides bore the brunt of the killing and suffering" (p. 81). Likewise, Episode 1 mirrors Sinh's statement perfectly, claiming, "It was a war that blurred the line between friend and enemy" (4:40). Right after, a Vietnamese woman reflects on the war - "I didn't see any guerillas being killed, only villagers."

In the same two examples, there is similar sentiment for communist attitudes. John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, states "So far the communist attitude at Geneva is not encouraging" (51:34) while Phan Xuan Sinh recalls reading communists' letters. He says, "What I didn't realize was how deeply the Communist side hated us [...] They had such a deep commitment to the war" (p. 82).

This development is significant in gaining an understanding and a foundation for where the rest of this class takes us. The extent of suffering and the differing sentiments regarding the war, I believe, is an important takeaway. And the fact that both Appy's story and the documentary reflect so similarly, is a true testament to the horrors.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: Patriots & PBS

by Daine Taylor - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 11:09 PM

An event that I found that was strikingly similar was in episode one of Vietnam: A Television History and part one of Patriots. The event was when Bernard Trainor said " We sent a team in there firing away as they went, and they killed a lot of people. It turned out to be a leper hospital just as the Vietnamese officer had predicted." (Apply, p.5, Bernard Trainor). The reason that that event is significant is that it shows that there were people who were not involved in the war itself just in the middle of it that were most likely collateral damage to those soldiers back then. The Americans would kill many Vietnamese people living in villages. To the villagers, it seemed like more of their people were dying than guerrillas themselves. (4:50 into episode one, Vietnam: Television History video). The connection between these two events are that they correspond with each other. The American soldier that saw what his men were doing is almost the exact same thing that the Vietnamese elderly women had said. The American thought that the leper hospital was a communist R and R center and went in firing with the wrong information. They would shoot and kill many innocent villages and many villagers, from the sound of it, thought they were doing more harm to the innocent than the actual guerrillas.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Patriots & PBS

by Emily Gibson - Friday, April 14, 2017, 2:13 PM

Daine,

I really liked reading what you had to say in your post. It's crazy how much "collateral damage" against the people of Vietnam there was. The gruesome, unremorseful acts that the Americans ended up inflicting on the villagers is cruel. Have you thought at all about the other side as well though? Both sides did some pretty horrible things to each other. Tran Thi Gung in his interview talks about his experience in the war, and his interactions. After I read this I was shocked and taken aback by the hate that circulated within both sides. He states "I killed an American. After he fell, some of his friends came rushing to his aid. They held his body and cried....From then on we knew that if we shot one American soldier others would rush to him and then we could shoot many more." (Tran Thi Gung, pg.17, Patriots: Vietnam War Remembered) I think in a way both sides wanted to dehumanize each other to make it easier for them to cope with killing. This reminds me of the World War One propaganda that circled the United States, using posters to dehumanized the Germans. Do you have any opinions on why each side was so hateful?

Emily

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1

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Re: Patriots & PBS

by Daine Taylor - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 9:10 PM

Emily,

After reading more of the book I got to see more of the other side (guerrillas) and now see that both sides were doing just as much harm as one another! "The second time they advanced they took more casualties. They were such big targets, so easy to hit, I was no longer scared." (Tran Thi Gung, P.17) In your reply you said he when Tran Thi Gung is a petite woman. After reading her story I see that The guerrillas were smart and took advantage of everything they could. Having tunnels and trenches were very smart and sending a spy to do reconnaissance on the Americans. "I always volunteered to sneak onto the bases at night to reconnoiter and draw maps so we could plan our attacks." (Tran Thi Gung, P.18) My opinion on why each side was so hateful would have to be that Americans fought for pride and the Vietnamese and etc. fought for freedom and some pride.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Patriots & PBS

by Emily Gibson - Friday, April 14, 2017, 2:50 PM

Sorry to reply again I just found one more source I thought it would be interesting to share. In George Watkins post, he states "What I didn't realize, was how deeply the Communist side hated us." (George Watkins, pg.26, Patriots: Vietnam War Remembered) This quote adds to my point of the deep hatred the Vietnamese had against the U.S. as well. I think some of soldiers had no idea what they were walking into.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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The reason USA invert to the war

by Wenxuan Nie - Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 11:26 PM

Bernard Trainor, who is a seventy-year-old retired lieutenant general. I think his story is significant to explain why the United States was starting aid French to defeat North Vietnam because of the fear of communism. And it's related to Episode 1. The connection is both DVD and book tell us after WW2; communism is a significant threat to the western world. So the United States would do anything to kill the budding democracy. It showed in "We viewed Communism as a monolithic dragon which controlled all of the Eurasian land mass...We didn't identify it as a nationalistic or patriotic war; it was Communist expansion." (Appy, p4, Bernard Trainor speaker) Also, it showed in "The cause of freedom is being challenged throughout the world today by the forces of imperialistic communism. In May 1950, for the first time, President Truman authorized direct USA aid for the French war in

Indochina.” (38:07 into Episode 1, Vietnam Television History video)

This event significant because first, American starting to put lots of money and people in this war. People felt isolated and lost during years of cost and family couldn't return. It's an essential event to build a generation's spirit. Second, it measures how western society holds hostile sentiments toward communism. During WW2, Soviet Communism and America are allies. But after the winning, two superpowers beginning to compete. America didn't want to see more new communism power shows up. So aid to French is part of for its own benefits.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The reason USA invert to the war

by Emily Gibson - Friday, April 14, 2017, 3:14 PM

Wenxuan,

I find the whole reason America entered this war interesting as well. I think from the beginning America had trouble not getting involved, feeling like it was there duty to the world to stop the spread of communism. In the midst of the Cold War, they didn't want another country falling to it. In George Watkins interview, he talks about losing his leg in the war. Obviously very traumatic, he says "I don't have much bitterness. Well, I don't think I do. I just wish that none of it ever happened-for everybody's sake. It was a bad political mistake." (George Watkins, pg.24, Patriots: Vietnam War Remembered) Reading through each entry, I've found a pattern with veterans not knowing why exactly we were in Vietnam and what they were putting their life on the line for. My thought is that one of the reason Vietnam succeeded in the war, was because they had something they were fighting for, truly ready to risk their lives to be an independent country. Phan Xuan Sinh, a member of the ARVN, says in his interview "We never had such strong feelings about the war. I think that's why they were able to prevail." (Phan Xuan Sinh, pg.27, Patriots: A Vietnam War Remembered) The whole fight in Vietnam was an overall fight against communism. Rufus Phillips says it perfectly. "I mean, there was something to the domino theory because there was a political vacuum in the rest of Southeast Asia." (Rufus Phillips, pg.54, Patriots: Vietnam War Remembered) The political vacuum was Communism, and this is why the United States entered Vietnam.

Emily

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A war prolonged by greed/power

by Brent Roessler - Friday, April 14, 2017, 10:21 PM

An interesting correlation I made between PBS and Patriots was the political power either desperately desired and/or displayed. It seems the war was based around who would gain power over Vietnam. Who would control the land and its valuable resources, who's political party would reign and whose government policies would be implemented.

"Diem said NO to the troops, he needed US support but he wanted to keep *control* and keep foreigners out." (PBS Vol.2, 25:20) "It was a bad *political* mistake." "Only those who gained power or wealth from the war had a vested interest in prolonging it, and they didn't have to fight." (Abby, pg.24,26)

There was even cases where the Monks would set themselves on fire in demonstration. But yet they always made sure that US media was informed..."None of them spoke English, but their signs were in English, and every time they planned a demonstration they called the US press... They learned how to develop political power as they went along."(PBS Vol.2, 36:50)

Attention, power, money, resources, politics, religion etc.. the list goes on. But how do you get an army to fight for your political power trip? Tell them their country is in danger and their freedom is at stake... that will get them motivated.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: A war prolonged by greed/power

by Sydney Zuelke - Sunday, April 16, 2017, 11:05 PM

Brent,

I think the perspective of the war being one big "power trip" is. It reminds me of the Introduction we read in which the U.S. involvement in the war is described as "not of its own direct interests in the ordinary sense but for the sake of an ideal" and to "make the world safe for democracy". This involvement is also described as impulsive and tinted with subtle self-interest. He then goes on to say, there is no rationally defensible way in which it can be called immoral. My question is, is there actually a way we can play devil's advocate and make an argument for it being immoral? It seems as though much of what we're seeing in these pieces (the killing of innocent villagers, etc.) is immoral. So where do we draw the line between moral and immoral?

-Sydney

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A willingness to die for their cause

by Riley Ahrenkiel - Saturday, April 15, 2017, 5:15 PM

I find the will of the Viet Minh troops and Vietnamese people very admirable. Many of them poor, food deprived peasants, who sought nothing more than the liberation of their country, fair treatment of their people, and the distribution of the most basic of needs like food and clothing. With nothing to lose but their lives, in both sources (Appy book and Episode 1, Vietnam Television History video) the Vietnamese were shown to be more than willing to die for their cause. One moment in particular where this is apparent is when Appy writes, "The people in my neighborhood suffered from poverty and deprivation and were always brutalized by the police and puppet soldiers. I wanted to do something to liberate my country and help people get enough food and clothing. I believed my mission in life was to continue my father's cause, so in 1963, when I was seventeen, I joined the guerillas." (p.16, Appy, Tran Thi Gung speaker) A similar situation can be seen in the video when the narrator says, "The Viet Minh had widespread support from the peasants, (in an interview with a Vietnamese peasant) 'I heard about Uncle Ho, who fought for the rights of the peasants and workers, so as a peasant who

suffered a lot, I realized that the only correct thing to do was to follow the same path.” (34:45, episode 1, Vietnam Television History video) Both do a good job in showing that for a lot of Vietnamese people, they had nothing to lose, it was either continue their lives of suffering and being subject to a greater, non-Vietnamese power, or stand up and fight for their cause. This determination in the Vietnamese people was essential to their victories against the French and US forces, without this undeclared alliance between the Viet Minh and peasants/villages of Vietnam, it’s hard to say whether or not that the Viet Minh would’ve been able to accomplish what they did.

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