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For my common theme of part 3 in Appy's book, is anti-war protestors and the extent of their actions based on their morals. I can sum up this theme and call it "passionate protestors." The Vietnam war was filled with pro-war and anti-war activists. The polls of how much the population was on one side or the other of this issue was a roller coaster. Many politicians made crucial political decisions solely based on the outcome of the people being in favor for their views on the war. Anti-war activists have gone as far as death in order to provoke others to see their views and reasons for being against the Vietnam war.

For my first account relating to anti-war activists, i chose Seth Tillman. He was a young man with a Ph. D. from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Tillman was a very active politician and was involved with many acts of Congress and spend a great amount of time persuading the political table to go against the war. Now the difference Tillman had over the other activists, is he chose to end the war by finishing it, not pulling out. He demanded many politicians to get up and speak freely about the war and try to persuade the people, because he wasn't strong enough to do it himself.

In my second account, i chose to look at Fred Branfman and his involvement in trying to prevent the war. Now Fred lived in Laos for many years, and spend a great amount of his time trying to expose the fact that Laos was being secretly bombed by the Americans. He was a great activists in the hope that the people would open their eyes to the illegal aspects America was inflicting on foreign countries. He joined and created many organizations included Project AirWar and the Indochina Resource Center. Both of these organizations were devoted to the end of the Vietnam War. He was also a writer and wrote many short books and essays based on refugees he has interviewed and personal accounts in Laos. All his efforts make him worthy of being a great war protestor and anti-war activist.

For my third and final account of anti-war activists, i decided to take a further look into Nguyen Duy, a Vietnamese poet who served for the North. Now this may not seem like an anti-war activists, but i believe that the heart and soul of a human decides weather or not they are for or against the war. Although he served for the North by cleaning rifles and maintaining war equipment, he was definatly against the war. He hated war and everything about it. He did not want to be in the war. All he wanted was to live in his peaceful village that he grew up in. He states that there is nothing beautiful about war, and to me, this is a firm statment saying that he is against it. It was only his pride for his country and the pressure from the government that kept him cleaning rifles day in and day out. If your heart is not in the war, then you are not in the war.

In conclusion, all these people who were against the war one way or another all had common emotions. They all shared the same feelings of dispare and hatred for the war. War is an ugly concept, and although many people are against it, i still feel war is necessary to live in this world and interact with each other.

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