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For my account in Part Four of Christian Appy's "Patriots," i chose A.J. Langguth. His story shows a great account of "the turning point" in Vietnam. He was a journalist, who covered the war for The New York Times. In this account, he focused on the invasion of Cambodia, and the emotions it caused for many Americans and South Vietnamese. He states that Nixon's announcement for the invasion of Cambodia was a new escalation of the war. This however, i believe was not an escalation of the war. This is due to the fact that in order for this invasion to happen, Nixon pulled out many U.S. ground troops and replaced them with ARVN soldiers. This was a drastic step for Vietnamization of the war, which to me, is the biggest sign for the turning point in the war and the withdrawl of all American troops in Vietnam. The ARVN continued to lack strength and hope, and the withdrawl of American troops for the attacks on Cambodia did not optimize thier outlook. The South Vietnamese started drafting people against thier will's, in a futile effort to strengthen the army. Forcing someone to have pride in thier county and lay thier life on the line for it was impossible. Pressing soldiers into service did not help the ARVN. Now by 1970, the few American GI's that remained were no more anxious to fight than the South Vietnamese, causing the massive turning point in the war; Vietnamizaion.

For my account in Part Five of Christian Appy's "Patriots," i chose Truong Tran. His story shows a great view from the Vietnamese side of the "end" of the war. Having served in the South Vietnamese military, he states many problems and reasons for having the war come to a defeated end. His main argument for having lost the war was the fact that having US soldiers in Vietnam was a direct destroyer of political, social, and economical structures. Vietnam was greatly supported by the farmers in the countryside, and with US troops in Vietnam, many fled to the cities to gain jobs and money. This corrupted the foundation on which Vietnam had worked over for so many years. He also makes a brutal statment saying that the South lost the war because they could either lose or tie, but not win. He was convinced that the best they could do was keep half the country. The North had such a persuasive drive, that the Communist would always have the North, and could only do better. All the fighting happened in the South, causing the South to believe that they could only either keep thier half of the country, or turn it over to the Communists. This realization brought the war to a drastic end. The idea of never being able to win was planted in the minds of the South Vietnamese, causing thier will and moral structure to crumble and give in to Communism. I believe the mindset of the South was the main factor in bringing the war to an end. Attitude is everything, and if you think you're beaten, you are. The day that thought went through their heads, it was over.

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