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I think the story that affected me was John Singlaub's "Paradise Island". There are two parts that bother me. The first is The Sacred Sword deception. They would capture fishermen and peasants and take them back and tell them they were somewhere else and lie to them, I know this is war but the more I read it is full of propaganda and personal vendetta's and lie's. Then when we let them go we would give them radio's that only got our station. To me it sounds like brain washing! On a personal note this war is hard to study for me because of my Dad I have always been, we were right they were wrong. I guess a kind of ignorant state of mind. I just want to believe soldiers are great and are heroes, so when I find out facts that were different than what I was thinking in my head, it is a blow. The next example from what I read really upset me more than all I have read. What gave great encouragement to Ho Chi Minh and his people were Traitors like Jane Fonda, Ramsey Clark and Tom Hayden. They went over there and told them that we are winning it at home, and we are destroying the morale of the people at home. Some of them had morale so low that they would volunteer to come back because they could not stand to watch the T. V or read the papers because of the bias from the media. We were helping a lot of people in the area do other things like dig wells, agricultural work and building bridges. So for me all the traitors should have been hung, or they could go live in North Vietnam! The media should also not be allowed in war zones because they can be too biased. In other words free your mind and don't watch news programs.

I think LBJ did not want to go to war. Some people I talk to disagree, but I really believe him. So some light for me is knowing the war should have been avoided, but what if we did nothing? I am finding it hard to find light but I am trying to be more optimistic. I mean, think how many American lives would have been saved if we did not go to war. I am so torn in myself wondering that very question. So my light is thinking the President did not want to go to war, and tried to help them and build dams etc.

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