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The more I read about the Vietnam War, the more disgusted I become with how we as a nation acted and treated others. One of the stories that I was bothered by was "Paradise Island." I think it was awful for us to "kidnap" people from the North, not only were they confused at first but then we gave them gifts. How does giving individuals gifts make them want to change their ways of life? The thoughtfulness behind this act, seemed more like communism than anti communism because of how controlling it was toward the people. The radios that were given as gifts had one or two radio stations that were designated, how is that not controlling?

Another story I disliked hearing, or more the tone of the man interviewed was Sergei Khrushchev. His last remark toward the United States was "America cannot behave like an elephant in a china shop," I read that as a big slap in the face because we aren't all like that. Not all Americans are for wars and fighting and not all Americans think they're better than everyone else or anyone at all. Another comment he made referred to the 9/11 attack, I was upset at first, but after a while, he is right when it comes to the United States and the war now. Why didn't we learn from the mistakes over in Vietnam and try harder to avoid going to war, and why are we still in Afghanistan?

Sergei Khrushchev did make a valuable point in the end that I do agree with about the current war. A lot of the stories read I enjoyed because they're touching, like Luyen Nguyen who was very loyal while imprisoned for so many years and after such a long time his wife went back to him. I could (or like to think I can) relate to his story because my husband will be away for 6 years and miss a lot of our child growing up. As for the rest of his story, what an amazing individual to stay with his men knowing they were more than likely going to be caputered and die. To me, his dedication is what we all want to believe that each soldier is like, when in actuality most are like his men; scared and give in easily.

I was glad to read the stories about both sides getting along; the Americans and Vietnamese, and that there was laughter and enjoyment when they were getting along. Like the story Henry Prunier told about training the Veit Minh on how to use weapons, etc. It's good to know that not everyone over in Vienam hated one another and that they were willing to help and teach each other for the better.

The stories in Part 2 made me upset and grateful and the same time. Parts of the stories I liked and then one sentence would completely change my opinion on the person. I would reread a lot of the stories so that I could see both points of view; American and Vietnamese.

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