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The Patriots book that we are reading has a few disappointing stories in it but the one that was most disappointing was Paul Kattenburg's. Paul Kattenburg had spent a lot of time in Vietnam so he probably had some decent knowledge of what was going on there and had some ideas of what needed to be done. Just because you have an idea doesn't mean it is going to work, but you should at least be able to share what you think and give it a chance. I was very disappointed when Kattenburg said that he went to the National Security Council Executive Committee meeting and he suggested that we pull out with honor, and Vice President Johnson said that there was no evidence that the war was going on a downward spiral. It is very easy today to say what we should have and could have done in the war, but I think that if every angle was looked at things might not have been as bad, but who knows?

I believe that ignorance was the biggest reason that we lost the war in the Vietnam. People were making conclusions while they didn't even know what was going on there. How is it possible to win a war when the people that you are trying to help aren't helping themselves?

I also believe that although the Vietnam produced many losses to many it also showed us that there was more to the Vietnamese than met the eye. I think that when you go to war with another country you need to have some background information about that country. The country of Vietnam has been through many wars and hard times and when they wanted independence bad enough they were willing to die for their country. Another thing that the U.S. could have learned is that just because Communism looked like it was going to start a domino effect doesn't mean they were going to. It is very hard to say what we should have done when we weren't there at the time.

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