

INTRODUCTION

I want to let you know that many hours were spent reflecting and remembering a time of pain, hardship, and death to those who served our country faithfully. Having fought in the war and returned many soldiers were subject to American's attitudes against them. Americans had forgotten that many friends and families were torn apart by the war and the soldiers saw first hand the pain and death inflicted – all in the name of 'serving and protecting America.'

The Vietnam War and its aftermath have always been a part of my life as long as I can remember. My mom is a disable Vietnam veteran; she was injured while in the Army and has been on crutches most of my life. Even though she was disabled, she successfully has raised eight children and is active in many areas helping the community. Being disabled has spurred her on to get involved in many organizations that help promote awareness of handicaps and disable people. She is involved both at the local and state level in various organizations and groups.

500 WORD ESSAY ON

'WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF THE VIETNAM WAR'

As we spent time recalling the era of the Vietnam War – many sad memories came to the surface, yet there were many proud memories remembered – she had a lot of comrades who went into active battle and some never returned. She felt honored to do her part for a country she loved; she just wished she could have done more, unfortunately she injured early on. When I asked what she felt was the cause of the Vietnam War – she

reflected for awhile and said, as she understood it, it ultimately had to do with stopping communism.

Even though Vietnam was a country about 9000 miles away from the United States, Americans felt that if communism started to spread throughout the world, it would take away our democratic system that we have worked for since America began.

Americans were afraid and felt threatened enough to enter into a war to stop the spread of communism, especially because there had been a recent communist take over of China.

Many Americans felt that communists were taking over the world and must be stopped.

South Vietnam was not an easy state to support; the government was corrupt and unpopular, yet Americans were so afraid of communism they supported them and came to their aid by sending money, supplies, and military equipment.

She told me there was popular theory called the 'domino theory.' President Eisenhower outlined the theory by stating that "if you have a row of dominos set up and you knock over the first one, there is a certainty what will happen to the last one – it will go over quickly following the ones before it." Basically, they were concerned if one country fell to communism, then others would also follow.

During this confusing time of the war – President Kennedy was assassinated and President Johnson took over office. Americans were devastated, it seemed that everyone was in mourning over the loss of a great leader and our country was shaken. President Johnson wanted a more aggressive fight against communism. This only added to the confusion of the Vietnam War; it was difficult for Americans back home to support a cause when sons and daughters came home 'disabled', especially when the nation was hurting from the loss of a beloved President.

In the final moments of our interview she stated that looking back that in hindsight things always appear 20/20 and are much clearer - we did what we thought was right at the time and that was to stop communism from taking over the world.

In the 1950's the United States began to send troops to Vietnam. During the following 25-years the war would create some of the strongest tensions in US history. Almost 3 million American men and women were sent thousands of miles to fight. In total it is estimated that over 2.5 million people on both sides were killed. The Vietnam War was probably the longest war in which the Americans fought in and the only war in which they were defeated.

CONCLUSION

I just wanted to note that there was so much more said during our interview discussion, but in order to limit it to 500 words, I had to only mention a few nuggets of information. I could have easily doubled this essay with so many interesting perspectives and quotes.

I wanted to share with you that my son has just completed his initial processing that was required as he signed on to the Navy this past spring. He will be leaving this summer to carry on where his Grandmother has left off. He is proud to have this privilege to serve his country.