

In Martin Luther King's speech "Beyond Vietnam - A time to break silence" M.L.K. argues that the United States' involvement in the Vietnam war is unjust, and in a similar sense, hypocritical. He calls the war and its effects on America's people a "demonic destructive suction tube." He skillfully discusses the double standards around the black and white man alike being expected to die for their country, and how it ruined his efforts for equality in the homeland.

M.L.K begins his argument by pointing out the absurd contrast between what is expected of the black and white man and what is given to them in the homeland; he states that there is a "cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die for a nation that has been unable to send them together in the same schools." This irony is so cruel, of course, because he later states that this war is for "liberties in Southeast Asia" that are not present in their homeland; He points out this "manipulation of the poor" beautifully.

He also states that the war ruined all momentum he had for his political movements for equality, saying that it were "as if it were some ideological play thing of a society gone mad on war." The war cut massively his funding and political power, as well as pulling his supporters into an international war they haven't even solved at home. He views the war as a distraction from a political discussion of utmost importance, and attacks it in a no-holds-barred manner.

Martin Luther King's word choice and phrasing evokes the sense that the U.S. Government has betrayed the common folk. He suggests that they have only their interests at heart in the line "... cruel manipulation of the poor," and creates a beautiful visualization of the war's drain away from his movement by describing it as said "demonic destructive suction tube." In a similar manner, he describes his role as the leader of his political rebellion in the line "for the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake

of the hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent." These powerful words introduce the reader the idea that this is their fight to fight as well.

M.L.K.'s description of the injustice and hypocrisy present in the fight in Vietnam starts by making the U.S. government look like a failure, his description of his failed plans makes them seem selfish, and his style encourages the reader to join the fight against a failing government. He does an excellent job at encouraging the change we need, and describes well why this seemingly unrelated war affects him so much.