

## **WHY DID THE U.S. POLICY FAIL IN VIETNAM?**

"Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes." "December 7, 1941 will live as a day of infamy." "I have not yet begun to fight." These war quotes were all said (by our leaders) in wars won by the United States. Where are the war quotes from Vietnam? We do not have any memorable quotes from the Vietnam War, because our attitude towards the Vietnam War was different from every other war we ever fought. Most importantly, our leaders said nothing that showed pride. U.S. policy in Vietnam failed because of poor leadership, war protests, and inappropriate reasons.

Poor leadership in the United States government was a major reason for failure in Vietnam. First of all, Lyndon B. Johnson was a very weak leader at the time of war. Johnson, creator of the unnecessarily expensive well-fare plan, increased the number of soldiers in Vietnam by hundreds of thousands. He greatly accelerated the amount of soldiers in Vietnam for no good reason at all. For some reason, after Johnson had so many of our troops over in Vietnam, he ordered a halt in attacks. Army commandos brutally murdered innocent women and children in Vietnam. They were an embarrassment for the United States. Our leaders were truly unfit to have been fighting the Vietnam

War.

War protests also contributed to our failure in Vietnam, because they deteriorated from our national pride. Some protestors called our troops "baby-killers," when our troops were ordered to serve in Vietnam. These protestors also criticized our government and even our democracy. Protestors, or hippies, claimed we were fighting a "wrong war." Despite feelings towards the war, support should have been there for our troops. Certain people, "draft dodgers," criticized the war and even had the nerve to not report to duty when they were called. These people greatly hurt our war effort, because they were not being true Americans.

Finally, we failed in Vietnam because of the wrong reasons. Robert McNamara, a foreign policy member of President Johnson's cabinet, recently commented that the government willingly neglected our troops in Vietnam. The government, during Johnson's administration, knew that the United States could not win the Vietnam War. Yet, President Johnson still greatly expanded the number of troops in Vietnam. Not until President Nixon did the number of troops get reduced. The United States government was also trying to stop the spread of Communism through the Vietnam War; but they knew the war effort was failing. It was an incredibly outrageous way of trying to stop Communism.

Poor leadership, war protests, and inappropriate reasons led to our failure in Vietnam. U.S. policy in Vietnam was improved under the leadership of Nixon, simply by ending our effort in the war. The Vietnam War is one of the most painful wars we ever fought; and it will probably remain one of the most shameful events in our nation's history.

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