



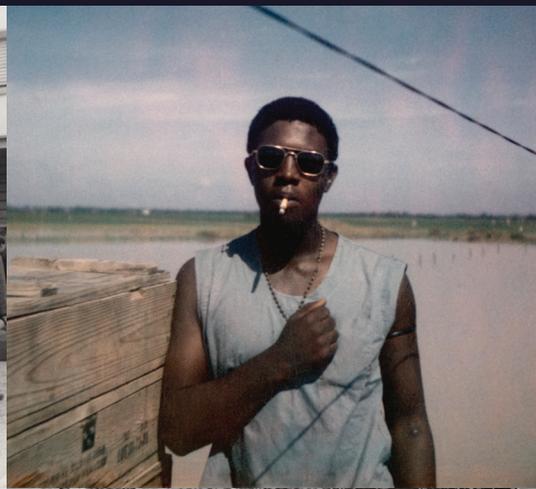
THE VIETNAM WAR

A FILM BY KEN BURNS & LYNN NOVICK



**COMMUNITY
DISCUSSION AND
ENGAGEMENT GUIDE**

SEPTEMBER 2017



The Vietnam War, Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's 10-part, 18-hour documentary series, tells the epic story of one of the most consequential, divisive, and controversial events in American history as it has never before been told on film. Visceral and immersive, the series explores the human dimensions of the war through revelatory testimony of nearly 80 witnesses from all sides—Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as combatants and civilians from North and South Vietnam.

Accompanying this series is an unprecedented outreach and public engagement program, providing inclusive opportunities for communities to participate in a national conversation.

We invite you to be part of this campaign by supporting conversations in your community. This guide is filled with tools that can help you plan for screenings and spark discussions. We hope it will support a deeper understanding of the complex issues that surrounded the Vietnam War.

Thank you for looking at ways to broaden the conversation! We also invite you to visit the website at pbs.org/vietnampbs for a robust interactive experience, including educational tools to support teachers and students.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Ten years in the making, the series includes rarely seen, digitally remastered archival footage from sources around the globe, photographs taken by some of the most celebrated photojournalists of the 20th century,

historic television broadcasts, evocative home movies, and secret audio recordings from inside the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations.

“The Vietnam War was a decade of agony that took the lives of more than 58,000 Americans,” Ken Burns said. “Not since the Civil War have we as a country been so torn apart. There wasn’t an American alive then who wasn’t affected in some way—from those who fought and sacrificed in the war, to families of service members and POWs, to those who protested the war in open conflict with their government and fellow citizens. More than 40 years after it ended, we can’t forget Vietnam, and we are still arguing about why it went wrong, who was to blame, and whether it was all worth it.”

“We are all searching for some meaning in this terrible tragedy. Ken and I have tried to shed new light on the human dimensions of the war by looking at it from the bottom up, the top down, and from all sides,” Lynn Novick said. “In addition to dozens of ‘ordinary’ Americans who shared their stories, we interviewed many ‘ordinary’ Vietnamese soldiers and noncombatants in the North and South, and we were surprised to learn that the war remains as painful and unresolved for them as it is for us.”

AIRDATES

The film premieres **September 17, 2017**, on PBS stations nationwide.

The first five episodes will air nightly from Sunday, September 17, through Thursday, September 21, and the final five episodes will air nightly from Sunday, September 24, through Thursday, September 28. Each episode will premiere at 8:00 p.m. ET, and a repeat broadcast will immediately follow.

Beginning Tuesday, October 3, the series will re-air on a weekly basis through Tuesday, November 28, at 9:00 p.m. ET.

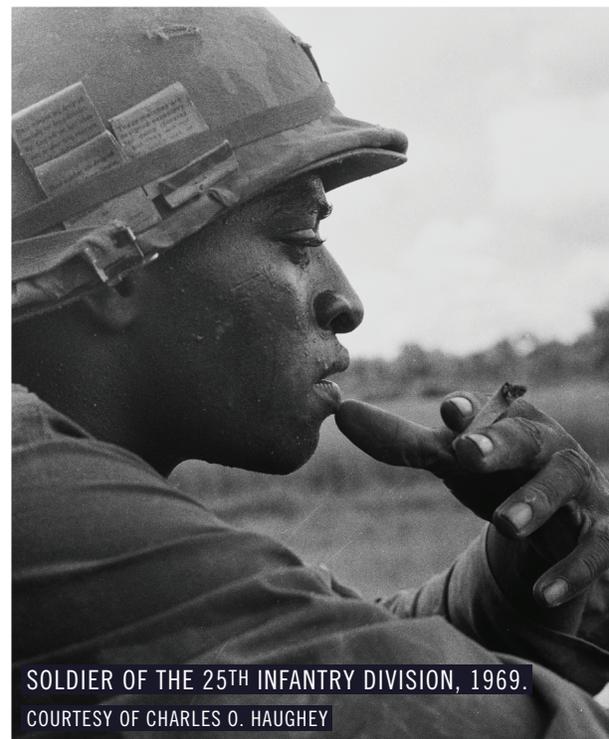
PRODUCTION CREDITS

The Vietnam War is a production of Florentine Films and WETA, Washington D.C. Directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. Written by Geoffrey C. Ward. Produced by Sarah Botstein, Lynn Novick and Ken Burns.

FUNDING CREDITS

Bank of America; Corporation for Public Broadcasting; PBS; David H. Koch; Blavatnik Family Foundation; Park Foundation; National Endowment for the Humanities; The Pew Charitable Trusts; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations; Ford Foundation Just Films; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; and

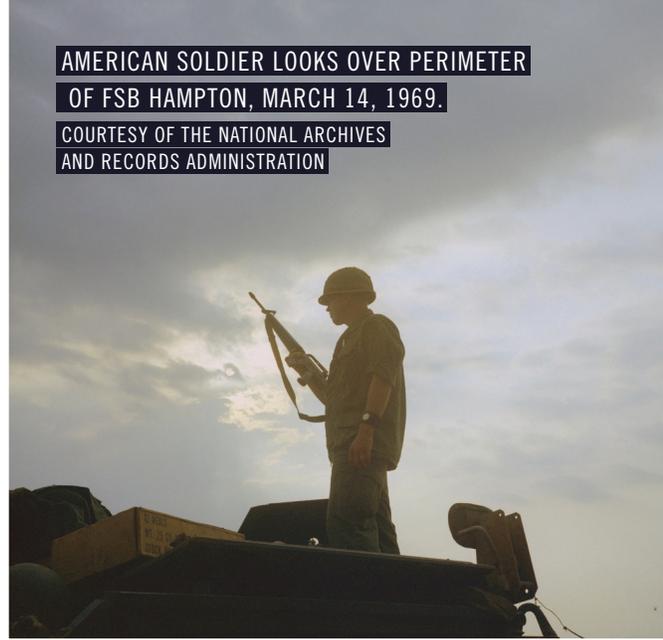
Members of The Better Angels Society:



Jonathan & Jeannie Lavine, Diane & Hal Brierley, Amy & David Abrams, John & Catherine Debs, Fullerton Family Charitable Fund, The Montrone Family, Lynda & Stewart Resnick, The Perry & Donna Golkin Family Foundation, The Lynch Foundation, The Roger & Rosemary Enrico Foundation, Richard S. & Donna L. Strong Foundation, Bonnie & Tom McCloskey, Barbara K. & Cyrus B. Sweet III, The Lavender Butterfly Fund

USING THIS GUIDE

The goal of this discussion guide is to help you facilitate deeper conversations around *The Vietnam War*, understand the complexities, and promote dialogue. This guide will help you engage your community, and it will best prepare you for a thoughtful event, utilizing resources and support from local and national organizations. Whether you are hosting a private screening or a large public community event, we hope that this guide prepares you to spark deep conversations about veterans' rights, patriotism and protest, the politics of the era, and more.



ENGAGEMENT AND SCREENINGS

Community Partners

Vital in strengthening outreach and engagement efforts, community partners can also make screenings more meaningful and impactful. Get your partners to the table early and rely on them as experts to inform your work, connect with their constituencies, and support and promote community events.

To ensure rich conversations and a thoughtful engagement approach, cultivate partners with different perspectives on the Vietnam War. Begin partnership outreach by connecting with the following: libraries, local humanities chapter organizations, active-duty military and veterans organizations, peace/anti-war groups, Vietnamese American organizations, religious organizations, high schools, universities and colleges, local history museums, conscientious objectors to the war, and civic groups.

The Vietnamese American community is robust and closely connected, and strong partnership outreach efforts can begin with local Vietnamese small-business owners associations, local churches, Asian American studies programs or clubs at local universities, fraternities and sororities, in-language local media and publishers, transnational adoption agencies, and community benefit organizations servicing Southeast Asians in public and mental health care management.

For detailed information on engaging the veterans community, please refer to [page 12 of this guide](#).

Work with partners to do the following:

- Provide advice and guidance on your plans and engagement activities.
- Have partners host or contribute to community screening/discussion events. Create other meaningful engagement activities that serve your community with your partners.
- Offer advice and address language or cultural barriers to understanding in order to create meaningful engagement activities for everyone (e.g., posttraumatic stress disorder [PTSD] and the idea of “mental health” is not a common concept for many Southeast Asians).



GENERAL WILLIAM WESTMORELAND AND PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON, APRIL 4, 1968.

COURTESY OF THE LYNDON B. JOHNSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVES

- Serve as local experts on panels or suggest representatives to ensure inclusivity and diverse points of view in the discussion.
- Provide content or support social media efforts around events or larger engagement activities.

Like the film itself, engagement efforts need to be detailed and multi-sided. Reach out to as many organizations as possible to maximize conversations about *The Vietnam War* and work with these partners to build an impactful campaign around the film.

HOW TO SET UP A SCREENING

The Vietnam War is a divisive subject that can invoke a variety of emotions. Make sure that when producing screening events you select diverse organizations with varying points of view. Be prepared to discuss difficult issues in a respectful manner, steering away from any angry rhetoric. This means selecting a host or facilitator who can manage a respectful dialogue among participants and the community.

- **Reach out to your partners:** For a screening event, partners may be able to do the following:
 - Serve as or provide advice on local experts for a panel discussion.
 - Provide opportunities to host the event.
 - Help you reach new audiences and share information to their networks.
 - Give your partners opportunities to host a table or provide additional information and resources at an event.
- **Recruit the right facilitator:** Recruit a host or moderator who can facilitate an interesting and respectful discussion after the screening, drawing out answers from the panel that are suitable for the audience. The role of the host is to keep the discussion moving while remaining neutral

and fair. Your host need not be an expert in the field, but rather someone who can facilitate discussion and create a safe environment where the audience members also feel free to voice their thoughts and pose questions. A good host or moderator should plan on previewing the screener in advance.

- **Select diverse panelists:** Recruit local experts and invite them to participate in a panel discussion or Q&A about issues brought up in the screener. Look at the screening topic and try to bring together a diverse range of panelists with differing views, including those from veterans organizations, the Vietnamese American community, and civic and humanities groups, as well as conscientious objectors. If you are hosting a panel discussion meant to engage veterans, consider an inclusive panel that can best support a safe and open conversation among veterans.
- **Anticipate potential problems:** Given some of the topics, you should prepare for differing opinions at your screening and participants who want to defend their beliefs. When possible, channel these moments into a productive dialogue with respect for those involved. Engage with your partners and stakeholders ahead of time to anticipate these situations—and have a plan in place on how to respond to them. Additionally, these screenings can also trigger heightened emotions. Plan to have at least one grief counselor on hand for any audience member experiencing emotional distress.
- **Allow for informal post-screening discussions:** Allow time for audience members to mingle after the screening, to informally continue the conversation and connect with one another.

Tips for the facilitator

- Preview the film clip(s) that you will use at the screening. Think about your audience, the panelists, and the questions you can pose for a respectful conversation.
- You don't have to be an expert. Your goal is to foster a conversation that dives into the subject matter and includes diverse points of view. Do listen with respect to panelists and keep an open mind while respecting the time for everyone to speak.
- At the event, be clear about your role as the facilitator—that is, to keep the discussion moving and to remain a neutral and fair voice that guides the event along. Accept questions and commentary relevant to the film or panel discussion only. Be prepared to respectfully but firmly redirect rhetoric.
- Inquire about proper names and phonetic pronunciation for guest panelists and community partners prior to the screening.
- Be respectful of language differences. Listen carefully to veterans organization terminology and the Vietnamese language, noting correct acronyms, spellings, and pronunciations.
- Be aware and respectful that a screening might create anxiety in those with PTSD (read on for more information on how to support those individuals).

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BY THEME

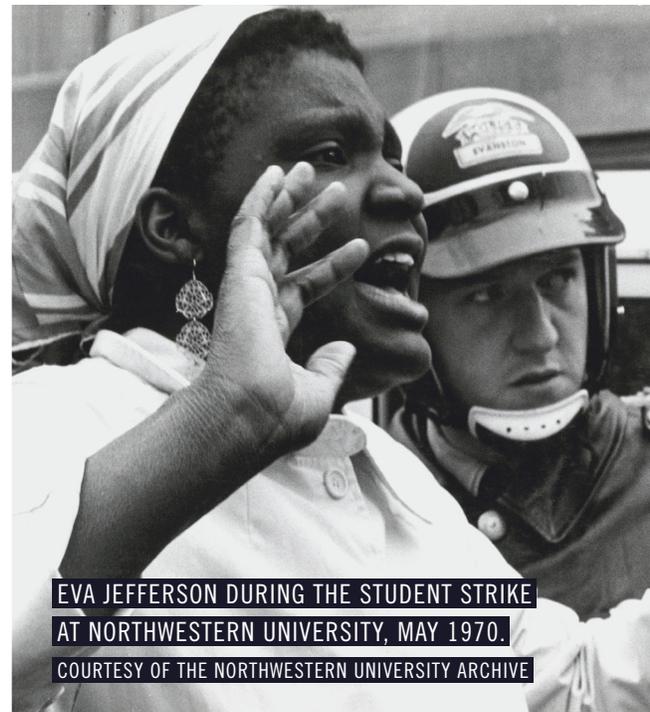
To facilitate a discussion using the series, here are some suggested questions that can act as a starting point to engage panels and participants.

General Topics

- What does the Vietnam War mean to you? What does *service* mean to you?
- Why is the Vietnam War still so divisive to many Americans?
- Why is it called the *American War* in Vietnam?
- Why did the North Vietnamese want to support communism? What role(s) did the South Vietnamese government play in this conflict?
- Watching the “Le Quan Cong” clip, you hear of how his siblings were killed one by one. Yet his mother encouraged her youngest son to join the fight. What motivated the Viet Cong to serve? What motivated young American men and women to serve?
- How did South Vietnamese protesters and the press view the conflict? What happened to North Vietnamese protesters who resisted communism?
- When veterans returned, they were not celebrated, particularly in the years that immediately followed the war. How did the Vietnam Veterans Memorial help veterans and the public come to terms with the veterans’ service? (For those who visited: What was your reaction when you visited The Wall? Why would Vietnam veterans want to return to Vietnam?)
- Why would second-generation Vietnamese Americans want to visit, work in, or move to Vietnam, and not their parents who fled the country more than 40 years before?

Journalism and Media

- Did the discrepancy between the media’s reporting of the war and the government’s official reporting affect Americans’ opinions of the war? What about in the case of North and South Vietnam?
- Journalist Joe Galloway says, “You can’t just be a neutral witness to something like war. It crawls down your throat.” What is the expectation for objective reporting in a time like the Vietnam War? How do we continue to reconcile those thoughts with conflicts today?
- How can the government’s need to maintain national security and the public’s right to know the truth ever be reconciled? In the case of North Vietnam, citizens were not told the truth about the war. How did this lack of knowledge and government propaganda affect Vietnamese opinions of the war?
- What impact, if any, did the media have on the outcome of the war?





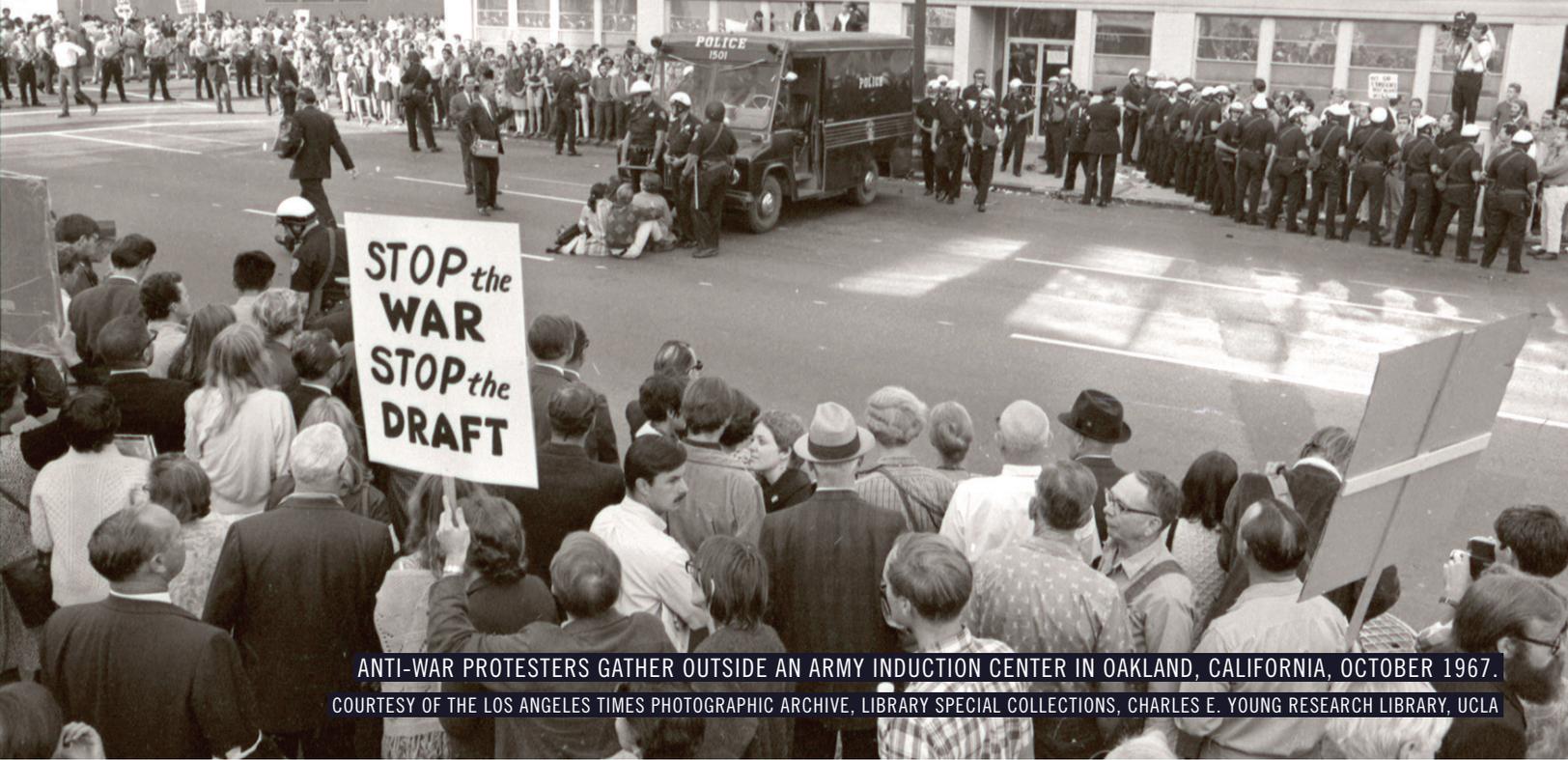
AMERICAN SOLDIER WITH HIS SIBLINGS BEFORE LEAVING FOR VIETNAM, 1965.

COURTESY THE CROCKER FAMILY

- One of the great turning points in the public's perceptions of the war was the release of the Pentagon Papers. How does Daniel Ellsberg and the release of the Pentagon Papers compare with Wikileaks? Or Edward Snowden? How do you evaluate the release of classified documents?
- How was America viewed by local Vietnamese journalists from the North and South?
- In the years after the Vietnam War, film and television programs depicted scenes of explosive violence through fictionalized narratives. For those who have seen movies like *Full Metal Jacket*, *Apocalypse Now*, and *Born on the Fourth of July*, what did these films or TV shows contribute to the general public's understanding of the Vietnam War experience? How did they benefit or hurt public opinion of Vietnam War veterans, anti-war activists, and Southeast Asian refugees?
- How is this documentary film different from other films on this subject?

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- What does service mean to you?
- What motivated American men and women to serve in the Vietnam War? To veterans: Why did you serve in the Vietnam War? Were you drafted?
- Why is there still debate regarding the events in the Gulf of Tonkin? How did leadership on all sides react to the incident and its aftermath?
- Teach-ins appeared on university campuses as a way to promote conversations about the war. When the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) held a rally in Washington, DC, with 25,000 in attendance, how did President Johnson react? Did this change anything?
- How did President Johnson react to the assault on the American embassy in Saigon? How did this reaction affect his leadership at this point in the Vietnam War? How did it affect the morale of the soldiers?
- Watching the "Le Quan Cong" clip, you hear of how each of his siblings was killed in the war. Yet his mother encouraged her youngest son to join the fight. Why?



ANTI-WAR PROTESTERS GATHER OUTSIDE AN ARMY INDUCTION CENTER IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, OCTOBER 1967.
COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE, LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, CHARLES E. YOUNG RESEARCH LIBRARY, UCLA

- How did the motivations of American and Vietnamese soldiers change over the duration of the war?
- How does America apply the lessons learned in the Vietnam War to the challenges facing us today?
- When veterans returned, they were not celebrated, particularly in the years that immediately followed the war. How did the Vietnam Veterans Memorial help veterans and the public come to terms with the veterans' service? For those who have visited, what was your reaction to The Wall?
- How have our attitudes toward our servicemen/women and veterans changed over time?
- How have our attitudes toward refugees who have served in American forces changed over time, if at all?
- To veterans: What was your attitude toward your superiors and direct leadership during the time you served? Did this change over time?

ANTI-WAR AND PEACE

- How did the anti-war movement change over time? Did the movement affect policy? Did it reflect public opinion or change it?
- For those of you who protested the war, what motivated you? Was there a particular moment or tipping point? What actions did you take to support your position? How do you feel about those actions now?
- How did the civil rights, women's rights, and environmental rights movements connect to the anti-war movement?
- For men who were of draft age during the war: What was your experience during the war? Did you serve in Vietnam? Were you drafted? Did you avoid being drafted? If so, how? Did you refuse to be drafted, risking going to prison? How do you feel about your experiences now?
- For those of you who protested the war, what did your family think of your participation in the anti-war movement? Was there a generation clash?
- Did you have any conversations with veterans or servicemen during the war?



NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY SOLDIERS ON THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL, 1969.

COURTESY OF LE MINH TRUONG/DOUG NIVEN COLLECTION

VIETNAMESE AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN PERSPECTIVE

- In what ways did the United States fail to understand the Vietnamese people and their history, culture, and government?
- Watching the “Le Quan Cong” clip, you hear of how each of his siblings was killed in the war. Yet his mother encouraged her youngest son to join the fight. What was the motivation to sacrifice her family for the war?
- How did some North Vietnamese learn that their family members were killed in combat? Why did it take so long for some families to be notified?
- In the “Weight of Memory” clip, North Vietnamese soldier Bao Ninh describes his homecoming after being gone for six years with no contact with his family. What was the reaction when some soldiers returned after being away for so long? How did these long periods of service without communication affect the morale of the soldiers and the North Vietnamese?
- How were the Vietnamese communists such an effective force, considering that they were fighting American troops with greater wealth and superior technology?
- What happened to Vietnamese (and other Southeast Asian civilians) who fought with the Americans and were sent to “reeducation camps” after the war?
- How did Vietnamese—both the South and the North—feelings change over the duration of the war? As the war continued, what did they think about the United States’ presence there?
- How were South Vietnamese soldiers treated when returning home from war?
- What were the costs of the Vietnam War? What happened to the country of Vietnam after the war? To the economy? What are the continuing effects today? How have Vietnam’s culture and economy changed today, as the country reenters the global marketplace?



AIR FORCE MAJ. JAY C. HESS, A RELEASED POW, REUNITES WITH HIS DAUGHTER
AT MARCH AIR FORCE BASE IN CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 1973.

COURTESY OF LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE, LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, CHARLES E. YOUNG RESEARCH LIBRARY, UCLA

- What did the United States and Vietnam gain by normalizing relations in 1995?
- How have portrayals of America and Americans changed in Vietnamese popular culture and news journalism since the end of the war? Have there been any noticeable changes in how Vietnamese people are portrayed in American popular culture and news journalism?
- How are visiting Vietnamese Americans viewed in Vietnam? Are they seen as Vietnamese, American, or something else? How does this affect their sense of identity and cultural belonging?
- The refugee camps were a traumatizing experience for people who fled for their lives. Instead of help, they were often held in limbo, waiting for word or for a lottery draw that would guarantee them escape to freedom. Many were stuck in the camps for years—for some, decades.
- How do you talk about the refugee experience with family and friends who may not be able to comprehend or empathize with it?

Homefront

- How did political and societal changes—the civil rights movement, the women’s movement—of the 1960s serve as catalysts for the divergent views on the Vietnam War?
- What is patriotism? Are we obligated to still hold the government accountable for its actions?
- Why is the Vietnam War so divisive to many Americans?
- How did the music of this time affect and reflect the feelings of those on the battlefield and at home?
- Does America apply the lessons learned in the Vietnam War toward the challenges facing us today—such as foreign conflicts, military deployments, and refugees?
- For Southeast Asian refugees: What is the most surprising thing you learned as you transitioned to American life?
- How did soldiers’ letters, tapes, home movies, and personal photos contribute to Americans’ understanding of the war?



SOLDIERS OF THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION NEAR SAIGON, JANUARY 1968.
COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

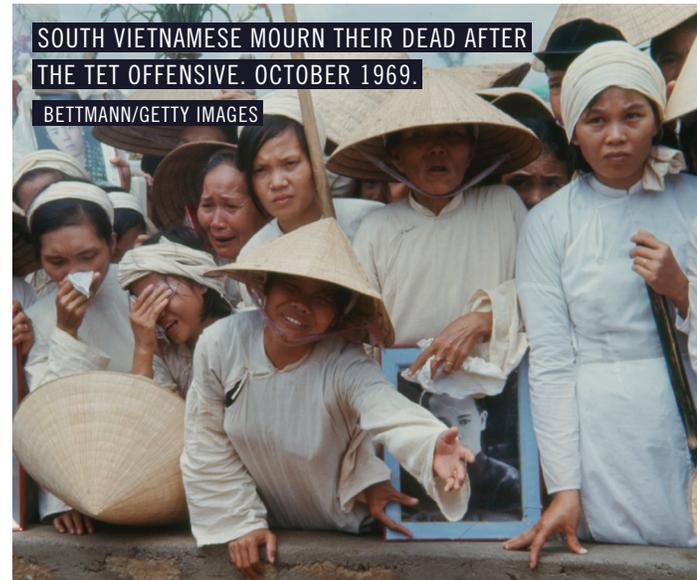
- Violent images of the war stuck with the public, and many Americans opposed this conflict. When veterans returned, they were not celebrated, particularly in the years that immediately followed the war. How did the Vietnam Veterans Memorial help veterans and the public come to terms with the veterans' service?
- For those who have visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial: What was your reaction when you visited The Wall?
- For Southeast Asian refugees: If you cannot find records of your family members' military service in the Vietnam War, how do you preserve the memory of the soldiers and civilians who fought?

For Vietnam Veterans Today

- What motivated you to serve in the Vietnam War? Were you drafted, or did you volunteer?
- What is it like to see enemy soldiers talking about their experiences during the war?
- How much have you talked about your experiences in Vietnam with your family? How did you begin to have those conversations?
- How old were you when you served in Vietnam? When did you serve? What branch of service were you in?
- What are some of the memories you have of your time in service during the war?
- What is the most surprising thing you learned during your service?
- For Southeast Asian soldiers who fought for the United States but who are not officially acknowledged as US veterans: What motivated you to fight with the Americans? Did you have a choice, or were you recruited? How old were you when you started, and how were you trained? Have you talked about your experience with your family? Would you feel safe traveling back to Southeast Asia?

Questions for the Audience

- What do you still want to learn about the Vietnam War?
- After watching the clips, what did you learn about the war? What surprised you or did not surprise you?
- Has this film helped you understand the Vietnam War from different perspectives?
- For younger people in the audience: What would you have done during the Vietnam War? Would you have supported or opposed it?
- For younger people in the audience: If you were a draft-age young man, would you have joined the military and fought in Vietnam or gone into the National Guard or Reserves? Would you have been able to get a deferment? Or would you have refused to be drafted and risked the consequences to show your opposition to the war? If you were a young woman who knew a draft-age young man, what would you suggest he do?



VETERAN ENGAGEMENT

The Vietnam War was a contentious period in the United States, and it took quite a toll: according to World History Center data, 9.1 million American military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era (August 5, 1964-May 7, 1975), and 58,178 lost their lives.* When returning home, veterans saw that the United States was torn apart by debate over the war.

Tips for Working with Veterans and Veterans Organizations

- Involve veterans groups from the beginning. Reach out to VA Medical Centers, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and more. Engage them as partners so that they can contribute to the structure of your engagement programming in a meaningful way for veterans.
- Listen carefully to the language used by veterans organizations, noting acronyms and how to speak their language.
- Develop shared goals with partners around outreach and engagement activities. Encourage all partners to have consistent messaging.
- Identify needs within the partner organizations and in the larger veterans community. Tailor programs and screenings to meet the needs of these groups.
- Seek to connect veterans with resources in the community and nationwide. Consider building a dedicated web page for veteran outreach, utilize social media engagement, and create tabling opportunities at public events.
- Have veterans' voices represented at your engagement activities. Make sure to have veterans on panels and participate in other programming.
- Always be respectful of communication with all partners and don't hesitate to initiate dialogue.

* Vietnam War Statistics. http://history-world.org/vietnam_war_statistics.htm (accessed August 16, 2017).

Selected organizations and resources available to veterans and their families

- **Lifeline for Vets**, (888) 777-4443
<http://nvf.org/veterans-request-assistance>
Connects callers to other veterans of America's armed forces. This hotline is "vets serving vets" and provides needed help to veterans, their friends, and their families.
- **National Center for PTSD**
www.ptsd.va.gov/public/where-to-get-help.asp
Provides resources to individuals seeking PTSD care for themselves or loved ones.
- **Vet Centers**, (877) WAR-VETS (927-8387)
www.vetcenter.va.gov
Provides readjustment counseling to Veterans, active duty Service members and their families in a safe, confidential environment. Over 70% of VA's Vet Center staff are Veterans of which the majority are combat Veterans.
- **Veterans Crisis Line**, (800) 273-8255
www.veteranscrisisline.net
Connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.
- **The Mission Continues**
www.missioncontinues.org
Empowers veterans facing the challenge of adjusting to life at home to find new missions.
- **American Legions**
www.legion.org
Focusing on service to veterans, service members, and communities, the American Legion currently has about 2.4 million members in 14,000 posts worldwide.
- **VFW—Veterans of Foreign Wars USA**
www.vfw.org
Fosters camaraderie among US veterans of overseas conflicts.



SUPPORTING THOSE WITH PTSD

WARNING: Some of these screenings can trigger PTSD symptoms. It's important to have counselors on hand and it's critical to have veteran partners involved. National Center for PTSD provides resources to individuals seeking PTSD care for themselves or loved ones. (877) WAR-VETS (927-8387) or visit www.ptsd.va.gov/public.

Veterans Crisis Line

Veterans in crisis and their families and friends can connect to qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Responders are live, not recorded, and can be reached 24/7.

(800) 273-8255, Press 1

Text: 838255

What is PTSD?

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can occur after a person has been through a traumatic event, such as the trauma of war. During a traumatic event, a PTSD sufferer thinks that his or her life or others' lives are in danger. He or she may feel afraid or not in control over what is happening around him or her. Symptoms of PTSD may occur in the weeks and months following an event, and they can persist for years as a chronic form of PTSD.

There are four categories of PTSD¹ symptoms:

- Reliving the event through flashbacks or nightmares;
- Avoiding situations that remind you of the event;
- Negative changes in beliefs and feelings, including fear, guilt, or shame; and
- Feeling jittery or always on the lookout for danger, which may be paired with trouble concentrating or sleeping.

When planning your screening:

- Literature about the event should have a caveat about the film excerpts and discussions, noting that it can trigger anxiety or anger, especially in those with PTSD.
- A skillful facilitator should acknowledge that the screening might cause intense feelings and anxiety for those who served in war.
- Turn to your partners and identify counselors and behavioral health specialists for the event. Have your facilitator acknowledge their presence at the top of the event, and let people know that they are there to provide extra support if needed.
- Provide a space that people can move to if they get uncomfortable—for example, another room in which they could speak to a counselor or take a moment for themselves.
- Please appreciate that a crowded space with limited exits or limited seating might cause veterans with PTSD to feel anxious or overwhelmed. Try to best plan for a space that is spacious and feels safe.

* U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. www.ptsd.va.gov/public/ptsd-overview/basics/symptoms_of_ptsd.asp (Accessed August 23, 2017).

OTHER ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Screening events are one important type of activity to help broaden understanding and perspectives of the Vietnam War. As you plan your station's engagement, consider these other activities as well:

Story Collection

Engage with your audience before and after the screening through story collection activities. With diverse partnerships, seek to capture stories of veterans and Vietnamese refugees from the war. Create opportunities for partners to capture stories with coaching and via toolkits, guidelines, field kits, or iPads. Collect and share these stories online and as on-air interstitial material, and work with partners to share them on social media as a way of creating stronger relationships. For a further extension of this activity, consider engaging high school students in story collection as an opportunity to better understand and learn about the Vietnam War.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions provide a unique way to open a window into the Vietnam War. One of the best ways to harvest meaningful content is by cultivating materials from the general public. Some ideal contacts for "crowdsourcing" your way into a terrific exhibit are veterans; their families; Vietnamese American organizations; anti-war groups; and cultural, historical, and veterans organizations.

Arts Projects and Workshops

Cultural programming that celebrates the rich histories of Vietnamese and American culture during the 1960s, expressed through the mediums of dance, crafts, and other art forms, can engage a broad audience. Stations can offer workshops in poetry, song writing, sculpture, painting, and dance, or they can host an art exhibition with work from professional artists or work created locally by local veterans, Vietnamese refugees, or others.

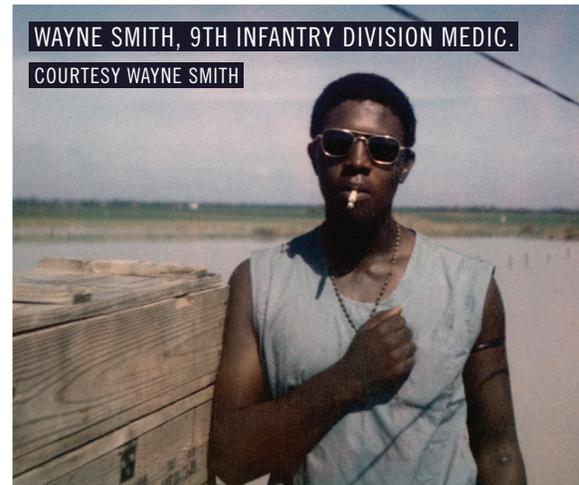
Host Conversations

Host small conversations—teas, dinners, coffees. Include Vietnam veterans, Vietnamese refugees, peace activists, and those who lost someone in the war. Facilitate the exploration of citizenship, assimilation, and varying perspectives on the Vietnam War. Use this opportunity to capture additional stories for a story collection project.

Viewing Parties

Encourage your community to host viewing parties. Viewing parties are opportunities to watch episodes of the film with friends and family.

Tips for promoting viewing parties: Invite neighbors and friends over to watch an episode (or several)



of *The Vietnam War* at your home, school, church, or community center. Just make sure you have a TV (and check your audiovisual equipment ahead of time). Plan to talk about the film afterward. Start a discussion by asking the attendees what they learned or what they found particularly emotional or moving. To get more formal, you can bring in a guest to lead the discussion.

Veteran Directed Engagement

Work with veterans organizations for meaningful engagement—from reading the names of fallen soldiers on Veteran’s Day or Memorial Day to story writing, poetry, and art-oriented projects with veterans. You can create meaningful conversations while honoring veterans’ service.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Official PBS Webpage

pbs.org/vietnampbs

The official PBS site for *The Vietnam War* film provides a robust interactive experience, including additional educational tools.

Official PBS Hashtag

[#VietnamWarPBS](https://twitter.com/VietnamWarPBS)

Use [#VietnamWarPBS](https://twitter.com/VietnamWarPBS) to join the conversation on social media.

The Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University

WETA is proud to be a partner with The Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University (VNCA). Stations that are recording stories and gathering memorabilia in their local communities are encouraged to consider donating collections to the VNCA or advising community members to donate directly.

For nearly three decades, the VNCA has collected, preserved, and provided researcher access to the history of the Vietnam War. Today, the VNCA is home to the largest collection of Vietnam War materials outside the US National Archives. Materials have been donated by veterans, government officials, scholars, and wartime participants from all sides of the conflict. This allows VNCA to provide researchers with access to materials that reflect the many different sides and viewpoints of the era. Through its Virtual Vietnam Archive, VNCA also provides free online access to nearly 7 million pages of digitized materials from our collections.

VNCA’s Oral History Project preserves an essential part of the history of the Vietnam War through recorded interviews with US veterans, family members, government employees, public officials, anti-war protesters, and participants from all sides of the war to include North and South Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere. To encourage continued study of all aspects of America’s Vietnam experience, the VNCA engages in a dynamic program of conferences, symposia, and events. Through these activities, the VNCA has brought together scholars, students, diplomats, statesmen, military professionals, veterans, wartime participants, and the interested public to discuss, debate, and further understand the complex events that shaped the United States during and since the Vietnam War. To learn more, please visit <http://vietnamlegacy.ttu.edu>.



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