

RESOURCES FOR FACING THE FOLLY AND THE TRUTH ON THE WAR IN VIETNAM

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Read Waiting For An Army To Die by Fred Wilcox, for sad history of soldiers and civilians exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. The Profiteers by Sally Denton and The Shadow World by Andrew Feinstein, for documentation on the grotesque systems allowing high profit weapons sales to encourage and drive warfare. The Forgotten Hero of My Lai by Trent Angers tells the story of Hugh Thompson, brave helicopter pilot who stood up to Geneva Conventions violations in 1968 and beyond.

Mayday Books at 301 Cedar in Mpls, 612-333-4719, for books like Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character by Jonathan Shay; Kill Anything that Moves by Nick Turse; Fire in the Hole by Michael Orange; Ideologies of Forgetting: Rape in the Vietnam War by Gina Marie Weaver; THE GREEN ZONE-The Environmental Costs of Militarism by Barry Sanders.

Google “Martin Luther King Jr. Why I am opposed to the War in Vietnam” to hear the speech, or read The Radical King by Cornel West. Google “Nixon’s War and Vietnamization”, or try “Lyndon Johnson’s Tapes” at www.bbc.com/news/magazine-21768668.

Beyond the Divide at www.quietislandfilms.com, a film about a Vietnam Marine Veteran and a long-time peace activist finding common ground. Google “Peace Crimes Backstage: The Minnesota 8” for TPT’s video on that important action. Feature length films include Born on the 4th of July, The Trial of the Catonsville 9, and more recently, The Post, about the Pentagon Papers.

Most Dangerous by Steve Sheinkin is a book for older students, secondary, telling the story of Ellsberg’s release of the Pentagon Papers. The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner by Daniel Ellsberg tells his experience during Vietnam leading him to full blown nuclear weapons concern.

Like sports? Pay attention to Nation sportswriter Dave Zirin, who writes regularly about, e.g., Dave Meggyesy leaving pro football in 1969 because the violence conditioned fans to accept the War in Vietnam; or Muhammed Ali losing his popularity when he announced he wasn’t going to go kill people who never told him where he could or couldn’t eat, sit on the bus, use the restroom, etc.

Go to Veterans for Peace, nationally, www.veteransforpeace.org, or locally, www.vfpchapter27.org. Also check out www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org

Larry Johnson’s SIXTY-ONE, available at www.shipwrecktbooks.com