

A Critical Analysis of Vietnam War in Comparison with Afghan War

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Abstract

Each conflict has components which mark for simple and uncomplicated evaluation to the previous ones. It has been American history that whenever it involved in any war, it had to come across much difficult and unpleasant situations. In the World War II, Vietnam was boondocks for American armed forces, and nothing much was important as far as an absolute struggle against Japan and American officials charged with the contours of the post-war world, was concerned. Still paradoxically, United States became involved in Vietnam even before the eruption of armed hostilities between the French and Vietminh. It is generally believed that the US has neither fought any war larger than Vietnam War nor has any of its war been criticized so far. And there is no weighing up of the sufferings. The toll in suffering, grief in resentful national commotion can never be put into a table. Today the US is again entangled in a war in Afghanistan which has entered in 13th year with no results and success in the offing. This paper is an attempt to analyze whether Vietnam War, fought 48 years ago, was indeed the first episode of today's Afghan War or not? The study will comprise of all the details of those times in order to bring out comparison between the two wars.

Key words: US, Vietnam, Afghanistan, China, World War

Historical context

Vietnam is situated in South East Asia where after a long period of hopelessness to the Chinese feudal empire, a period manifested by frequent uprisings, the Vietnamese people lastly won back their independence in the 10th century-following the revival of independence, the country steadily bowed towards the formation of a centralized monarchic state (Vietnam, 1973: 26). In the late 19th century, it became a French Colony and was occupied by Japan in IInd World

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Wars. Before the Second World War, the history of Vietnam can be divided in the following eras;

- **Century of National Struggle-** The years from 1847-1945 was the century of national struggle.
- **Establishment of Colonial regime-** The years 1897-1918 was the period when the establishment of the colonial regime took place.
- **Era of Economic Transportation-** The years 1919-1929- were the eras of economic transportation and the first landmarks of the national and democratic revolution.
- **Re-Grouping of National and Democratic Forces-** The years 1930-39 were the years of re-grouping of national and democratic forces.
- **Rapid Change Across the Globe-** From 1938 onward, the global situation changed very quickly, the fascist power in Europe and Asia, persuaded by submissiveness and even complicity of western governments, switched to offensive at a time when the IInd World War was about to break out. The Vietnamese popular masses, demonstrated a passionate political life and the Vietnamese people acquired a solidly-organized and skilled political party. These issues were to play a decisive role in the future course of events. The situation was therefore much more favorable than that of the Ist World War (Vietnam, 1973: 230).

Vietnam during World War II-August 1945 Revolution (1939-45)

From 1941-45, Vietnam was subjected to a Franco-Japanese double yoke, the French and Japanese, shared their endeavors in order to take advantage of the country's capitals to the maximum for sustaining "Law and order" and hold back the revolutionary movement. This complicity, on the other hand, did not keep them from chasing each their own strategies to strengthen their personal positions until ultimate conflicts. The People were writhing under the Franco-Japanese double-yoke. The discontent grew among rich farmers and land lords. Subsequently Viet Minh Front¹ was founded. It rapidly added fame among the laboring classes writhing under the Franco-Japanese double yoke. The year 1945 demonstrated a big defining moment because by the beginning of it, the defeat of Axis became noticeable; the Vichy government felt that the Japanese had suffered defeat after defeat in China as well as in the Pacific. In Indo-China, the gaullists, mainly, the military were thinking of defending the colonial regime.

In the summer of 1945, all over the country in North, South and Center in the country side and also among the ethnic minorities of the mountain areas, popular effervescence was at its apex and riotous activities, both politics and military were boosted. The fundamental subject was that the Viet Minh was leading and

¹ Abbreviation of Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh

synchronizing all these actions on a nation-wide scale. A revolutionary tidal brushed off the country throughout the country, mutiny had won absolute conquest. The revolution of August 1945 finished 80 years of colonial power, brought an end to the monarchy and reinstated Vietnam's national independence (Ibid: 235-250).

End of Second World War

By the end of the Second World War, when Vietnamese people had rested back their independence after nearly a century of unremitting struggle against French colonialism, the US imperialism had become the ring leader of the imperialist camp, dreaming of world hegemony and assuming the role of International Policeman. To stamp out the revolutionary movements, “everywhere on earth’ became one of the main goals of US global strategy, therefore the more through the struggle for independence and social renovation in Vietnam, the sharper the clash with the US imperialism which at last grew into a large-scale war. Washington has been facing people with a vigorous national tradition, who had waged a protracted fight, under the leadership of a battle-seasoned Marxist-Leninist party, against old colonialism. Thus the US imperialism has been compelled to use all its material, political and military means, all the tricks and schemes, either of its own contrivance or designed by European colonialism.

Direct American Involvement and American Intervention in Vietnam

Most of the American wars have either noticeable openings or based on hasty grounds, however, there was not a stipulated launch of the US war in Vietnam. To a greater sense, it can be said that the return of French Rule of Indo-China became possible because of the end of World war. America took many steps between 1950 and 1965 and hence crossed the threshold. In May 1950, US President Harry S. Truman (1945-53) endorsed an unpretentious programme of economic and military assistance to the French who were fighting to maintain the control of their Indo-China colony, together with Laos and Cambodia as well as Vietnam” (<http://www.englishillinois.edu/maps/vietnam/causes.htm>).

America became directly involved in Vietnam in 1955 when the first advisors reached. In 1960s, America considered Laos as far-flung, out of the ordinary and outlying, if they thought about it in any way. By the time, the US forces were engaged in an open dispute in South East Asia and that was the Vietnam War and it was Vietnam that American mind was paying heed. Logically, the central place was erroneous. Laos had been caught up in the conflict from the start and had remained so till the last part. As far as the diplomatic and political reasons are concerned, the American government concealed the level of US interest and

connection in Laos. The roots of the war in Laos, like that in Vietnam, returned to the Japanese *coup de main* of March 9, 1945, though had a contradictory entwine (Guilmartin, 1991: 35).

Vietnam War / Second Indo-China War

The Vietnam War was a fragment of a bigger regional discord, which bogged down the bordering countries of Cambodia and Laos, known as the “Second Indo-China War”. In Vietnam, this conflict is known as the ‘American war’. The war began soon after Geneva Conference that provisionally divided (1954) the Vietnam. The Vietnam War was fought between 1959-1973 in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. The controversy convoluted the Communist North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front (NLF) vs the “United States Forces and the South Vietnamese Army”. The Viet Cong was the South guerilla force that (with the buttress of the North Vietnamese), fought against the US and South Vietnamese forces. The American combat troops were sent in South Vietnam in 1965 which kept fighting until the cease-fire of January 1973. On account of Cambodia’s immediacy to Vietnam, the Vietcong army set up its bases there. Nonetheless, Cambodia stayed on the fence in the course of war; while the subsistence of these bases triggered US military forces to bombard the country heftily, along with the initiation of the covert bombing campaigns in 1969. According to the estimate of MSN Encarta, the sum total of bombs thrown on Cambodia during the war went beyond the amount that fell on Europe during the World War. On March 8, 1965, “3,500 US marines turned out to be the first American combat troops which had landed in South Vietnam and by 1968, over 500,000 troops were stationed there and the toll of American soldiers killed as reported every Thursday on the evening news, was over 100 a week”. The Operation Starlite was begun on August 18, 1965 as the foremost main American ditch of the war when 5,500 US marines smashed a Viet Cong monopoly on the Van Tuong Peninsula in Quang Nagi Province. In 1968- the North Vietnamese Army drew back into Laos and Cambodia (http://www.pbs.org/independent/len/refuge/war_Cambodia.html). The jet offensive of 1968 was a crucial decisive moment in the public life of the US and certainly in the history of palnet too. Fundamentally, as an outcome of its blow, the presidency of Lyndon Jhonson's, which had begun with a note of prudence, hopefulness, peaked in electoral feat in the elections of 1964, however came to an end with much disgrace barely 5 years later. Recovering from the abrupt shock of jet, Jhonson wedged to his guns at first, claiming that the American vow to South Vietnam should not be discarded (Guilmartin, 1991: 41).

It rose from a Vietnamese civil war into a partial global contradiction, in which the US was intensely occupied and did not finish in spite of the Peace Agreement held in 1973, until North Vietnam’s successful offensive in 1975 that ended in South Vietnam’s disintegration and the unification of Vietnam by the North (<http://www.infoplease.co/cer/history/A0850869.html>).

Nixon's Plans

The continued rise of American involvement appeared as Jhonson Administration, as well as the commander of the US forces, Gen. William Westmoreland assured the American public again and again that the next round of troops' increase would bring victory. The anti-war feelings began to rise. Many Americans opposed war on moral grounds. Others opposed it because they felt that it lacked clear objectives and appeared to be unwinnable. In 1968, President Lyndon Jhonson began his re-election campaign on the other side.

Richard Milhous Nixon (1969-74) became 37th US president in January 1969 with an affirmed Vietnam policy of peace along with slow disengagement from war and subsequently his campaign speeches had promoted a hidden arrangement to put an end to war. The most fundamental point of his plan was that the American people could not endure a major US presence on Vietnam land for much longer time. Jhonson's misery in the wake of 1968 jet offensive had made that profusely apparent as it was a resolute crossroads in the civic life of the US and as a matter of fact, in world history. Subsequently, the economic costs hastening high deficits and growing inflation of Jhonson's "Guns and Butter Policy" had to be tackled. Nixon's plans had 3 basic elements;

1. Gradually, US will withdraw from Vietnam, subsequently; the burden of the ground would be turning over to the ARVN who would obtain an inoculation of funds and equipment as compensations.
2. As domestically in short terms, Nixon had the desire to disseminate the critics, therefore, he premeditated to follow the "negotiations with the communists". Moreover, on the other hand, he wanted to bring an end to the US military participation on "Good Enough" terms in the long duration.
3. The third factor was the main key to the plan. The American exit was to be enclosed by a chain of spiky military escalations. Militarily, these were projected to ward off the balance of communists and to give the ARVN experience in large-scale operations. They were also intended as a stimulus to the communists to negotiate (Guilmartin, 1991: 42).

On January 15, 1973, Nixon directed a "deferment of offensive action" in North Vietnam which was afterward tracked the unilateral retreat of the US troops from Vietnam. The Paris Peace Accords were later signed on January 27, 1973, which formally put an end to US involvement in the Vietnam conflict. The Peace Agreements signed at Paris Peace Accords did not exist for very long. In early 1975, the North marched into South and fused the country under its domination very hastily. North Vietnam united the North and South Vietnam on July 02, 1976, to form the 'Socialist Republic of Vietnam'. The Communist rule continues in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the present day (<http://www.vietnam-war-Info/summary>).

The American combat troops were sent in South Vietnam in 1965. The Vietnamese civil war rose into a limited global conflict, in which the US was

deeply involved and did not end despite the Peace Agreement in 1973, until North Vietnam's successful offensive in 1975 which resulted in South Vietnam's collapse and the unification of Vietnam by the North (<http://www.infoplease.co/cer/history/A0850869.html>). On the whole, as an upshot of its impact, Lyndon Jhonson's presidency, which began with a note of cautions, sanguinity, maxed out in electoral victory of 1964 election, however, ended in the humiliation just about 5 years afterward. Convalescing from the immediate shock of jet, Jhonson stuck to his guns at first, vowing that the American commitment to South Vietnam should not be abandoned.

Turmoil of Vietnam War

In a chapter of a book, "Vietnam, Fundamental Problems" (1966: 80-83), under the title of "US aggression in Vietnam by Nguyen Vab Ba" states that the "United States is waging a war of aggression, the most barbarous, the most unjustifiable ever, against the Vietnamese people. The whole width of the Pacific Ocean separates Vietnam from the United States which never had any claim, either past or present, in this country. Never has any Vietnamese threatened in anyway the security of the United States. This is an armed aggression, carried on by an expeditionary corps, amounting to 330,000 men, not including the 7th fleet or the US forces, stationed in Guam and at the US bases in Thailand, who took a direct part in the operations. Never has any Imperialist Power sent outside its frontiers any army of such importance to attack a country in modest size; moreover the United States has brought in its wake nearly 50,000 mercenaries from its satellites and kept, trained and equipped for its own use a puppet army of half a million men. Thus nearly a million men armed with the most modern weaponry and placed under its command, sow mourning and ruin day and night on Vietnamese soil in North and South Vietnam alike. This aggression is directed against the Vietnamese nation, one that has been established for many centuries, against a people who, for the last 20 years, have been s relentlessly and valiantly fighting for their independence and freedom". This aggressions openly violates freshly signed international accords, including the Geneva Agreements of 1954 which were the outcome of an international conference at which the US was present. Ten years have elapsed, during which not a single day has gone by without a Vietnamese dying, shot by bullets, blasted by bombs, burnt by napalm, suffocated by gases or overcome by atrocious tortures. The bullets are American, the bombs are Americans.

US aggression in Vietnam is patently being carried out in a most barbarous manner. The US has gone to the length of declaring that Vietnam is a testing-ground for weapons and tactics which could be used against other countries. US entered Vietnam in an attempt to prevent the spread of communism. In 1950s and 60s, though many people in developing regions, including Vietnam (then part of French Indo-China) were interested in trying a communist approach to

government. During the years of US military involvement in Vietnam, American newscasters and editorships often described the country as small and far away. (Guilmartin, 1991: 12).

The Vietnam War had a distressing blow on the region's forest. The US forces cleaned great areas of forest, farmland and village with enormous bulldozers. They crashed 13 million tons of bombs, sprayed 72 million bites of herbicides and blistered gigantic parts of melaleuca forests in the Mekong delta through napalm bombing. While in the North West of Vietnam, logging increased during the war to deliver the manufacturing timber and to produce income for the war. Even at the moment, the unexploded artillery remains in a number of areas of Laos.

The nationwide unrest and instability during Vietnam War emerged with the demise of more than 58,000 Americans and thousands of Vietnamese 20,000 were wounded. Although difficult to confirm the casualties, yet for the Vietnamese may be approximately 900,000 to 1,900,000. It wrecked the political career of the US President Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard M. Nixon Johnson determined not to 'seek re-election' and Nixon was forced to resign in the subsequent Watergate Scandal (Thomas, 2009). Even though having connections within the American intelligence community, and his alleged respect for the democratic ideals, Ho Chi Minh remained incapable in "satisfying Washington to recognize the legitimacy of his independence movement against the French". The French Generals and their American advisors expected Ho's ragtag Vietminh guerillas to be beaten easily. But after eight years of fighting and \$2.5 billion in US aid, the French lost a "Key" battle at Dienbienpu and with it, their Asian empire. Having an aim of impeding the spread of Communism in South East Asia, America replaced France in South Vietnam while supporting the autocratic president Ngo Dinh Diem until his own Generals turned against him in a coup that brought political chaos to Saigon (Guilmartin, 1991).

Is there Any Similarity between Vietnam War and Afghan War?

To start with a story published in a newspaper back in 1970s that has been stated by Samsa (2010) in New York Daily News that the Gregor Samsa, the General Counsel of a "wiping out" company was in New York on business when "his head was smacked by a flower-pot being watered by one Dorothy Obdean, three floors exceeding the street level. This incident took place in 1970 while Samsa remained in comma for 40 years and woke up in the second week of June 2010. No sooner did he get up, he read the major newspapers with shock while thinking that for various reasons, they have tainted the name of Vietnam to Afghanistan. He continued reading the newspapers and noticed that except the change in name and little other negligible dissimilarities, everything else was the alike. Both the Washington Posts and the New York Times has described in the words of the poet Rajire Chandrasekaran that 'the Taliban have redeemed impetus in recent weeks, regardless of the early assertions of victory by the US marine'. Samsa perceptibly

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calmed down, as he was persuaded that they were talking about Vietnam. The war, Samsa was learning, was now in its 8th year. My God! How had this cropped up” (Cohen, 2010).

Like Jhon Keneddy, before him, Lyndon Jhonson inherited a range of problems from his predecessor. Vietnam was far from least among these (Guilmartin, 1991: 22). In the compliance of the orders given by Lyndon, on 5th March 1965, a campaign of aerial bombardment against North Vietnam under the code name of "Rolling Thunder" was started. Rolling Thunder and to a lesser extent the air campaign in Laos were the product of a 'long-drawn-out' dispute within the inner circles of the Jhonson administration (Guilmartin, 1991: 29).

It was October 7, 2001 when the US administration launched Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan with a plea of the 9/11 attacks made on Twin Towers which to a real sense reshaped the global politics. Afghan war is being fought today against a country that has been traditionally remote and peripheral to American interests. American twin strategy of war and reconstruction in Afghanistan has failed to achieve any remarkable success. The country has fallen into chaos, disorder, particularly in its southern and eastern periphery. American strategy in Afghanistan was shaped hurriedly in an atmosphere of anger and thus it became focused on ousting Taliban (Rais, 2011: 112-113).

Afghanistan is today's Vietnam. No question mark needed. In both cases of Vietnam and Afghanistan, the American people have become dejected by hammering more and more men and money into wars that lingered on for years, with no end in offing. The US military involvement in Vietnam persisted for 8 years (1965-1973) and in Afghanistan from 2001 to date. At present, several people pronounce 'Whether Afghanistan is America's 2nd Vietnam'? Each momentous foreign dispute since mid-1970s has more or less been inexorably weighed against Vietnam. In Ronald Reagan's first term, e.g; Washington buzzed with the assumption that EL Salvador might become his 'Vietnam' (Seib, 2009). America is reiterating the tragedy of Vietnam in Afghanistan. When American Generals felt that they were facing defeat, they found its justification. US Administration first of all, declared that the army of North Vietnam is entering through Cambodia and then it made covert attacks on Cambodia and finally an overt one. Today American administration is denying that there is no similarity between Vietnam and Afghanistan on the basis of following points;

- Vietnamese had not attacked America like US claims in case of 9/11
- Afghanistan has not shown up any unswerving resistance movement within the country

- In Vietnam, Allied forces were not operational as happening in Afghanistan

Although the above points draw attention to the differences yet Obama has not reflected to those aspects that are alike in both cases. America was involved in such a war in Vietnam which turned out to be murky with the passage of time. The

modern history divulges that undeniably, both circumstances are identical; as Obama has overlooked the fact that;

1. More troops were demanded by the American Commanders for Vietnam war to save their position, still it was unwinnable
2. America propelled half million military men in South Vietnam who sustained bombing on Hanoi and Haiphong in North and this war arrived at Cambodia (an American friend), despite the fact that the US military had tried to eliminate a protected triumph of Vietnamese warriors and had cut their supply lines too (*Daily Jang*, 2009, December 18).
3. The US had also been training Vietnamese army in South Vietnam
4. America has been making efforts to support the “Allied Governments” both in Vietnam and Afghanistan, widely seen as fragile and corrupt.
5. The situation in both countries and the insurgents have proved that the US has been busy in making an effort to have control of both fighting and governing at the grass root level (Seib, 2009).

US left Vietnam after a crushing and humiliating defeat. But by the time, it left Vietnam; Cambodia had been utterly blown up. Its financial system was browbeaten. Thousands of US soldiers were slayed and millions those who were injured, were destined to live the life as slothful and immobilized. Billions of dollars had been wasted on Vietnam War and so did happen in case of Afghanistan. Obama is at “Lyndon Moment”. Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-69), 36th US President preferred to continue and fight in Vietnam and hence embraced a mortified trounce. America had failed then and now too that unless the correct policies are assumed at precise moment, the results of war remains at loss. Obama’s Afghan policy may perhaps bear out as a cut-off point in the modern American history. The incident of 9/11 re-ignited the question of Pakistan and it is Pakistan that has suffered much in “Somebody Else’ war”. It sacrificed 35,000 people and has earned ‘suicide attacks, target killings, security threats, drone attacks with the demand of *Do More*’. The US government has not so far characterized its “operation”; and on the other hand, American forces along with their allies are considered foreign intruders to Al Qaeda and its partisans and the same was the case with Vietnam. Even to date, the US forces have failed to understand that it is impracticable to prevail hearts and minds of others if their existence is not accepted.

Vietnam also bore out to be a swamp for the US and Afghanistan is not an exception, rather could be worse despite the time and again negation of the US government. Vietnam comparison could be irksome. To critics, particularly those on the left, all the American interventions after Vietnam had been proved as sticky situation, nevertheless at times, the chestnut get nearer to the fact, and particularly, in the recent times, it looks as if the war in Afghanistan is all the same what happened many decades back in Vietnam (Bradley, 2009). On August 22, in *New York Times* op-ed Peter Baker asked, ‘Could Afghanistan turn out to be Obama’s Vietnam? His example represents contrast between L.B.J’s hopes and

promises of Obama administration. The Afghanistan metamorphosis is that over the time, it has become Vietnam (Cohen, 2010). If compared, there is more number of bombs plunged on Laos during the 'Second Indo-China War' than what was fallen on entire Europe during the Second World War.

Robert Greenwald has made a documentary film, "Rethinking Afghanistan", about Afghanistan which is a clarion call for peace. An article written in the daily Blast by Gail Sheehy, 'Can this film save Afghanistan', states that 'Many of us who demonstrated against the Vietnam War years ago, encompass a fatal case of *Deja Vu*' over Afghanistan as well as gaffe into our 9th year of bombing and occupation. Most of the US financial support is denoted for military purpose and we, in spite of everything are not endearing and captivating hearts or minds. Our noble prize winning President guaranteed to 'forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan', while on the contrary, until now, he has merely threatened to raise the number of our troops by tens of thousands". In this film, Greenwald and his team make inquiry to Afghans, "if American troops are really making them secured, setting free their women and steadily upgrading their traumatized country"? The answers were 'No, No, No', a thousand times, number of films and its gruesome metaphors of mutilated wives and starrng children for sale in displaced people camps is a graphic reflection of America's reliance on military occupation by foreign soldiers (<http://www.thedailybeats.com/blogs-and-stories-2009-10-10/can-this-film-save-afghanistan/full/>).

The US President Obama thinks that it is not true to compare Vietnam with Afghanistan, as according to him the US war in Afghanistan is backed by a wide-ranging alliance of 43 nations and contrasting Vietnam 'We are not facing a broad-based widespread uprising. American power in Vietnam had its own partnership of anti-communist allies, including 'South Korea, Phillipine, Australia, New Zealand, Thai Land and Laos"; as is the case in Afghanistan, the US provided "immeasurably more manpower than any of its allies in the Vietnam War" (Thomas, 2009).

Afghan war has proved even shoddier than Vietnam. For *horse d'oeuvre*, however, Vietnam was massively devastating in human terms; strategically, it was just a medium sized gaffe. It was frittering away the resources however, the war did not make America more exposed to enemy attack the Afghanistan war is as bad as the Vietnam War except for the ways in which it is worse While Vietnam war was fought for communism and Afghanistan for terrorism respectively. And in each case, the lapse was miscalculated about the intrinsic power of that force. In Afghanistan, America led proxy war against Soviet Union. They supported Mujahideen and helped in the creation of Al Qaeda; while spending on Vietnam led to the fuel inflation that was eventually subdued only with a stiff monetary policy that brought much employment. And the cost of Afghanistan was pooled even in the inflation-adjusted dollars. At \$100 billion a year (seven times the gross domestic product of Afghanistan), this war is feeding a deficit that will eventually take its toll in real human terms (politif.com/news/Worse-Than-vietnam-1677632-html-united-States).

A book titled, "Quotations Vietnam: 1945-1970", compiled by Willima Effroes and published by Random House Publisher, is an anthology of hundreds quotations, illustrating similar egotism and superciliousness, what is observed today. In this manuscript, if simply the title of Vietnam is altered to Iraq or Afghanistan, change Laos or Cambodia, Iran etc; change the names of our leaders the then to the names of our leaders today and the whole book could be re-issued and befall relevant today (<http://opinionnytimes>).

Conclusion

A number of Americans trust that Vietnam was a national policy howler, who took the lives of about 58,000 Americans and billions of tax dollars as it carved up the country at a time when it highly required being cohesive and thus left those pockmarks that are yet to be patched up. While others consider that Vietnam War was fought on the righteous ground, just like UN's effort that kept South Korea free. A brief look at the war itself depicts that it began quite gently by sending American advisors in order to support the South Vietnamese so that they may train their emergent army. The declared intention was to permit the South Vietnamese army to defy belligerence from the North, in order to safeguard their sovereignty as a democratic nation.

With the passage of time, the US administrators were changed, and so were the roles until it turned out to be a US-led and sponsored conflict. The number of American combat troops augmented radically and an enormous air war was carried out in an attempt to prohibit the growing resupply of the North Vietnamese divisions in the South. The South Vietnamese obtained financial aid from a number of nations; and Thailand, South Korea, Philippines, Australia and other contributed manpower. Conversely, the war was predominately an American 'Show'. As the 1960s started passing, the war divided up the US. Protests and insurrections broke out. The politicians overlapped both sides. By the late 1960s, US government had grasped that the conflict would be 'never-ending', and thus went through the negotiations with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese in Paris. As a sign of good conviction, the American combat policy developed into defensive operations. The ensuing lethal upshot on the spirits of the troop made the situation on the ground shoddier.

When in early 1970s, a peace agreement was accomplished; the American Congress gradually dragged the logistic support from the South Vietnamese. While on the other hand, Congress was already getting more concerned to get itself exonerated of the conflict-ridden question of Vietnam. The North Vietnamese, ignoring many components of the agreement over-ran the remaining areas controlled by South Vietnam. In April 1975, Saigon (the South Vietnamese capital fell and the triumph of North over South was complete leading to an inundation of refugees). The war had ended, however, the agony and bewilderment from this misinterpreted war remains to this day.

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The armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) would not have fought for such a long period as they did without US logistic and technical backing. US showed its grave concern in Vietnam and that involvement had serious repercussions as it did not only affect America but also the American renders the American perspective no less valid. Despite the fact that the impact of the war on the nations of South East Asia-Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia was immeasurable along with the sufferings of American army and governments, yet Americans have forgotten once again. At the end of the day, the United States which transpired from Vietnam was very different from the one which went in a matter of no small significance in global dealings.

America remains unaware to the cost of war, which has made effect on those families, other than military but Afghan people have witnessed 12 years of desultory exertion, messed up policies and most important the ineffectual and shady American-installed government. Though Vietnamese lose out on a basic discrepancy between the two; Vietnam was part of a larger conflict (the Cold War), between tangible geopolitical rivals, while Afghanistan is part of a larger war of (intangible ideas). If America does not combat the right war, then it is making a mockery of nerves and sacrifices of its soldiers. In contemporary times, the globalization paradigm is failing and the American attempts to operationalize do not inspire confidence. Unipolarity with a hegemon also appears to be problematic. The war in Afghanistan that was ostensibly waged to get Taliban out of power, for providing a safe haven to Osama bin Laden and AL Qaeda, had a strange mix of motives. But fighting what the American conservative sections of the society regarded as new enemies of the West require measures beyond the removal of an unwanted regime. The US and its allies were perhaps more sanguine about the permanent departure of Taliban from Afghan scene. Hence, the military operations to destroy or capture Taliban and fleeing Al Qaeda operative did not end with the removal of the regime. It can be said that Afghan war being fought in Afghanistan in present times is the same episode of Vietnam War where even regime change (from Bush to Obama) did not bring any change.

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