WHAT DO YOU THINK SEPARATES THE '60s? THE '60s IS A PERIOD WHEN THE CONTAINER BURST BURSTING OUT OF ALL THESE INcredible Energies-- CIVIL RIGHTS REVOLUTION... AND THE VIETNAM WAR. WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE '60s THEY SORT OF PUSH INTO THE '70s. A TUMULTUOUS DECADE "THE SIXTIES" TODAY ON A BIOGRAPHY OF AMERICA GREAT THINGS SOMETIMES APPEAR FIRST AS SMALL DISRUPTIONS IN THE NORMAL ROUTINE. ON FEBRUARY 1, 1960 FOUR FRESHMAN FROM NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE WALKED INTO A WOOLWORTH'S STORE IN GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA. THEY SAT DOWN AT THE LUNCH COUNTER "I'D LIKE A CUP OF COFFEE." "WE DO NOT SERVE NEGROES," THEY WERE TOLD. BUT INSTEAD OF LEAVING, THE STUDENTS STAYED. EACH DAY THEY RETURNED TO THE WOOLWORTH'S LUNCH COUNTER WITH MORE AND MORE SUPPORTERS JOINING THEM AND BY WEEK'S END, 1,000 STUDENTS MOST OF THEM BLACK, BUT A FEW WHITES DEMONSTRATED IN DOWNTOWN GREENSBORO. WITHIN TWO MONTHS STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SEGREGATION HAD BROKEN OUT IN 54 CITIES AND NINE STATES AND BY THE END OF THE YEAR SOME 70,000 PEOPLE IN 150 CITIES AND TOWNS HAD PARTICIPATED IN SIT-INS.
FROM THE BEGINNING

33 01:02:15:22 01:02:18:07 THAT THEY WERE MAKING HISTORY.
34 01:02:18:09 01:02:22:02 THE MOVEMENT THAT SWEPT THROUGH
THE SOUTH AND ACROSS THE NATION
35 01:02:22:04 01:02:24:15 IN THE 1960s
DID NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT.
36 01:02:24:17 01:02:27:05 ITS ROOTS REACHED BACK
TO THE AFRICAN AMERICANS
37 01:02:27:07 01:02:29:00 WHO HAD STRUGGLED
AGAINST SLAVERY
38 01:02:29:02 01:02:31:12 AND TO FREDERICK DOUGLASS
AND IDA B. WELLS
39 01:02:31:14 01:02:34:29 FIGHTING TERROR AND BETRAYAL
AFTER THE CIVIL WAR
40 01:02:35:01 01:02:37:17 AND TO THE ACTIVISTS
WHO'D OPPOSED JIM CROW
41 01:02:37:19 01:02:39:04 IN THE EARLY 20th CENTURY
42 01:02:39:06 01:02:42:21 AND MORE RECENTLY, TO THE
N.A.A.C.P.'s LEGAL VICTORIES
43 01:02:42:23 01:02:44:27 AND THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT
OF THE 1950s.
44 01:02:48:05 01:02:49:11 BY THE EARLY 1960s
45 01:02:49:13 01:02:51:26 AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS
ALL OVER THE SOUTH
46 01:02:51:28 01:02:54:15 THERE WAS A SPARK
OF RISING EXPECTATIONS.
47 01:02:54:17 01:02:58:02 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD
BEGUN TO COME AROUND.
48 01:02:58:04 01:03:03:00 PRESIDENT TRUMAN HAD TAKEN THE
FIRST STEP AFTER WORLD WAR II
49 01:03:03:02 01:03:05:02 DESEGREGATING THE ARMED FORCES.
50 01:03:05:04 01:03:08:15 IN THE MID '50s, THE WARREN
COURT'S LANDMARK DECISION
51 01:03:08:17 01:03:10:15 IN BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION
52 01:03:10:17 01:03:13:10 HAD DECLARED AFTER MORE
THAN HALF A CENTURY
53 01:03:13:12 01:03:15:14 OF LEGALIZED RACE DISCRIMINATION
54 01:03:15:16 01:03:19:29 THAT SEPARATE PUBLIC FACILITIES
WERE INHERENTLY UNEQUAL
55 01:03:20:01 01:03:22:23 AND WERE THEREFORE
AGAINST THE LAW.
56 01:03:22:25 01:03:25:05 PRESSURED BY THE BROWN DECISION
57 01:03:25:07 01:03:28:26 PRESIDENT EISENHOWER GRUDGINGLY
COMMITTED FEDERAL TROOPS
58 01:03:28:28 01:03:31:12 TO ESCORT
AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS
59 01:03:31:14 01:03:34:00 WHO WENT TO REGISTER
AT FORMERLY ALL-WHITE
60 01:03:34:02 01:03:38:01 LITTLE ROCK HIGH SCHOOL
IN ARKANSAS.
61 01:03:38:03 01:03:41:00 IT SEEMED THAT A SECOND
RECONSTRUCTION WAS UNDERWAY.
62 01:03:41:02 01:03:44:25 THE MOVEMENT HAD MORE MONEY,
MORE FEDERAL SUPPORT
63 01:03:44:27 01:03:47:05 MORE GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION
64 01:03:47:07 01:03:49:24 AND A GROWING ARMY
OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS.

In 1960, political organizer Ella Baker had helped the students to form their own group--the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Meanwhile, Reverend Martin Luther King became the movement's charismatic leader. By the early '60s, hundreds of white volunteers--students, clergy, lay people--moved by King's appeal to their consciences had joined thousands of African Americans in the struggle.

The revolution demanded activist's courage in the face of potentially deadly violence.

In May of 1961, the Congress for Racial Equality organized Freedom Rides on buses from Washington to New Orleans as a direct action attempt to de segregate interstate transportation. In town after town, as they moved through the Deep South, the Freedom Riders were threatened, mobbed, beaten and jailed.

President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert, the attorney general, watched closely as the movement grew. But they worried about alienating powerful white Southern Democrats.

In truth, the Kennedy brothers were against communism and in the cold war. The Freedom Riders were then in dismantling segregation at home.

While the president sent a secret invasion force on a disastrous mission,
TO CUBA'S BAY OF PIGS

AND WENT TO THE BRINK
OF NUCLEAR WAR

OVER THE INSTALLATION
OF SOVIET MISSILES IN CUBA

HE DRAGGED HIS FEET
ON CIVIL RIGHTS.

KENNEDY'S INACTION
INFURIATED BLACK ACTIVISTS
LIKE JAMES BALDWIN
AND MALCOLM X

ALREADY IMPATIENT WITH THE PACE
AND DIRECTION OF CHANGE.

"BACK OFF THE CAMPAIGN
OF DIRECT ACTIONS"

THE KENNEDYS TOLD
CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS.

"FOCUS ON VOTER REGISTRATION."

MOVEMENT VETERANS WERE RELUCTANT
TO GIVE UP ANY TACTIC

BUT THEY DID SCALE UP
VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

IN THE SOUTHERN TOWNS AND CITIES

WHERE WHITES HAD
LONG PREVENTED BLACKS

FROM EVEN REGISTERING TO VOTE.

WHITES RESPONDED
WITH INTIMIDATION

AND TERROR AND MURDER.

HARASSED, ASSAULTED, SHOT AT

SNCC ACTIVISTS WHO WORKED
IN THE SOUTH

MARveled AT THE COURAGE
OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE

WHO GAVE THEM FOOD AND
SHELTER AT SUCH GREAT RISK.

THE SNCC ACTIVISTS

DETERMINED TO PUT THEIR LIVES
ON THE LINE FOR JUSTICE.

IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA,
IN MAY OF 1963

POLICE CHIEF BULL CONNOR

TURNED FIRE HOSES
AND ATTACK DOGS LOOSE

ON CROWDS OF DEMONSTRATING
SCHOOL CHILDREN.

(people screaming)

IT WAS HARD TO TURN AWAY

WHEN THE TELEVISION NETWORKS
BROADCAST IMAGES LIKE THIS ONE.

THESE KIND OF EVENTS
FINALLY PUSHED PRESIDENT KENNEDY

TO ANNOUNCE THAT
HE WOULD INTRODUCE

MAJOR CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION.

WE ARE CONFRONTED PRIMARILy
WITH A MORAL ISSUE.

IT IS AS OLD AS THE SCRIPTURES
AND AS CLEAR AS
THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION.

THE HEART OF THE QUESTION IS
WHETHER ALL AMERICANS
ARE TO BE AFFORDED
EQUAL RIGHTS AND
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

( singing "We Shall Overcome"

BY AUGUST OF 1963,
A NATIONAL TELEVISION AUDIENCE
WATCHED LIVE ON ALL THREE NETWORKS
AS MARTIN LUTHER KING LED
THE MASSIVE MARCH ON WASHINGTON
AND TOLD ABOUT HIS DREAM.
I HAVE A DREAM, THAT ONE DAY,
THIS NATION WILL RISE UP
AND LIVE OUT THE TRUE MEANING
OF ITS CREED

THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.

A NEW COMMITMENT, A NEW SPIRIT
BUT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS
ASSASSINATED IN NOVEMBER.
THE TORCH PASSED TO THE NEW
PRESIDENT, LYNDON JOHNSON.
NOW, JOHNSON WAS
SINCERELY DEDICATED
TO ENDING LEGAL DISCRIMINATION,
BUT HE WAS ALSO CALCULATING.
HE HOPED TO GO DOWN
AS ONE OF THE GREATEST
PRESIDENTS IN HISTORY

AND HE BELIEVED THAT HE COULD
MAKE HIS REPUTATION FOR ALL TIME
ON THE CAUSE OF CIVIL RIGHTS.
CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION
COULD BE THE CORNERSTONE
OF A LARGER PROGRAM OF REFORM
A PROGRAM TO REBUILD THE CITIES,
TRAIN THE POOR FOR JOBS
PROVIDE HEALTH CARE
TO INDIGENT AND ELDERLY PEOPLE
TO DECLARE WAR ON POVERTY
AND BRING ABOUT A GREAT SOCIETY.
WE ARE GOING TO BUILD A GREAT
SOCIETY, WHERE NO MAN OR WOMAN
ARE THE VICTIM OF FEAR
OR POVERTY OR HATRED.
JOHNSON WAS A HUMAN VOLCANO,
A CONTRADICTORY PERSONALITY
WHO EMBODIED THE DEEP
CONFLICTS OF HIS TIME.
FULL OF GOOD INTENTIONS AND STRONG BELIEFS
HE ALSO HAD A HUGE EGO AND A LEGENDARY CAPACITY FOR VULGARITY AND MANIPULATION.
A PATRIOT, A PRAGMATIST AND A SELF-DECEIVER
HE WAS BOTH GOOD OLD BOY AND GENIUS POLITICIAN.
KENNEDY'S SOPHISTICATED CIRCLE CALLED HIM "UNCLE CORN PONE."
BUT HE WAS ALSO A MASTER MANIPULATOR TO THE SENATORS WHO HAD KNOWN HIS POWER AS MAJORITY LEADER.
JOHNSON'S PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY, GEORGE REEDY RECALLED THAT THERE WAS NO SENSE DESCRIBED AS A PLEASANT MAN.
HIS MANNERS WERE ATROCIOUS, NOT JUST SLOVENLY BUT FREQUENTLY CALCULATED TO GIVE OFFENSE.
"AND YET AT THE SAME TIME REEDY SAID, "JOHNSON WAS CAPABLE OF DOING SOMETHING"
"SO MAGNIFICENT THAT ALL OF HIS NASTY CHARACTERISTICS WOULD FADE."
THE ACT BANNED RACE DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS--
RESTAURANTS AND THEATERS AND HOTELS AND MOTELS--
AND OUTLAWED SEGREGATION IN STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS LIKE SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES AND PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.
IT GAVE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT NEW POWERS TO ENFORCE CITIZENS' CIVIL RIGHTS AND IT ESTABLISHED A COMMISSION TO HANDLE DISCRIMINATION IN PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT.
AND WITH A WORD INSERTED ALMOST AS A JOKE A PROVISION THAT WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT
NOBODY FORESEW AT THE TIME.
THE ACT EVEN BANNED DISCRIMINATION.
THE ACT EVEN BANNED DISCRIMINATION ON ACCOUNT OF SEX.
IN JOHNSON'S WORDS: "THE REVOLUTION HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN THE BOOKS OF LAW."
BUT FOR SNCC VOLUNTEERS WHO HAD LIVED WITH THE FEAR AND REALITY OF BLOODY VIOLENCE.
WHO HAD LIVED WITH THE FEAR AND REALITY OF BLOODY VIOLENCE.
WHO HAD SEEN THE EFFECTS ON AFRICAN AMERICANS.
OF THE GRINDING POVERTY AND DENIAL OF BASIC OPPORTUNITY.
THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT WAS A HALFWAY MEASURE.
IT WAS JUST TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.
WHEN THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY.
A SNCC-LED GROUP.
WENT TO THE DEMOCRAT'S 1964 PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTION.
IN ATLANTIC CITY AND CHALLENGED.
THE ALL-WHITE MISSISSIPPI STATE PARTY'S DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS.
JOHNSON WAS FURIOUS.
HE TRIED TO GET THE FREEDOM DEMOCRATS TO GO HOME AND QUIT SPOILING HIS CONVENTION.
FANNIE LOU HAMER, A FORMER SHARECROPPER AND THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF SLAVES.
JOHNSON'S REACTION AS BETRAYAL.
IN 1963, HAMER HAD BEEN BEATEN NEARLY TO DEATH JUST FOR TRYING TO REGISTER VOTERS IN MISSISSIPPI.
"I QUESTION AMERICA," SHE SAID AS NATIONAL TELEVISION AUDIENCES WATCHED, RIVETED.
IS THIS AMERICA, THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE?
WHERE OUR LIVES BE THREATENED DAILY, BECAUSE WE WANT TO LIVE AS DECENT HUMAN BEINGS IN AMERICA?
Scharff: ANOTHER SNCC VOLUNTEER, STOKELY CARMICHAEL.
PUT THE MATTER DIFFERENTLY.
"BLACK PEOPLE," HE SAID,
"HAD LEARNED
227 01:11:35:00 01:11:38:07 THAT THEY COULD NOT RELY ON THEIR SO-CALLED WHITE ALLIES."
228 01:11:38:09 01:11:41:18 AFRICAN AMERICANS NEEDED TO LEARN TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES
229 01:11:41:20 01:11:43:23 TO DEVELOP BLACK POWER.
230 01:11:47:26 01:11:49:07 Carmichael:
THE REAL PROBLEM WITH VIOLENCE
231 01:11:49:09 01:11:52:13 IS THAT WE HAVE NEVER BEEN VIOLENT.
232 01:11:52:15 01:11:55:12 WE HAVE BEEN TOO NONVIOLENT, TOO NONVIOLENT...
234 01:11:59:14 01:12:01:19 Scharff:
IT APPEARED THAT
THE INTERRACIAL COALITION
235 01:12:01:21 01:12:04:19 THAT POWERED THE MOVEMENT WAS BEGINNING TO UNRAVEL.
236 01:12:06:09 01:12:09:11 AND IN TRUTH, THE PRESIDENT, THEIR MOST POWERFUL ALLY
237 01:12:09:13 01:12:11:14 DID HAVE OTHER THINGS ON HIS MIND.
238 01:12:11:16 01:12:15:13 FAR FROM ATLANTIC CITY OR WASHINGTON OR MISSISSIPPI
239 01:12:15:15 01:12:18:02 IN THE DIVIDED SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRY OF VIETNAM
240 01:12:18:04 01:12:21:26 THE UNITED STATES WAS INVOLVED IN A CIVIL WAR.
241 01:12:21:28 01:12:26:29 IN 1964, FEW AMERICANS COULDN'T LOCATE VIETNAM ON A MAP
242 01:12:27:01 01:12:28:17 BUT THE ROOTS OF THE CONFLICT
243 01:12:28:19 01:12:32:00 REACHED BACK TO DECISIONS MADE DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II.
244 01:12:32:02 01:12:33:20 PRESIDENTS FROM TRUMAN ON
245 01:12:33:22 01:12:36:24 SAW VIETNAM AS A STRATEGIC BATTLEGROUND IN THE COLD WAR.
246 01:12:39:25 01:12:43:05 THE U.S. HAD BEEN SENDING MONEY AND MILITARY SUPPLIES
247 01:12:43:07 01:12:44:14 TO VIETNAM SINCE THE 1940s
248 01:12:44:16 01:12:46:16 TO AID A FRENCH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT
249 01:12:46:18 01:12:50:03 FIGHTING AGAINST COMMUNIST NATIONALISTS LED BY HO CHI MINH
250 01:12:50:05 01:12:53:00 VIETNAM'S MOST VISIBLE AND POPULAR LEADER.
251 01:12:53:02 01:12:56:06 HO WANTED INDEPENDENCE FOR VIETNAM.
252 01:12:58:07 01:13:00:12 WHEN HO'S COMMUNIST TROOPS DECIMATED FRENCH FORCES
253 01:13:00:14 01:13:02:15 AT THE BATTLE OF DIEN BIEN PHU
254 01:13:02:17 01:13:04:28 THE FRENCH WITHDREW FROM VIETNAM.
255 01:13:05:00 01:13:08:25 HO CHI MINH WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE ALLOWED TO PRESIDE
He believed he’d won on the battlefield.

Instead, the United States insisted that the country be partitioned, with Ho’s forces moving north and a noncommunist government to be established in the south.

The result was a civil war as Ho fought ruthlessly to reunify the country he believed had been split in two and stolen by imperialists.

President Eisenhower had argued that the United States had to make a stand in Vietnam or risk the fall of Asian countries to communism.

President Kennedy increased the aid and began to commit American advisors.

By mid-1964, more than 20,000 of those supposedly noncombatant soldiers were in Vietnam.

But the American-backed government in South Vietnam headed by Ngo Dinh Diem, was weak, corrupt and had never attracted the support of the majority of its people.

When a Buddhist monk burned himself to death to protest the Diem government’s actions, the president’s powerful sister-in-law, Madame Nhu joked that she’d be glad.
TO PROVIDE THE MUSTARD

289 01:14:44:27 01:14:46:17 FOR THE MONK'S NEXT BARBECUE.
290 01:14:48:07 01:14:51:07 IN THE 1960s, MOST AMERICANS
DID BELIEVE IN THE NECESSITY
291 01:14:51:09 01:14:52:27 OF FIGHTING COMMUNISM.
POUNDED HOME THE MESSAGE
293 01:14:55:21 01:14:57:26 OF A COMMUNIST THREAT
ON A DAILY BASIS.
294 01:14:57:28 01:15:00:08 JOHNSON'S POLICY ADVISORS
ALL AGREED
295 01:15:00:10 01:15:04:10 THAT HE COULDN'T ABANDON SOUTH
VIETNAM TO A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER.
296 01:15:04:12 01:15:06:24 INDEED, THEY SAID,
HE SHOULD RATCHET UP THE WAR
297 01:15:06:26 01:15:09:23 AGAINST HO CHI MINH AND
HIS SUPPORTERS IN THE SOUTH--
298 01:15:09:25 01:15:12:13 GUERRILLA FIGHTERS
KNOWN AS THE "VIETCONG"--
299 01:15:12:15 01:15:14:16 IF JOHNSON HOPED TO WIN THE WAR.
300 01:15:16:03 01:15:17:21 WELL, LYNDON JOHNSON
301 01:15:17:23 01:15:20:07 WASN'T GOING TO BE THE FIRST
AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO LOSE A WAR
302 01:15:20:09 01:15:21:22 BUT HE WANTED
TO PROCEED GRADUALLY
303 01:15:21:24 01:15:23:27 RATHER THAN TO DECLARE WAR
AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM
304 01:15:23:29 01:15:25:13 AND COMMIT ENORMOUS RESOURCES
305 01:15:25:15 01:15:28:22 AND HUGE NUMBERS OF AMERICAN
SOLDIERS TO FIGHTING A WAR.
BEGAN WITH A LIE.
307 01:15:33:28 01:15:37:07 IN AUGUST OF 1964,
USING A TRUMPED-UP ATTACK
308 01:15:37:09 01:15:41:25 AGAINST AN AMERICAN SHIP IN
THE GULF OF TONKIN AS AN EXCUSE
309 01:15:41:27 01:15:44:03 JOHNSON GOT CONGRESS
TO PASS A RESOLUTION
310 01:15:44:05 01:15:45:21 GIVING HIM A FREE HAND
311 01:15:45:23 01:15:48:24 TO DO WHATEVER HE CHOSE TO DO
IN VIETNAM.
312 01:15:48:26 01:15:53:06 BY THE TIME THE UNITED STATES
FINALLY ADMITTED DEFEAT IN 1973
313 01:15:53:08 01:15:55:07 JOHNSON AND HIS SUCCESSOR,
RICHARD NIXON
314 01:15:55:09 01:15:59:28 HAD SENT MORE THAN
TWO MILLION AMERICAN TROOPS
315 01:16:00:02 01:16:03:06 DROPPED SEVEN MILLION TONS
OF BOMBS
316 01:16:03:08 01:16:05:10 WHEN ONLY
TWO MILLION TONS OF BOMBS
317 01:16:05:12 01:16:07:11 HAD FALLEN
IN ALL OF WORLD WAR II.
318 01:16:07:13 01:16:09:04 THEY'D SENT TRANSPORT PLANES
319 01:16:09:06 01:16:11:25 TO DROP A MILLION POUNDS
OF TOXIC CHEMICALS
DESTROYING HALF OF VIETNAM'S FORESTS.

HUNDREDS OF VIETNAMESE HAMLETS AND VILLAGES WERE DESTROYED.

AND MILLIONS OF VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS HAD DIED.

OVER 58,000 AMERICANS WERE KILLED

AND AN UNTOLD NUMBER OF AMERICAN TROOPS

RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES

PERMANENTLY SCARRED PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY.

ONLY TWO SENATORS VOTED AGAINST THE TONKIN GULF RESOLUTION

BUT IN TIME, MILLIONS OF AMERICANS CAME TO SEE THAT MEASURE AS THE FATAL STEP INTO A WAR THAT MADE AMERICANS WONDER ABOUT THE WISDOM OF TRYING TO FIGHT COMMUNISM EVERYWHERE.

AND THAT HAD BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL TENET OF THE COLD WAR.

VIETNAM DEVASTATED THE HOPE AND THE IDEALISM SYMBOLIZED BY THE SIT-INS AND BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT.

(rockets firing)

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES NOW WENT NOT INTO REBUILDING CITIES OR ENDING DISCRIMINATION

BUT, INSTEAD, INTO THE WAR.

IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN GUNS AND BUTTER, GUNS WON.

(cannon thundering)

NOBODY REALLY KNEW WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO WIN THE WAR.

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE MEANT TO KEEP THE PROMISE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR VIETNAM BUT WAS THAT THE SAME AS KEEPING NONCOMMUNIST OFFICIALS IN POWER?

DID WINNING REQUIRE WIPING OUT THE VIETCONG OR OVERTHROWING HO CHI MINH AND REUNIFYING VIETNAM?

WITHOUT CLEAR OBJECTIVES EVEN KNOW HOW TO WIN?
THE MEN AROUND JOHNSON BURIED THEIR DOUBTS.

THEY TRIED TO TAKE ALL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AT THEIR MOST OPTIMISTIC AND IF THE NEWS FROM THE FRONT WASN'T GOOD WELL, THEY JUST MADE UP SOME GOOD NEWS LIKE THE NOTORIOUS BODY COUNTS--

THE AGGREGATE FIGURES OF DEAD BODIES FOUND AFTER BATTLES WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENEMY TROOPS OR MIGHT HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY CIVILIANS--

LIKE THE NOTORIOUS BODY COUNTS--

THE AGGREGATE FIGURES OF DEAD BODIES FOUND AFTER BATTLES WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENEMY TROOPS OR MIGHT HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY CIVILIANS--

THE AMERICAN PROBLEM--

IN A STRANGE COUNTRY, IN A TIME OF CIVIL WAR

DEFENDING AN UNSTABLE REGIME IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY

AMERICANS NEVER KNEW WHO WAS FRIEND AND WHO WAS ENEMY.

THE VIETCONG AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY, HOWEVER WERE FIGHTING ON THEIR HOME TURF, WITH CLEAR PURPOSES--

REUNIFY THE COUNTRY AND WIN INDEPENDENCE.

UNDENIABLY, MANY WERE ALSO FIGHTING TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT

AND CERTAINLY THEIR METHODS COULD BE AS TERRIBLE

AS THOSE OF THEIR ENEMIES.

BUT EVERY BOMB THAT DROPPED STRENGTHENED HO'S RESOLVE TO KEEP FIGHTING UNTIL AMERICAN WILL FAILED.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND HIS GENERALS KEPT TELLING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT THE WAR WAS GOING WELL.

"IT WAS ALMOST WON."

"THERE WAS A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL."

BUT WHO WAS GOING TO FIGHT THIS FOE?

THE SOLDIERS WERE YOUNG AND, DISPROPORTIONATELY, THEY WERE NONWHITE AND POOR.

BLACK ACTIVISTS FURIOUSLY
DENOUNCED A WAR

NATION'S MOST OPPRESSED PEOPLE

385 01:19:06:17 01:19:10:18  WERE ASKED TO MAKE
THE GREATEST SACRIFICES.

SOCIETY HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN

387 01:19:14:27 01:19:17:05  ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF VIETNAM

388 01:19:17:07 01:19:21:00  MAKING THE POOR--
WHITE AND NEGRO

389 01:19:21:02 01:19:24:06  BEAR THE HEAVIEST BURDENS,
BOTH AT THE FRONT AND AT HOME.

390 01:19:26:28 01:19:30:28  AS DRAFT CALLS ROSE AND ROSE,
THE MORE AFFLUENT DRAFT-AGED MEN

391 01:19:31:00 01:19:33:03  FOUND WAYS
TO GET OUT OF SERVING.

392 01:19:34:26 01:19:38:10  POOR BOYS WERE NEARLY TWICE AS
LIKELY AS THEIR BETTER-OFF PEERS

393 01:19:38:12 01:19:41:21  TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY,
TO GO TO VIETNAM AND SEE COMBAT.

394 01:19:41:23 01:19:44:12  YOU COULD EVEN BREAK IT DOWN
BY NEIGHBORHOODS.

395 01:19:44:14 01:19:46:13  ONE STUDY OF CHICAGO
FOUND THAT YOUNG MEN


397 01:19:48:00 01:19:50:07  WERE THREE TIMES AS LIKELY
TO DIE IN VIETNAM

398 01:19:50:09 01:19:52:13  AS BOYS FROM HIGH-INCOME AREAS.

399 01:19:54:05 01:19:57:11  MORE AND MORE AMERICANS, ALWAYS
A MINORITY ACCORDING TO POLLS

400 01:19:57:13 01:19:59:07  BUT A LARGE
AND INFLUENTIAL MINORITY

401 01:19:59:09 01:20:01:00  BEGAN TO OPPOSE THE WAR OPENLY--

402 01:20:01:02 01:20:04:10  A WAR THAT WAS COMING HOME TO
THEM ON THEIR TELEVISION SETS.


404 01:20:07:25 01:20:10:02  IN HUNDREDS OF CITIES
AND TOWNS ACROSS THE NATION

405 01:20:10:04 01:20:14:15  MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TOOK PART IN
DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE WAR.

406 01:20:14:17 01:20:17:19  AND AS THE TIDE OF PROTEST ROSE

407 01:20:17:21 01:20:19:16  PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY
BEGAN TO REGARD

AS "THE ENEMY WITHIN."

409 01:20:24:02 01:20:25:21  WHY, OH, WHY...

410 01:20:25:23 01:20:28:13  Scharff:
LYNDON JOHNSON SEEMED
HARDLY AWARE THAT HIS EFFORTS

411 01:20:28:15 01:20:31:13  TO WIN THE WAR HAD LED HIM INTO
THE VERY UNDEMOCRATIC PRACTICES

412 01:20:31:15 01:20:35:10  OF LYING TO THE PUBLIC AND
SPYING ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

413 01:20:35:12 01:20:39:04  SUPPORT FOR OR OPPOSITION
TO THE WAR BECAME A TEST

414 01:20:39:06 01:20:41:05  THAT DIVIDED FRIENDS
AND FAMILIES
AND GENERATIONS AND CLASSES.

YOUNG PEOPLE RAISED IN COMFORT
AND OPTIMISM LOOKED AT VIETNAM--

AT THE WASTE OF THE CHANCE TO
SOLVE SO MANY PROBLEMS AT HOME

AND THEY BECAME ANGRY
AND DISILLUSIONED.

Protesters:
PEACE NOW, PEACE NOW...

Scharff:
WHILE A MINORITY
OF ANTIWAR ACTIVISTS

MOVED TOWARD
MORE MILITANT POLITICS

AND EVEN VIOLENT
ANTIGOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

MOST SIMPLY MELTED AWAY
FROM THE MOVEMENT.

AND THEY TOOK CONSOLATION
IN NEW CONSUMER PLEASURES--

SEX AND DRUGS AND ROCK 'N' ROLL.

VIETNAM BROUGHT
THE VIOLENCE OF THE WAR

AND BROKEN BY HIS EFFORTS
AND INDEFENSIBLE WAR

JOHNSON DECIDED NOT TO RUN
FOR REELECTION IN 1968.

I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT I
SHOULD NOT PERMIT THE PRESIDENCY

TO BECOME INVOLVED
IN THE PARTISAN DIVISIONS

THAT ARE DEVELOPING
IN THIS POLITICAL YEAR.

IT WAS A DEVASTATING YEAR.

AS TIM O'BRIEN,
ONE OF THE FINEST CHRONICLERS

OF THE VIETNAM WAR RECALLED

"1968 WAS A YEAR
IN WHICH SMART MEN

COULDN'T AGREE
ON EVEN THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL
MATTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY."

THE ONLY CERTAINTY THAT SUMMER
WAS MORAL CONFUSION.

THE NATION LOOKED ON, STUNNED,
AS FIRST, MARTIN LUTHER KING

WHO WAS RUNNING

FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION
ON A PEACE PLATFORM

WERE ASSASSINATED.

PROTESTS BECAME MORE FREQUENT,
AND MORE VIOLENT.
BY A PLURALITY, A DEEPLY DIVIDED COUNTRY
ELECTED THAT OLD COLD WARRIOR REPUBLICAN NOMINEE RICHARD NIXON
TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
WE'RE GOING TO ENFORCE THE LAW AND AMERICANS SHOULD REMEMBER THAT IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE LAW AND ORDER.

Scharff: NIXON HAD RUN A CURIOUS AND BRILLIANT CAMPAIGN.
HE PROMISED HE HAD A SECRET PLAN TO END THE WAR AND HE POUNDED AWAY AT THE IDEA THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER AT HOME.
EVEN AS HE MOVED TO EXTRICATE THE UNITED STATES FROM THE WAR PRESIDENT NIXON TOOK OFFICIAL DECEPTION NOBODY HAD EVER IMAGINED.
HE ORDERED A HUGE, SECRET BOMBING OPERATION AGAINST CAMBODIA, VIETNAM'S NEIGHBOR AND A NEUTRAL COUNTRY. AND NIXON AND HIS WHITE HOUSE STAFF ALSO BEGAN TO PLAN A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL ALL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE WAR, ANYBODY WHO DARED QUESTION AMERICAN POLICY BECAME, IN THEIR EYES, AN ENEMY AND ENEMIES COULD LEGITIMATELY BE SPIED ON BUGGED AND ARRESTED.
EARLY IN THE MORNING OF JUNE 17, 1972 WASHINGTON, D.C. POLICE CAUGHT FIVE BURGLARS AT THE OFFICES OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE.
IN THE FASHIONABLE WATERGATE COMPLEX.
ONE OF THOSE BURGLARS, JAMES McCORD WAS SECURITY COORDINATOR FOR "CREEP"-- THE COMMITTEE TO REELECT
THE PRESIDENT.

WHEN TWO WASHINGTON POST REPORTERS, BOB WOODWARD AND CARL BERNSTEIN, PURSUED THE STORY
THEY UNCOVERED CONSPIRACY AT THE TOP.

THE WHITE HOUSE HAD THREATENED CORPORATIONS WITH LEGAL PROBLEMS IF THEY DIDN'T CONTRIBUTE
TO CREEP

AND THEN USED THE MILLIONS IN ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
TO HIRE "DIRTY TRICKSTERS" TO SABOTAGE OPPOSITION CANDIDATES;
TO CREATE A "PLUMBERS" UNIT TO BREAK IN ON AND WIRETAP POLITICAL ENEMIES.
THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO HARASS MORE THAN 4,000 SO-CALLED ENEMIES.

THEY SPIED ON, SUBVERTED AND HARASSED A VARIETY OF AMERICAN DISSIDENTS.
NIXON AND HIS MEN WORKED HARD TO COVER UP THEIR CRIMES
BUT AS EACH NEW REVELATION BROKE PRESSURE MOUNTED FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION.

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL EVENTUALLY LET TO A VOTE IN THE HOUSE TO IMPEACH THE PRESIDENT.

BUT BEFORE NIXON COULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL HE RESIGNED IN DISGRACE ON AUGUST 8, 1974.

BUT AS PRESIDENT, I MUST PUT THE INTERESTS OF AMERICA FIRST.

THEY SIGNED BY SAYING "AYE", ALL THOSE OPPOSED, "NO".

BUT BEFORE MY TERM IS COMPLETED, IT IS ABHORRENT TO EVERY INSTINCT IN MY BODY.

THEREFORE, I SHALL RESIGN
THE PRESIDENCY

508 01:25:20:02 01:25:22:00 EFFECTIVE AT NOON TOMORROW.


OF POWER.


WAS ENORMOUS.

512 01:25:41:12 01:25:45:10 [Captioned by

The Caption Center

WGBH Educational Foundation]