VIETNAM CLASS, JANUARY 14, 1986

Announcements: (1) Otherways of getting to Washington, D.C.
(2) TRACERS, in Los Angeles
(3) be sure to talk with TAs
(4) mid-term exam scheduled for February 13
(5) outstanding speakers coming in next several days...

QUESTIONS: How many had close relatives (older brothers, uncles, etc.) in the war?
How many had fathers in the war?

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LAST TIME: chronicle of 1950s, 1960s and 1970s

review a bit....

Several points: (1) Clark Clifford's point -- wanted
   to strike quickly to prevent the
   spread of communism
   --- tremendous fear of communism
   --- Senator Joseph McCarthy
      Communist infiltration of Hollywood
      film community
   --- Fred Schwartz Christian Anti-
      Communist Crusade

(2) the 1960s -- religiously and theologially speaking, a TIME OF HOPE
   Rabbi Fackenheim....
   The Theology of Hope///
   Kingdom of God on Earth/mixed with
   Great Society....

   a part of this feeling: NO MORE WAR...
   No More Hunger, No More Poverty, No More
   Economic Injustice....
   No More Racial Inequality....
   NO MORE WAR....
   (because the next war would be a nuclear war...
   or could be.....)
(3) several elements came together....

and some were compatible, and some were not...

e.g. how do you reconcile intense fear of communism
with "NO MORE WAR...." very difficult...

several examples of what happened:

(a) a lot of what was hoped for got sidetracked
by the Vietnam War

specific example: the Civil Rights Movement

Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke out against the
Vietnam War...many of his supporters were
opposed to this... WHY? because this
would take attention and energy away
from the Civil Rights movement...

point: items on the national agenda were de-emphasized
placed on the back burner...given a lower
priority...because of the Vietnam War

(b) a number of the issues became fused....

how? well, antagonism against authorities
for resisting civil rights was combined with
bad feeling toward authorities for waging
the WAR...

1970 -- President Nixon ordered the bombing of
Cambodia...

Sussex Court -- picked up paper..."I'm glad
he did it... it's like with those hairy
students; you have to get tough; you have
to draw the line somewhere...."

ON CAMPUS: Signs and placards and protest
marchers: "BOYCOTT CLASSES TO SHOW YOUR
DISAPPROVAL OF NIXON'S BOMBING OF CAMBODIA"

-- FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT begins in Berkeley...
protest minority hiring practices of
Oakland TRIBUNE... Senator William Knowland...
quickly spread to anti-authority...
and anti-government... beca
with focus on the war....

(c) The society marches according to different orders.
orders....

FEAR OF COMMUNISM VS. FEAR OF WAR....
FEAR OF ARMAGEDDON VS. LONGING FOR PARADISE.
CONSEQUENCE: A SERIOUSLY DIVIDED SOCIETY.....

---THE REAL RISE OF CONSERVATISM....

Barry Goldwater ran and lost in 1964...
RONALD REAGAN was the real winner...
from the 1964 campaign...
-- similar to Governor Maria Cuomo in 1984...
gave the speech that everyone remembers...

KEVIN PHILLIPS
wrote a book in 1982, POST_CONSERVATIVE AMERICA
Question: what about VIETNAM?

READ PORTION FROM INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN PHILLIPS..

PLACED THE U.S. COMBATANTS IN VIETNAM IN DOUBLE JEOPARDY

-- fighting for a war that wasn't supported at home
-- fighting in a war that did not carry the enthusiastic
sanctions of the American people
-- fighting in a war that many of their fellow Americans
opposed
-- fighting in a war that even they themselves couldn't
enthusiastically defend....
-- fighting for their lives.....
fighting to stay alive....
WHERE IT WAS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO
STAY ALIVE AS IT WAS TO DEFEAT THE
ENEMY....

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AN OUTLINE OF THE SOLDIERS' STORIES:

background: Joseph Campbell.....Departure, Initiation, & Return..

WAR CHRONICLES:
SOLDIERS" STORIES:;;;
John Wayne.... Gary Cooper....
ATHLETIC..... FOOTBALL..... READ: Caputo
WRESTLING....

2nd Chapter: Entry into the Country.....
Disillusionment from the first moment....

3rd chapter: survival............

4th chapter: Homecoming..... no homecoming.....

5th chapter HEALING..... Where we are now.....