

# Truth of The Vietnam War

(Excerpt from Northwest Vietnamese News - 11.2017 - Michael Nguyen)

An activity in November 2017, of the Vietnamese Senior in Spokane, the same time the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) released ten episodes of "The Vietnam War". The Vietnam Veteran, Vietnamese and Americans met at the library Shadle, to condemn the PBS using the biased materials again, the similar way in the 13 episodes it produced in 1983.

Two video clips presented at the event have given the accurate view about Vietnam War. The first one was from the critique of the film "Vietnam: A Television History" produced by Accuracy In Media in 1984, with actor Charlton Heston, titled "Vietnam: The Real Story". The second video was from the Prager University, interpreted by commentator Bruce Herschensohn, to show the main points of Vietnam War that were ignored by the PBS television, in "The Vietnam War" episodes, released in September, 2017.

In the first video clip, Dr. Douglas Pike, director of Indochina Archive of University of California, Berkeley said, in order to earn a grant, PBS presented a proposal with promises and accomplishments:

**Promise number 1:** *The series will supply information for the historical record.*

*Delivery? No: only a kaleidoscope of images.*

**Promise number 2:** *The series will provide an antidote to the misuses of history.*

*Delivery? No: actually contributes to historical misunderstanding.*

**Promise number 3:** *The series will contribute to healing and to national esteem in the post-war era.*

*Delivery? No: nothing in the series that an American can be proud of.*

**Promise number 4:** *The series will contribute to historical methodology.*

*Delivery? No: an object lesson in how not to do it. The series have many things but not history telling".*



Dr. Robert Elegant wrote in the British Daily Encounter, "The first time in history, the outcome of the war was determined not on the battlefield but on the printed pages and above all, on the television screen". We have to understand how the media shape what we think.

James Reston, a prominent American journalist, wrote: "[...]One of the great lessons of Vietnam War was, that the enemy was able to use our free

un-controlled media to achieve their own objective. And yet, that important lesson was totally ignored by the PBS series". Indeed, the Tet Offensive 1968 was a turning point of the world, was betrayed by our media that is the defeat of our side even though it was actually a very outstanding notably victory. "No, the men whose names are chiseled into this marble were not sent on a fool's errand with no purpose.". At the end of the documentary, narrator Charlton Heston concluded, "The purpose was noble but we failed. Our people and our leaders became confused and suffered a loss of will, with disastrous consequences. We were right to resist the communist aggression. We were wrong in thinking that the outcome would be decided by military strength. In the end, words, disinformation, deception were the deciding factors in Vietnam War". Viewers won't see these points in the series of "Vietnam: A Television History", released 1983.

And today, 2017, PBS did the same thing with "The Vietnam War", which included 10 episodes. It contains some truth, there is a repetition of past mistakes old and new, accompanied by biased commentary that can make the viewer misunderstand the problem and come to misjudge the Vietnam War.



Councilman Mike Fagan, Shadle Library 11-5-2017

More than 58,000 US soldiers have sacrificed their lives, thousands missing, thousands injured and traumatized. For the Vietnamese, about 300,000 were killed and missing, more than 1 million wounded, including civilians, soldiers, police and government service personnel. Besides, there are also 5,000 to 6,000 allied troops such as South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand,...

The truth about the Vietnam War in second video, Bruce Herschensohn, senior fellow at Pepperdine University School of Public Policy declared: "Decades back, in late 1972, South Vietnam and the United States were winning the Vietnam War decisively by every conceivable measure. That's not just my view. That was the view of our enemy, the North Vietnamese government officials.

Victory was apparent when President Nixon ordered the U.S. Air Force to bomb industrial and military targets in Hanoi, North Viet Nam's capital city, and in Haiphong, its major port city, and we would stop the bombing if the North Vietnamese would attend the Paris Peace Talks that they had left earlier. The North Vietnamese did go back to the Paris Peace