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AMERICAN HISTORY (US)

0409/02

Paper 2 Defining Moments

October/November 2013

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains two sections:

Section A: The American Civil War, 1861–1865 (pages 2–4)

Section B: America in Vietnam (pages 5–7)

You are required to answer **all** the questions in **one** section. Study the sources for the section you have chosen. The time needed to do this is allowed for within the time set for the examination.

This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Section A: The American Civil War, 1861–1865

SOURCE A



A photograph of Union soldiers wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 1862. The photograph was actually taken in May 1863.

SOURCE B

The Army is displeased at McClellan's dismissal. I never expect to see the South subdued unless there is a radical change in the administration of our Army. Everything's rotten to the core. Generals are appointed on account of incapacity; most or at least many are such that no gentleman can serve under them and retain self-respect. I am very fortunate in my general. He is an old officer of 18 years standing, has no idea of what fatigue is, is thoroughly professional, fully familiar with grand tactics, a high-minded honorable man.

From a letter written by Lieutenant George Herbert to his brother, November 26, 1862. George McClellan was dismissed by Lincoln as commander of the Army of the Potomac in November 1862.

SOURCE C

It must be remembered that we make war only upon armed men. We cannot take vengeance for the wrongs our people have suffered, and for the anger we feel at the atrocities committed by our enemies without lowering ourselves in the eyes of all. If we do take vengeance we will offend against Him to whom vengeance belongeth and without whose favor and support our efforts must all prove in vain.

From the orders of General Robert E. Lee to his men before their advance across Maryland and Pennsylvania, June 1863. His army's march met Union forces at Gettysburg early in the following month.

SOURCE D

Self-reliant always, obedient when he [the Confederate soldier] chose to be, impatient of drill and discipline, he was unsurpassed as a scout or on the skirmish line. Of the shoulder-to-shoulder courage bred of drill and discipline, he knew nothing and cared less. Whoever saw a Confederate line advancing that was not crooked as a ram's horn? On the battlefield, each ragged rebel followed his own initiative, relying on himself.

From the memoirs of General D. H. Hill, a Confederate corps commander, 1863. Hill was one of the most respected generals in the Confederate army.

SOURCE E

A more formidable-looking set of men could not be found. In training they were certainly inferior to our people: if reluctant to take orders, they are usually very quick-witted within their spheres of comprehension; and they know enough to handle weapons with terrible effect. Their great characteristic is their stoical manliness; they look you straight in the face, with as little animosity as if they had never heard a gun.

From the comments of an officer of the Union's Army of the Potomac on Confederate soldiers, 1864. The Army of the Potomac suffered heavy losses in its clashes with the Confederates in 1864.

SOURCE F

The time has come when the government must determine upon a civil and military policy covering the whole ground of our national trouble. This responsibility must be assumed by you or our cause will be lost. The war should be conducted upon the highest principles known to Christian civilization. Military power should not be allowed to interfere with the system of slavery. The right of the Government to appropriate slave labor into service should be asserted and the right of the owner to compensation should be recognised. A declaration of radical views, especially upon slavery, will rapidly disintegrate our armies.

From a letter sent by General George McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, to President Abraham Lincoln, July 7, 1862. McClellan had been dismissed as Union General-in-Chief in March 1862.

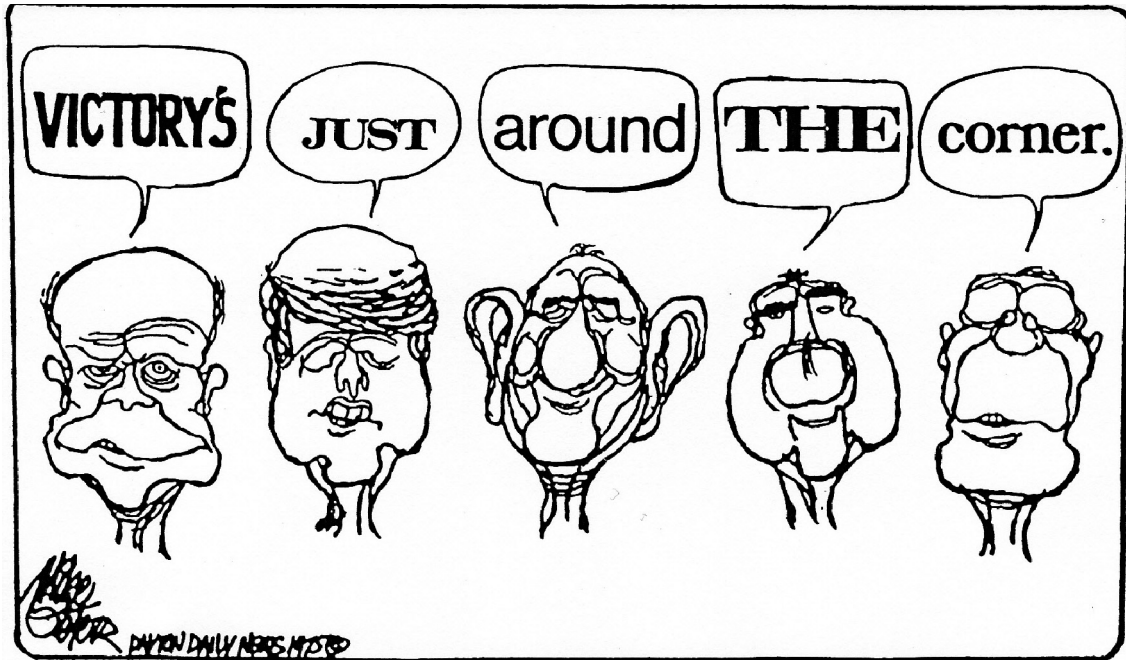
SOURCE G

I do not remember that you and I ever met personally. I write this now as a grateful acknowledgment for the almost inestimable service you have done the country. I wish to say a word further. I never had any faith, except a general hope that you knew better than I that the Yazoo Pass expedition could succeed. When you took Grand Gulf I thought you should go down the river and join General Banks; and when you turned Northward East of the Big Black River, I feared it was a mistake. I now wish to make the personal acknowledgment that you were right, and I was wrong.

A letter from Abraham Lincoln to General Grant written shortly after the capture of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, ending the long Vicksburg Campaign.

Section B: America in Vietnam

SOURCE A



An American cartoon, 1975. It shows the five Presidents involved in the Vietnam war: from left to right they are Eisenhower (1953–61), Kennedy (1961–63), Johnson (1963–69), Nixon (1969–74) and Ford (1974–77).

SOURCE B

AN APPEAL TO OUR STUDENTS

We the faculty are deeply worried about the war in Vietnam. We think its moral, political and military consequences are very grave and that we must examine them and find new alternatives before irreparable actions occur. We are devoting this night, March 24–25, to seminars, lectures, informal discussions, and a protest rally to focus attention on the war, its consequences, and ways to stop it.

An advertisement placed in a local newspaper by 216 professors at Michigan University, March 1965. The response was so positive that meetings of the same type were convened throughout the U.S.

SOURCE C

A photograph by Nick Ut, an Associated Press photographer, June 8, 1972. It shows children, followed by South Vietnamese troops, on a road near Trang Bang following an aerial napalm attack on suspected Viet Cong hiding places.

SOURCE D

After Tet the Americans had to back down because the war was not only moving into dozens of cities and towns in South Vietnam, but also to the living rooms of Americans back home who were horrified by television reports. The most important result of the Tet Offensive was that it made you de-escalate the bombing, and it brought you to the negotiating table. It was, therefore, a victory. The war was fought on many fronts, the most important of which was American public opinion which divided over the war.

From an interview given by General Giap with CBS News, 1989. Giap was the Supreme Commander of the Vietnam People's Army (also known as the North Vietnamese Army, or NVA).

SOURCE E

Popular opinion was vital and we failed to keep it because we did not explain fully what was happening, so people were confused by the news from the war. We had neither prepared the public to understand the complex events we faced nor how to react constructively to the need to change course as the nation confronted difficult military challenges after Tet. A nation's deepest strength lies not in its military prowess but, rather, in the unity of its people. We failed to maintain it.

From In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam by Robert McNamara, published in 1995. He was Secretary of Defense in the administrations of Kennedy and Johnson.

SOURCE F

The defense of freedom is everybody's business – not just America's business. And it is particularly the responsibility of the people whose freedom is threatened. In the previous administration, we Americanized the war in Vietnam. In this administration, we are Vietnamizing the search for peace. And now we have begun to see the results of this long-overdue change in American policy in Vietnam. After five years of Americans going into Vietnam, we are finally bringing men home. Let us be united for peace. Let us also be united against defeat.

From an address to the American people by President Nixon, November 3, 1969. The policy outlined was in keeping with the Nixon Doctrine first formulated at Guam in July 1969.

SOURCE G

We are in a new phase. The United States has withdrawn its troops in accordance with the Paris Agreement, which it regards as a victory after suffering many defeats with no way out. Now, there is no way that they could intervene again by sending in troops. They may provide air and naval support, but that cannot decide victory or defeat. I'm kidding, but also telling the truth, when I say that the Americans would not come back even if you offered them candy.

From a report to the Politburo of North Vietnam by Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister, December 18, 1974. After years of talks in Paris, a peace settlement was reached in January 1973.

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