

09003

ERA 9: POSTWAR UNITED STATES (1945 TO EARLY 1970S)

ERA 10: CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES (1968 TO THE PRESENT)

MY LAI

Thirty Years After

1968



Unidentified Vietnamese women and children from investigations into the My Lai Incident.

RON HERBENLE

Guiding Questions

Why is it important to hear multiple perspectives about an historical event? (My Lai)

Did the Vietnam War bring a domestic revolution in the United States?

When war atrocities occur, how do we charge responsibility to the individuals involved? To the country as a whole?

Question Focus Examples for Task 24

As collateral damage is an unfortunate by-product of all wars, nations often have great difficulty confronting their pasts and assigning responsibility when dealing with war atrocities.

Teacher-to-Teacher

In order to answer the compelling questions in this collection, students should have a thorough understanding of who was involved in the Vietnam War, what the American homeland response was before and after My Lai, which presidents were in office, and what the government's motives were for engagement and further involvement in the Vietnam Conflict. Students must be aware that the government did not fully disclose information to the public about the events in Vietnam which caused an extreme societal reaction once the My Lai Massacre was fully exposed in the media. Additionally, students should have an understanding of basic Southeast Asian geography (political, human, and physical). **There are some graphic descriptions and pictures included that illustrate the author's position that only by confronting some of our nation's dark moments can we truly move toward avoiding future events like My Lai.

This might be a great collection to use during a modern unit on the war in Iraq. Students could compare and contrast soldier conditions, war atrocities, and/or public reaction to the conflict.

Literature Connection: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, *Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Meyers, *Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War* by Karl Marlantes, *Four Hours in My Lai* by Michael Bilton and Kevin Sim, *Facing My Lai: Moving Beyond the Massacre* edited by David L. Anderson

Contents

- ◆ **My Lai, Thirty Years After** by Rachel Louise Snyder ARTICLE
- ◆ **Maps and Sketches of Vietnam** MAPS AND IMAGES
- ◆ **Political Cartoon demonstrating American sentiment on the war in Vietnam before My Lai** IMAGE
- ◆ **Findings and Recommendations on the My Lai massacre** DOCUMENT
- ◆ **Political Cartoon depicting American sentiment on Lieutenant Calley's conviction of murder** POLITICAL CARTOON
- ◆ **Letter from Henry Tufts regarding civilian casualties in My Lai** DOCUMENT
- ◆ **America article concealing My Lai incident** DOCUMENT

Recommended Instructional Strategies

Task 8 Analyze and Compare Author Purpose

Task 16 Speech

Task 23 Identifying Claim and Evidence

Task 24 QFT (Question Focus Technique)

Task 25 Document Sourcing

fourscore
make history