

FEMALE WAR CORRESPONDENTS IN VIETNAM: A TURNING POINT FOR
WOMEN IN AMERICAN JOURNALISM

By

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ABSTRACT

Considering the amount of literature written on the Vietnam War, it is confounding that female war correspondents have failed to make a significant entry into historical accounts of the conflict. Part of the challenge when searching for literature on the female war correspondent in Vietnam is that historically, war and journalism have been considered a man's area of expertise. Much of the literature written about reporters in Vietnam reflects this sentiment. This perception was transformed during the Vietnam War by an unprecedented number of courageous women who broke the stereotypes to become successful wartime correspondents. Unrestricted access to the fighting proved to be an opportunity for women journalists. Four hundred and sixty seven women became accredited during the war, of which 267 were American.

The purpose of my research was to review the literature on various factors that created opportunity for women journalists in Vietnam and develop a prosopography of the female war correspondent. In addition, I have created a lesson plan based upon my research, for secondary education. The lessons could be used in a Women's or American History class. This project has drawn similarities and differences among reporters experiences based on both primary and secondary sources. The women reporters of Vietnam had varying views and opinions about the war and explored a variety of angles when writing their stories.

This project examines circumstances that made access to war by women journalists easier than any other time in history. The influence of the women's movement and the subsequent legislation that enforced equality in the workplace and

pressured news agencies to send women to Vietnam on assignment. The changing government policy with the press between the Kennedy and Johnson years created an unrestricted access that was crucial for the entry of women reporters in Vietnam. The women reporters took advantage of the historical juncture and initiated a turning point for women in American journalism. The actions of these women forever changed the opportunities and the image of female wartime reporters.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

“Hey lady, what are you doing here?” is the notable line Gloria Emerson heard upon her arrival to Vietnam.¹ The shock of seeing a woman on the frontlines reverberated throughout the Vietnam War era. Considering the amount of literature written on the Vietnam War, it is perplexing that one group of individuals has failed to make a more significant entry into the historical account of the war. Part of the challenge when searching for information on the female war correspondent in Vietnam is that historically war and journalism have been considered a man’s game. Yet the “men’s only club” among war correspondents reached a turning point during the Vietnam conflict. For the first time, the United States faced a war without a front that could be viewed from the comfort of one’s own living room. Anyone with plane fare and press accreditation could venture to Vietnam as an active observer. The easy access to fighting proved to be a breakthrough for women correspondents pursuing a career in wartime journalism. An unprecedented 467 women took the opportunity to become accredited journalists during the war of which 267 were American.² The Vietnam War granted women access, gave them a voice, and forever changed the face of wartime reporting.

¹ Virginia Elwood-Akers. *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975* (Metuchen. N.J., and London: The Scarecrow Press, 1988), 2.

² Beasley, Maurine H. and Sheila J. Gibbons. *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalists*. (State College, Pennsylvania: Strata Publishing Inc., 2003), 216

Many women encountered comparable experiences but no two mirrored each other completely. Overall, there is not one story that can sum up the involvement of women in Vietnam and thus the story of women correspondents is intricate and diverse. The women reporters of Vietnam had varying views and opinions about the war and different motives that drove their stories.

Women had been covering wars for years but Vietnam broadened the scope of women's coverage. Female correspondents first appeared on the scene during the Spanish-American war and made minimal headlines throughout history. Donna Jones Born asserted in her dissertation, *The Reporting of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*, "but their participation was small and peripheral" in the coverage of conflicts.³ By WWII their numbers had grown with an estimated 127 women that received accreditation as correspondents.⁴ Marguerite Higgins was the only female to cover the Korean War and she was eventually forced out of the country when the military decided to ban American women from South Korea.⁵ As the war in Vietnam progressed Ann Bryan Mariano argued "Even when there were several hundred accredited journalists, there were only about a dozen women reporting regularly from the war in the mid to late sixties."⁶ So what transpired that made Vietnam a turning point in history for a great number of female correspondents?

³ Donna Jones Born. *The Reporting Of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*. (Doctoral Dissertation, Michigan State University, 1987), 180.

⁴ Cristina Rouvalis and Bill Schackner. "Women Covering War." *Post-Gazette* on the Web, March 30, 2000, <<http://www.postgazette.com/magazine/20000330namwoman2.asp>> (August 3, 2005), 4.

⁵ Donna Jones Born. *The Reporting Of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*, 180.

⁶ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*. (New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2004), 38.

The civil rights movement and the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act pressured news agencies to send women on assignment. Though most female journalists did not identify with the women's liberation movement, they profited from the results. For the first time in American history women were demanding equal opportunities in the workplace and had the legal backing to legitimize their complaints. The most substantial change for female correspondents came in 1963 with a transition in U.S. government press relations. A momentous occasion for all correspondents dawned as the Johnson administration relaxed restrictions Kennedy had imposed on reporting Vietnam. The unrestricted access that evolved eventually set the stage for an unprecedented number of women entering into wartime reporting. Though the challenges for female correspondents had not entirely diminished a new era was taking shape for women in American journalism.

*The Changing Social Climate For
Women In The United States*

It is crucial to consider the social climate of the 1960s and 1970s in the United States in order to grasp the opportunities seized by female correspondents. The women's movement had begun to blossom and the civil rights movement was in full force. Feeling discontent with their status in society and the lack of opportunity in education and the work place, women began to challenge the social order. The civil rights movement laid the foundation and provided inspiration for many women to take up the fight. The demand for equality by African Americans spurred a demand by other oppressed factions of society. Feminists identified and found support, particularly with black women of the

civil rights movement. The activism enacted for racial minorities civil rights generated fervor in the women's community for social equality. In 1964, Congress, under the administration of President John F. Kennedy, passed the Civil Rights Act establishing laws that prohibited discrimination in various facets of society. The laws extended into the workplace, where they helped to secure equal opportunities for minorities and women. Various female journalists embraced the 1964 Civil Rights act and brought forth lawsuits that pressured news agencies to send women to Vietnam. The lack of restrictions for the press had already attracted a noticeable quantity of women freelance journalists, however, by the 1970s a new influx of female reporters sent on assignment by news agencies started to make a noticeable appearance. Despite the legal gains, women journalists went to Vietnam to report, not to make a statement about the social status of women at home.

After WWII many women were encouraged to focus on their families. Few women found the opportunity for education or work outside of the home. The 1950s, the Cold War and the creation of suburbia compelled women to concentrate their energies on domestic life. Writer Sarah M. Evans wrote about "The Rebirth of Feminism" in the book *Long Time Gone: Sixties American Then And Now*:

The assumption that women's proper place was in the home undergirded the legal reality that women had few protections in public. Employment want ads routinely listed jobs separately for men and women. The labor force was extremely segregated, with women crowded into a small number of lower-paid occupations primarily in the service sector. When they did do the same work, women could be paid less than men, as many employers had separate pay scales.⁷

⁷ Alexander Bloom ed. *Long Time Gone: Sixties American Then And Now*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 191.

Women who entered the professional world in the 1950s faced blatant discrimination. At times they were accused of being incompetent wives and often rejected entrance into universities. The 1960s indicated the societal transformation to come as more Americans, including women headed off to college.⁸ Irwin and Debi Unger pointed out in their book *The Times Were A Changin': The Sixties Reader* that “by the early sixties a growing number of American women, especially college-educated women, began to examine their lives and find them wanting.”⁹ Women began to search beyond the domestic routine for fulfillment. For a growing number of women this meant moving into the workforce. Cynthia Harrison author of *On Account of Sex*, said that “In 1940 15 percent of wives worked outside the home; by 1960, 30.5 percent of them would hold jobs.”¹⁰ Harrison goes on to explain “the movement for women that blossomed at the end of the sixties sprang from the combination on long-standing discrimination in the law and in practice, changes in women’s lives brought about by increasing experience in the workforce, the activism of civil rights advocates, and liberal politics.”¹¹ As the ‘60s evolved women increasingly sought change and turned to President Kennedy for support in their struggles.

President Kennedy felt pressured to legislate on behalf of women for years. In 1961 he created a Commission on the Status of Women. According to Unger “The commission’s report, in the spirit of the earlier women’s rights movement, demanded an

⁸ Ibid 192-193.

⁹ Irwin and Debi. *The Times Were a Changin': The Sixties Reader*. (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1998), 194.

¹⁰ Cynthia Ellen Harrison *On Account of Sex: The Politics of Women’s Issues, 1945-1968*. (Berkley and Los Angeles, California: University Of California Press, 1988), xi.

¹¹ Ibid.

end to job and legal discrimination but acknowledged ‘the fundamental responsibility’ of women to remain ‘mothers and housewives.’”¹² In 1963 Congress passed the Equal Pay Act preventing employers from having different pay scales for men and women.¹³

Though this was a step towards tackling women’s issues it would not appease the feminist movement. A more significant measure was achieved in 1964 when Congress passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Unger wrote: “Congress soon gave a further lift to the reemerging feminist impulse by proscribing, almost as an afterthought, job discrimination against women in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, a measure designed primarily to fight racial bias.” Title VII of the act created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and a place to direct grievances.¹⁴ Women finally had legal footing to battle discrimination. In her book *Up From The Footnote* Marion Marzolf said: “By 1968 women had begun to articulate their own grievances and with that came a new feminist press, flowering in such profusion that it nearly defied description.”¹⁵ News agencies would take a direct hit from female journalists claiming discrimination. Lawsuits brought forth with the backing of the Civil Rights Act secured access and pressured major news organizations to send women journalists to Vietnam on assignment.

Though many women had been reporting in Vietnam prior to the 1970s, they were not under the direct employment of news organizations. They had successfully established themselves as freelancers, the time was right for several women to be sent on assignment. Christine Martin author of *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War*,

12 Irwin and Debi. *The Times Were a Changin’: The Sixties Reader*, 194.

13 Alexander Bloom ed. *Long Time Gone: Sixties American Then And Now*, 194.

14 Ibid, 195.

15 Marion Marzolf. *Up From the Footnote*. (New York: Hastings House Publishers, 1977), 236.

1961-1975 pointed out “Because it was such a freelancer’s paradise, Vietnam was the perfect war for women. If Vietnam had happened five years later, after the women’s movement really got going full swing, it would have been packed with women reporters.”¹⁶ As the 1970s approached, employment by agencies increased. Martin wrote:

In the late ‘60s and early ‘70s the burgeoning women’s movement and a number of legal actions sought by women journalists against major publications and news agencies led to greater opportunities for women journalists on all fronts, including the war in Vietnam. By the early ‘70s legal and social pressures to offer women the “big assignments...”¹⁷

Donna Jones Born believed that “Women journalists sought opportunities to report news wherever it was made. Women journalists made strategic use of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to put pressure on news organizations to include them...”¹⁸ The pressure initially had subtle results.

As threats of lawsuits emerged, and the provisions under the Civil Rights Act were imposed, women’s opportunities expanded in Vietnam. Though not all reporters were American journalists they published for American correspondence. United Press International (UPI) hired freelancer Kate Webb as their first women resident correspondent in 1967. Margaret Kilgore worked for the UPI in 1970 covering politics for twenty-one months. In 1973 Tracy Woods was sent to cover the ceasefire. In 1970 *The New York Times* sent Gloria Emerson to Vietnam. She was the only female

¹⁶ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*. (Masters Thesis, University of Maryland, 1988), 156.

¹⁷ Ibid, 61.

¹⁸ Donna Jones Born. *The Reporting Of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*, 3.

correspondent sent by an American newspaper on permanent assignment.¹⁹ The Associated Press acquiesced in 1967 sending Kelly Smith Tunney on special assignment but neglected to send another woman until Edie Lederer went in 1972.²⁰ Tad Bartimus followed her in 1973.²¹ Edie Lederer stated:

And then, of course, the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) suit came along. In 1973, after I went to Vietnam, a group of blacks and women – I was not party to this – filed a sex and race discrimination suit against the AP. The suit was one of many against the media. There was one against NBC, one against *The New York Times*, one against *Newsweek*. Things started to change a bit after that.²²

Laura Palmer was hired as an NBC correspondent in 1972. Out of the pool of applicants she was the only qualified woman eligible for the job. It was not a secret that she was hired for that reason. Palmer believed they chose her to discourage EEOC lawsuits. She said: “I don’t think they wanted a woman. I don’t think anyone ever wanted a woman.”²³ Ann Morrissy Merick had similar experiences in the world of television reporting. She stated: “There still weren’t a lot of women in television in those days. Each network had its token correspondent. But the women’s movement had started to influence television executives, and the fear of class-action lawsuits, like those at *The New York Times*, forced them to add women to the payroll.”²⁴ Some of these correspondents thought of

¹⁹ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 64.

²⁰ Donna Jones Born. *The Reporting Of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*, 63.

²¹ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 61.

²² *Ibid*, 167.

²³ *Ibid*, 181.

²⁴ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*. (New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2004), 92.

themselves as “tokens” and though they had been sent to Vietnam as such, they used the opportunity to prove themselves as reporters.

Though the women’s liberation movement opened doors, many female correspondents did not identify with it directly. They focused on doing a professional job and earning recognition as journalists rather than earning recognition as women who were journalists. Author Julia Edwards argued that:

To get overseas, the women correspondents had to be nonconformists, so naturally they did not conform to preconceived visions of the sex’s [*sic*] either elevating the tone of international discourse or lowering the standards of objective reporting. No two were alike in style and technique. What the women contributed, they contributed as individuals, not as representatives of their sex.²⁵

Correspondent Edie Lederer said “I don’t think any of the women reporters who went to Vietnam, went believing that they were going to prove that women could be combat correspondents, that women could do a “man’s” job. I think we all went there because it was the greatest story of the decade, and we wanted to be a part of it because we were journalists.”²⁶ Jurate Kazickas explained her motives for going to Vietnam when describing a conversation she had with a soldier:

Tom eyed me with curiosity. “So, what’s a woman like you doing out here?” he asked. “I’m a reporter, and this is the biggest story of our times,” I answered. “I want to experience what’s going on here so my reports will be accurate and truthful.” He shook his head. “Yeah, but this is dangerous. You might get killed here.” “That can also happen to a male reporter,” I countered. “I just think it’s important to let people know what this war is really like.”²⁷

²⁵ Julia Edwards. *Women Of The World*. (Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1988), 248.

²⁶ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 170.

²⁷ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*. (New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2004), 124-125.

Like the majority of female correspondents, Jurate undertook the journey to Vietnam to report on the war, not to advance women's social status in American society. Journalist Margaret Kilgore described her experience with the movement. She said "The active women's liberation movement began in earnest in the States while I was in Saigon and I was highly amused and detached from it, although I was sympathetic too. I've never felt 'oppressed'..."²⁸ The central issue for female correspondents throughout the war remained their reporting. Room for distractions simply did not exist in Vietnam. Kate Webb described her interaction with the movement:

Then there was a group of women in the UPI New York headquarters who gave me a very warm welcome but the next day told me severely that my miniskirts were too short. That was my first brush with women's libbers. The last was with a woman who called and asked if I would talk to a group on the lack of work for women professionals. I replied that I was sorry, I was too busy with work, and the irony of it made me laugh out loud on the phone. Not polite.²⁹

Women correspondents rarely found the chance for collaboration with each other. The one occasion they united as women journalists was when General Westmoreland attempted to prohibit women from staying overnight in the field. Denby Fawcett wrote: "When the women reporters organized to fight the Westmoreland proposal, it was the first and last time we got together as a group."³⁰ Their overall mission was not unification of women journalists but equal access to the story. Jurate Kazickas said "She rarely saw other reporters, and though she would later become an AP correspondent, Kazickas often felt alone..."³¹

²⁸ Margaret Kilgore. "The Female War Correspondent in Vietnam." (The Quill May 1972, 9), 12.

²⁹Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 87-88.

³⁰ Ibid, 13.

³¹ Cristina Rouvalis and Bill Schackner. "Women Covering War," 5.

Influence from the women's movement helped advance the careers of female correspondents and the 1964 Civil Rights Act legitimized the demands for equality in the workplace. There is no question that women reporters benefited from the changing social order, but they did not go to Vietnam as a united front with the aim of equalizing the profession. Though in retrospect, it is exactly what happened. By concentrating on their jobs and their stories they opened the doors for women in the hitherto men's world of wartime correspondents. Author Julia Edwards pointed out "As important as anything the women correspondents ever wrote was their success in overcoming barriers and demonstrating that women could choose their way of life for better or for worse."³² They earned respect as correspondents and forever changed opportunities for women in journalism.

Access To Battle: The Transformation of Government Press Relation

The development of the woman war correspondent in Vietnam directly resulted from a transformation in the presidential administration's policy with the press. Early on, Kennedy established press accreditation and censorship obstacles for the Vietnam Press Corps. He maintained a very restrictive relationship with journalists throughout his presidency. The administration committed itself to limiting the type and amount of information the public heard about the events unfolding in Vietnam. Kennedy feared the reaction the American people would have if they knew the extent of American involvement in Southeast Asia. The restrictive approach with the press failed to contain and control information and upon Kennedy's assassination Johnson acknowledged that he

³² Julia Edwards, *Women Of The World*, 247.

must deal with press relations alternatively. President Johnson's administration decided the best approach was to ease censorship and institute unrestricted access to the battlefield. The new relationship attempted to use the press as a positive tool for the LBJ administration. If the restrictions had continued throughout the war, the opportunities for women journalists would have proved much more challenging to overcome.

In 1955 articles about Vietnam started to appear in publications including: *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *U.S News and World Report*. However, the first fulltime correspondent was not assigned to Vietnam until November of 1961 when Associated Press (AP) correspondent Malcolm Browne started the bureau in Saigon.³³ By 1962 major news agencies began to take Vietnam more seriously and established permanent bureaus.³⁴ As news agencies deepened their commitment to Vietnam, a handful of fulltime resident reporters emerged. Author Clarence Wyatt refers to the correspondents as "the Privileged Few" in his book *Paper Soldiers*. Journalist David Halberstam originally coined the term.³⁵ The "few" consisted of an entirely male group of correspondents that was small enough to "sit around a small table in the Hotel Caravelle bar."³⁶ It would be sometime before women were found at that table.

The early years of reporting in Vietnam were marked by the administration of Ngo Dinh Diem in South Vietnam and John F. Kennedy in the United States. Both administrations found it in their best interest to strictly control the press in Vietnam. Author Clarence Wyatt wrote: "...the greatest challenge faced by the resident American

³³ Clarence Wyatt. *Paper Soldiers*. (New York, New York: WW Norton and company, 1993), 53-54.

³⁴ *Ibid*, 81-82.

³⁵ *Ibid* 83.

³⁶ *Ibid* 82.

press corps came from the policies and actions of the South Vietnamese and the United States government.” The administrations limited information and lack of cooperation generated an unfriendly climate for the press that would persist for several years.

The Diem regime refused to make any allowances for foreign journalists. Diem, as leader of South Vietnam, feared that unfavorable news leaving the country would discredit or harm his authority. To prevent this, he made the process of accreditation extremely challenging for reporters. In Philip Knightly’s book, *The First Casualty*, he wrote:

To begin with, they were accredited by the Diem government, which saw no reason why it should allow foreign correspondents to write stories critical of its performance. If the correspondents did so, the Diem regime called them spies and communists, and did its best to censor their copy and by intimidation, to prevent them from repeating the offence.³⁷

As stories emerged criticizing Diem, his administration clamped down even tighter on the press. By 1963 reporters were subject to police attacks, threats, censorship and expulsion from Vietnam. Clarence Wyatt wrote: “On July 7, plainclothes police attacked nine Western reporters, including Halberstam, Sheehan, Browne, Arnett, Faas and Joseph Masraf, a CBS cameraman.” Wyatt goes on to say “To make matters worse, the police ordered Browne and Sheehan to appear the next day to answer charges that they had started the fight. And when direct physical attack did not deter the reporters the regime let word pass that their names were on assassination lists.”³⁸ Diem also initiated more frequent searches, wire- taps and surveillance. Censorship proved to be the most frustrating attack on news coverage. Wyatt argued, “Dispatches sent through the

³⁷ Philip Knightly. *The First Casualty*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002), 410-411.

³⁸ Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 117.

editorial office were completely sanitized.”³⁹ They were transformed to the point that reporters did not want to claim as their own.

The regime increasingly found it impossible to completely restrict news and as reports leaked out information, the regime resorted to expulsions. In 1962 Diem’s government attempted to expel Francois Sully of *Newsweek* and Homer Bigart of the *New York Times* for writing stories criticizing the Diem regime. U.S. pressure convinced Diem to withdraw the orders.⁴⁰ Sully again received expulsion orders in August of the same year based on an article he wrote for *Newsweek*, titled “Vietnam: The Unpleasant Truth.” The article criticized the inability of the South Vietnamese to handle the war and the inability of the United States to adequately train the South Vietnamese army. This time the expulsion stood, and Sully was forced to leave Vietnam.⁴¹

The motivation of the White House to keep Vietnam from appearing as a U.S target for war became the key factor in limiting press coverage. Fearing the backlash of American sentiment, Kennedy did not want the public to know the extent of U.S involvement in the South Vietnamese struggle against the Vietcong. In order to stop Vietcong advances, Kennedy had to back the Diem regime with military support while giving off the appearance of limited involvement.⁴² The press could jeopardize this façade. Philip Knightly writes “The United States Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) was desperately trying to conceal the full extent of American participation in the war against the Vietcong, and it tried to make the correspondents accomplices in this

³⁹ Ibid, 118.

⁴⁰ Philip Knightly, *The First Casualty*, 411.

⁴¹ Ibid, 414.

⁴² Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 90.

deception.”⁴³ According to Clarence Wyatt, “To this end, the Kennedy administration began to restrict and manipulate information about the war. It was, the president said in a press conference, ‘a matter of great sensitivity.’”⁴⁴ The administration continually worked toward limiting information. Wyatt reports that by 1961 all American personnel were ordered to give only “routine cooperation to correspondents on coverage of current military situation in Vietnam.”⁴⁵

By 1962 reporters were prohibited from riding on American helicopter assault missions. On February 20, 1962 Cable 1006 sent by the State and Defense departments and the United States Information Agency (USIA), established the governments press policy seriously restricting information given to reporters and the American public. The cable stated several guidelines for American personnel to follow when dealing with the press. Clarence Wyatt wrote:

The first two of the cable’s seven points urged American personnel not to “grant interviews or take other actions implying all-out US involvement.” The third item stated that stories on civilian casualties “are clearly inimical to national interest.” Items 5 and 6 emphasized the need to support Diem and “that articles that tear down Diem, only make our task more difficult.”⁴⁶

Wyatt goes on to point out the last two guidelines gave the real control over information.

They stated:

“Operations may be referred to in general terms, but specific numbers—particularly numbers of Americans involved—and details of material introduced are not to be provided. On tactical security matters, analyses of strengths and weaknesses and other operational details which might aid enemy [*sic*] should be

⁴³ Philip Knightly, *First Casualty*, 411.

⁴⁴ Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 90.

⁴⁵ *Ibid*, 91.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*, 92.

avoided. Finally, “correspondents should not be taken on missions whose nature is such that undesirable dispatches would be highly probable.”⁴⁷

By 1962 the US government was pressuring editors to “get on the team.”⁴⁸ This official policy stood throughout Kennedy’s administration of the Vietnam Conflict. Though the restrictions posed problems to the press, it did not hinder their investigations. Instead, the administration found the result more damaging than helpful as the press sought sources outside of the government. The open access and opportunities for women journalists had not yet arrived in Vietnam. Kennedy’s miscalculations would pave the way for women wartime correspondents.

The Kennedy administration’s policies did not achieve their desired results. The press resented being shut out and persevered in obtaining and presenting coverage. As evidence of a mounting war surfaced, the press, according to Philip Knightly, “no longer had to rely on official sources for information—because there were now many people who were unhappy at the way things were going in Vietnam and who were only too ready to tell the correspondents what they knew.”⁴⁹ The outcome damaged the image of Diem’s Vietnam in the eyes of the American people. Reports emerged on such topics as: America’s increasing involvement in Vietnam, the frustration of soldiers and the negatives of the Diem government.⁵⁰ In William Hammond’s book, *Reporting Vietnam*, he wrote:

President Kennedy might have avoided the problem by allowing Diem to censor the news or to evict offending correspondents from his country, but the allegations would have arisen in Congress and the press that he was squandering

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Philip Knightly, *The First Casualty*, 415.

⁴⁹ Ibid, 415.

⁵⁰ Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 94-95.

American lives and treasure on a clandestine war in Southeast Asia were unthinkable to an American politician.⁵¹

The administration was in trouble as a broader picture began penetrate into American society. The U.S. administration continued to foster the idea that a negative press would be a detriment to the war's success. The access to Vietnam remained tight until the assassination of Diem and Kennedy in November of 1963.⁵² Julia Edwards, author of *Women of the World* wrote "One can pinpoint the historic day when women achieved full equality to cover combat: November 2, 1963, the day South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem was assassinated."⁵³ President Johnson immediately recognized the problems with government's press relations and quickly sought to make amends. His actions would open up Vietnam to all reporters, including women.

Though a few women are mentioned during this era, one woman consistently stood out in the literature as being part of the press in Vietnam prior to 1963. Various authors referred to the early reporting of Marguerite Higgins. Less frequently, Dickey Chapelle, Beverly Deepe and Suzanne Labin appeared in the literature as pioneering female correspondents in Vietnam.

Marguerite Higgins and Dickey Chapelle contested the reporting coming out of Vietnam that challenged the chances for the success of American involvement. They were two veteran war reporters who were both adamantly anti-communist early on in the war. Both had been covering battles since WWII and their experience qualified them as seasoned wartime correspondents. In 1961 Chapelle arrived in Vietnam. Her reporting

⁵¹ William M. Hammond. *Reporting Vietnam*. (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1998), 18.

⁵² Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 127.

⁵³ Julia Edwards, *Women Of The World*, 231.

took a different slant than her male colleagues. With an extreme anti-communist attitude that manifested during her WWII experience, Chapelle now wrote about the importance of American presence in Vietnam. Virginia Elwood-Akers said:

So it was that she came to South Vietnam with a mission of telling the people of the United States the “real” story of the war. When she returned home after her experiences with the Sea Swallows she took to the lecture circuit under the auspices of the University of Minnesota, telling American audiences that the war in South Vietnam was “their war”.⁵⁴

Elwood-Akers goes on to say “And she saw it as her special mission to drum up support for the war when she returned to the United States.”⁵⁵

Marguerite Higgins arrived on the scene in 1963, with a critical stance regarding the reporting from Vietnam. She, like Chapelle, was opposed to the spread of communism and believed that the war was going well for Americans. Elwood-Akers wrote:

With her decidedly anti-Communist point of view, and speaking in the voice of an expert on Asian politics and Asian society, Higgins almost immediately incurred the wrath of correspondents in Saigon who were critical of the Saigon government, such as David Halberstam, who had succeeded Homer Bigart as the *New York Times* Saigon correspondent, Neil Sheehan of the *United Press International*, and Charles Mohr of *Time Magazine*.⁵⁶

Philip Knightly agrees that she was very opposed to the reporting coming out of Vietnam in the early 1960s. Knightly said:

Marguerite Higgins, the *New York Herald Tribune*'s correspondent, who, after her spell as a war correspondent in Korea, had married General William Hall, of the United States Air Force, had visited Vietnam in the summer on 1963 and had been unable to understand the attitude of correspondents like Mohr, Halberstam, and Sheehan.

⁵⁴ Virginia Elwood-Akers. *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975*, 15.

⁵⁵ *Ibid*, 17.

⁵⁶ *Ibid*.

Knighly quotes Higgins as stating “Reporters here would like to see us lose the war to prove they are right.”⁵⁷ Authors Clarence Wyatt and William Hammond also included Marguerite Higgins as a female reporter prior to 1963. The authors discussed her critical views of the Saigon Press Corps. Wyatt wrote: “The situation she saw and reported was almost the exact opposite of that portrayed by the Saigon press corps” Higgins felt “The reporters ‘accent on the negative’ bothered her most.”⁵⁸ Hammond briefly mentioned Higgins’s opposition to Halberstam’s reporting in a paragraph.⁵⁹ Greg McLaughlin in his book *The War Correspondent* mentioned Higgins in a single sentence.⁶⁰

Virginia Elwood-Akers pointed out that Suzanne Labin and Beverly Deepe were also reporting from Vietnam at the time. Deepe “opposed Higgins in the press controversy,” and took Francois Sully’s position for *Newsweek* after his expulsion from Vietnam.⁶¹ Labin was an extreme anti-communist and “like Marguerite Higgins, Labin believed that the anti-Diem demonstrators were organized and Communist-inspired.”⁶² For the most part, the literature revealed in brief comments, four dominant women reporting in Vietnam prior to 1963. Johnson’s new approach to the press changed the access for all reporters and opened the gates for women correspondents to cover the war.

Nineteen sixty-four marked the transformation of reporting in Vietnam. Johnson revised press relations, the war expanded, and the Vietnam story grew. Johnson attempted to regain control over the information divulged to the public about the war and

⁵⁷ Philip Knightly, *The First Casualty*, 416.

⁵⁸ Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 119-120.

⁵⁹ William M. Hammond. *Reporting Vietnam*, 12-13.

⁶⁰ Greg McLaughlin. *The War Correspondent*. (Sterling, Virginia: Pluto Press, 2002), 75.

⁶¹ Virginia Elwood-Akers. *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-197*, 24-25.

⁶² *Ibid*, 26.

manipulate the press as a tool rather than treat them as the enemy. He realized the press would tell the story regardless if the administration approved. Clarence Wyatt quoted James L. Greenfield, the assistant secretary of state for public affairs, as saying “the press will write whether or not we brief. You can’t prevent stories by not providing information. Whenever we have taken pains to keep the press abreast of what is happening it has worked to our advantage.”⁶³ The official Johnson policy adopted this approach.

The shift began in 1964 with Operation Maximum Candor; a relatively successful attempt to mend relations with the press. Johnson appointed Barry Zorthian as the new chief public affairs officer. With General William C. Westmoreland, Zorthian reorganized Saigon reporting and reworked relationships with the press corps. Westmoreland even brought reporters on his visits to the field and attended Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) briefings. The State Department sent out a new public policy on July 7, 1964.⁶⁴ Wyatt described Operation Maximum Candor:

The staffs of the civilian and military information operations were enlarged. MACV expanded its regular briefings, and provided greater amounts of more accurate information on a more timely basis. Access to top officials was made easier. Reporters were given more help in getting to the field. Facilities for the press, both in Saigon and the field, were improved.⁶⁵

William Hammond wrote: “Keeping Washington agencies fully informed so that all concerned could speak with a common voice, members of the American mission were to refrain from any activity that would mislead the press or damage relations with the news

⁶³ Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 160.

⁶⁴ William M. Hammond. *Reporting Vietnam*, 24,

⁶⁵ Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 158.

media.”⁶⁶ According to Wyatt these relations continued to develop over the next three years in a more positive military-press relationship. Wyatt wrote “In short order, this operation became extremely effective at furnishing the American press what it needed most—the information and logistical support required to report the hard news of American activity, primarily military, in Vietnam.”⁶⁷ The administration concurrently relaxed on censorship.

President Johnson considered imposing censorship several times, but ultimately it proved impossible. The logistics that would need to be set up with the South Vietnamese government and the negative message it sent to American society were not worth the cost. Clarence Wyatt argued:

The memory of Diem’s attacks on American reporters was fresh, and his successors’ willingness to restrain the domestic press clear. U.S. officials believed that putting the American press at the mercy of the South Vietnamese again would be a grave mistake. Imposition of censorship would have negative political repercussions in the United States. Finally, they acknowledged that the stories sparking Johnson’s concern did not affect military security.⁶⁸

The alternative to censorship was an agreement that members of the press were required to abide by. The press had no problems as long as they voluntarily committed to a set of ground rules that listed topics off limits to reporting. The topics mainly dealt with military logistics and strategy. If the reporters violated the ground rules they risked losing their accreditation and possibly the right to remain in Vietnam.⁶⁹

Thus, the correspondents came. The ease of accreditation made Vietnam an open invitation for anyone who wanted to become a war correspondent. Hammond said:

⁶⁶ William M. Hammond. *Reporting Vietnam*, 24.

⁶⁷ Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 158.

⁶⁸ *Ibid*, 159.

⁶⁹ *Ibid*.

MACV also streamlined the way it accredited reporters. Since all, prior to 1965, had received accreditation from the Defense Department, the command had left the paperwork to South Vietnamese officials, who issued an initial one-month approval but then never bothered to follow up with more. With three hundred reporters present in South Vietnam by late 1965, however, the system was under stress and needed to be formalized.⁷⁰

Philip Knightly described the process. One simply had to show up, apply for a visa and present a letter from a publication verifying the correspondent's employment. Many reporters were freelancers who merely needed to present two letters from publications who said they intended to buy the reporter's dispatches.

The reporter was then issued an accreditation card identifying him and stating: The bearer of this card should be accorded full co-operation and assistance to assure the successful completion of his mission. Bearer is authorized rations and quarters on a reimbursable basis. Upon presentation of this card, bearer is entitled to air, water, and ground transportation under a priority of 3...⁷¹

This was the first and last time such accommodations were made to the press during war.

The unique opportunities for all correspondents also created opportunities for women reporters. The restrictions to battle they once faced had vanished and many women would take advantage of the policies of the new LBJ administration. Operation Maximum Candor became reporter's dream. Female correspondent Jurate Kazickas said:

There was no place that you wanted to go that you couldn't get to, nobody that you wanted to speak to that you couldn't speak to. I look back, and I think it is incredible. I just flashed a press card, and I got on fire bombers. I broke the speed of sound on F-6 airplanes. I went on bombing missions. I went all over Vietnam. I went on aircraft carriers. You name it. I did it. And nobody said: Who is she? Who is she writing for? What does she do?⁷²

The emergence of women correspondents in Vietnam was noticeable by 1965.

Compared to the women correspondents prior to 1965, the ladies now arriving on the

⁷⁰ William M. Hammond. *Reporting Vietnam*, 74.

⁷¹ Philip Knightly, *The First Casualty*, 442-443.

⁷² Donna Jones Born. *The Reporting Of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*. 57-58.

scene were very different in their experience and approach to the story. Most of them were not professional reporters; in fact, for many Vietnam was their first job. The majority were young, in their twenties and thirties and did not have the same anti-communist fervor as their predecessors. Women initially found employment as freelancers. It would not be until the 1970s that news organizations would send women under their directive. Virginia Elwood-Akers stated:

The number of correspondents also increased to more than 400 by the end of 1966. There were enough women among these 400 to attract the attention of Time magazine, which devoted an article to the female correspondents in October 1966. Time reported that at the time there were nearly a dozen women correspondents in South Vietnam, and at least as many had visited on short-term assignments.⁷³

The influx of women reporters in Vietnam between the Kennedy and Johnson administrations is a reflection of the transformation of press policy. Without the unlimited access and lack of restrictions created by Johnson the number of women reporters in Vietnam would have continued to go unnoticed. The opportunity simply would not have existed for women to go to the front. By creating an environment that welcomed the press, the administration, essentially, created an environment that would be forced to welcome women. Two hundred sixty seven American women gained accreditation by the end of the war. The changing tide for women journalists in Vietnam had begun.

⁷³ Virginia Elwood-Akers. *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-197*, 61.

Portrait Of The Female Correspondent in Vietnam: A Prosopography

Despite achieving access to Vietnam, women had to battle for their assignments. Women faced challenges from fellow male journalists as well as military officers. Many Americans felt that women did not have a place covering the conflict in Vietnam. In fact a woman wanting to go to Vietnam seemed inconceivable to American society. Though women war correspondents had been reporting since the Spanish-American war, they represented only a very small contingency. The correspondents have discussed their views in various primary sources including memoirs, such as the book, *War Torn*, and interviews conducted by Christine Martin for her masters thesis, *Women Correspondents in Vietnam: Historical Analysis and Oral Histories*. Virginia Elwood-Akers wrote a pioneering book in 1988 titled *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War 1961-1975*. Donna Jones Born wrote a dissertation titled *The Reporting of American Foreign Correspondents from the Vietnam War*. Theses sources provide key insights into the experiences of female correspondents. Though the entire cohort of women journalist, subsequently noted, is not American in origin, their works were influential in the United States.

The struggle started within the professional world with male journalists. Reporter Edie Lederer pointed out that the late 60s and early 70s experienced a large amount of male chauvinism in the print media.⁷⁴ She described the times:

In the early '70s I could actually sit down and count all of the women who worked for the AP-period. There was not one women foreign correspondent.

⁷⁴ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 167.

There were some locally hired women, but not one woman working overseas. So (to be a) war correspondent was unthinkable...when I went to Vietnam (in 1972), it was a big deal.⁷⁵

Professor Joyce Hoffman argued in her article *On Their Own: Female Correspondents in Vietnam* that “No less than the generals, male correspondents in Vietnam perceived war as a man’s game.”⁷⁶ Hoffman asserts that male journalists believed that they had a stronger bond with the troops with whom they shared the hardships of war.⁷⁷ Maurine H. Beasley and Sheila Gibbons, authors of *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women And Journalism*, agreed that many men in journalism thought that Vietnam was “no place for a woman.”⁷⁸ Jurate Kazickas said her male colleagues rationalized women did not belong in Vietnam. She wrote: “I never really felt totally comfortable around that journalist fraternity. Most male reporters had the same attitude about a female correspondent as the military did. “What the hell is a woman doing in a war zone?” they would ask, either to my face or behind my back.”⁷⁹ Reporter Tracy Wood faced obstacles when first trying to cover Vietnam and secondly trying to cover combat stories. Tracy went up against a UPI bureau chief who did not want her in the combat zone.⁷ Liz Trotta encountered the same type of obstacles. She said:

When I left New York, the conventional wisdom said I would be mistreated by the American military and the Vietnamese because I was a woman. As it turned out, the best treatment came from these two patriarchal groups and the worst from

⁷⁵ Maurine Beasley. *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalism*, 216.

⁷⁶ Joyce Hoffman. “On Their Own: Female Correspondents in Vietnam,” Old Dominion University on the Web, <<http://www.odu.edu/ao/instadv/quest/femalecorrespondents.html>> (August 3, 2005) 2.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Maurine Beasley, *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalism*, 216.

⁷⁹ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 133.

my “Liberal” news confreres, who for the most part felt threatened by a woman competing with them.⁸⁰

Before departing for Vietnam one of her male colleagues said: “Well, if you give it all you’ve got, you may do as well as the worst guy we have out there.”⁸¹ Ann Bryan Mariano experienced resentment from several male co-workers that believed women received special privileges. She wrote: “Cynical male colleagues said they liked to stick close to me because I always got rides on choppers and the best food.”⁸² Ann said males overlooked that fact that she had been a reporter for over 10 years. When she arrived in Vietnam and met the chief information officer for MACV his response was “Why did they send a woman here?”—a common feeling about women reporters in a combat zone.⁸³ Reporter Marlene Saunders found that male journalists thought of women as they would a mother or daughter and this paternalism was a difficult barrier to overcome. In fact, she said the barrier seemed far more difficult than battling prejudice against women.⁸⁴

Though discrimination was evident, it could not stop the momentum that had been gained by women. By the early 70s women were beginning to be sent on assignment by major news organizations. Reporter Edie Lederer recalled:

At that point, I never considered going there as a correspondent. And even after having been there, it never really crossed my mind...I always checked “foreign correspondent: on the AP checklist of “what you want to do when you grow up?” Of course, that was just wishful thinking. And becoming a war correspondent even less feasible, was just not possible. Women weren’t even foreign

⁸⁰ Maurine Beasley, *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalism*, 216.

⁸¹ Marion Marzolf. *Up From the Footnote*. (New York: Hastings House Publishers, 1977), 87.

⁸² Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 38.

⁸³ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 120.

⁸⁴ Beasley, *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalism*, 219.

correspondents. There was not one woman, at the time, on the AP's foreign desk, let alone one working in international communications.⁸⁵

Edie Lederer was the 1st Associated Press (AP) resident woman reporter in 1972. Edie recalled: "The foreign editor at the time, Ben Bassett, refused to let women work on the foreign desk—and that was a prerequisite for going abroad. He didn't think women could stand up to the demands of the world's backwaters and battle zones."⁸⁶ Despite Bassett's view, AP president Wes Gallagher asked Edie to go. This was in part due to the perseverance of Richard Pyle, an AP reporter who was pushing for a woman in Saigon.⁸⁷ Tad Bartimus tried to get assigned in Vietnam for 3 years before Gallagher sent her. Gallagher had told her "I will never send a woman to Vietnam"⁸⁸ She left with the need "to prove that I was as good as AP's male war correspondents."⁸⁹ Her difficulties did not subside when she arrived in Vietnam. Tad wrote: "I was working with a bureau chief who had, what can I say, a different view of women. He liked us, but I'm not sure he ever knew why we were there. I had big fights with him about going to Cambodia – or going up the highway into combat."⁹⁰

Reporters of the United Press International (UPI) faced similar situations. Tracy Wood's boss said to her "I don't believe women should cover wars."⁹¹ Tracy had felt her fate was being decided because she was a woman. Despite the opposition Tracy worked

⁸⁵ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 166.

⁸⁶ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 157.

⁸⁷ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 185.

⁸⁸ *Ibid*, 194.

⁸⁹ *Ibid*, 159.

⁹⁰ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 208.

⁹¹ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 224.

her way to Vietnam as a UPI correspondent, though her battle as a woman was not over. Her Saigon bureau chief told her she was too feminine and to stay away from combat. Though the majority of female correspondents report experiencing chauvinistic attitudes in the workplace there were also men who welcomed women into the wartime profession.

Some women had very positive experiences with their male colleagues and found incredible encouragement, guidance, and acceptance. Donna Jones Born argued “Most Women found their male colleagues to be supportive and indeed helpful.”⁹² She later describes a supportive male correspondent in Tracy Wood’s experience:

At first Wood’s bureau chief tried to restrict her to “safe” zones for reporting, but she was fortunate to work with UPI correspondent Maurice Seibert, who not only taught her what he knew about war correspondence but also covered for her when she was reporting where she shouldn’t have been. Eventually, in part because of Seibert’s considerable help, she was able to establish her competence, and reported from everywhere in Vietnam...⁹³

Female reporters knew that some male colleagues perceived them as qualified professionals. What went unsaid was equally as important as what was said. Tad Bartimus described a meeting with Larry Burrows as he offered her advice on reporting. She said:

...Burrows explained that reporters and photographers needed legitimacy and credibility, “otherwise you’ve wasted your time and you’re just in the way. You might even get somebody else killed” He’d delivered a stinging slap of reality and a body blow to my pride, but he hadn’t said a word about my gender. I seized on that omission as a good omen.⁹⁴

Frances Fitzgerald arrived in Vietnam in 1971. She had positive words about the treatment she received from male colleagues. She stated: “My male colleagues, on the

⁹² Donna Jones Born. *The Reporting Of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*, 4.

⁹³ Ibid, 172.

⁹⁴ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 192.

other hand, were extremely nice to me. There was a real camaraderie there.”⁹⁵ Though the majority of women discussed the barriers and stereotypes held by male journalists, some did not encounter such obstacles. Or rather, the barriers proved to be erected by the decision maker and bosses, while acceptance came from fellow journalists. Some women managed to find support that was rooted in their profession rather than their gender.

The struggle for equal access started in the pressroom and followed the women to the battlefield. Once female correspondents got to Vietnam they faced the disapproval of high ranking military officials determined to keep women out of the combat zone. Many female journalists reported similar treatment. Strangely, much of the controversy centered on the latrines. Military officers used the lack of women’s facilities as justification to deny correspondents access to the battlegrounds. This began as early as WWII when in 1941 Dickey Chapelle sought permission to go to Panama to photograph the Fourteenth Infantry’s training. The Colonel of the War Department was quoted saying “I presume you realize, Mrs. Chapelle, that troops in the field have no facilities for women?”⁹⁶ Years later Margaurite Higgins received an equivalent response in the Korean War.⁹⁷ In Vietnam the justification was echoed. Authors Maurine Beasley and Sheila Gibbons wrote: “a common excuse for forbidding women war correspondents to advance to the front lines or accompany a unit on a mission has been the lack of toilet facilities for women.”⁹⁸ Gloria Emerson of *The New York Times* said “Women reporters

⁹⁵ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 114.

⁹⁶ Virginia Elwood-Akers, *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975*, 3.

⁹⁷ *Ibid*, 3.

⁹⁸ Maurine Beasley, *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women Journalists*, 216.

who go into the field make professional Army officers nervous, for these men must immediately explain that no, repeat, no toilets exist for us.”⁹⁹

The hostility from officers presented more than just obstacles based on toilets. Officials felt that women were an unwelcome distraction and responsibility for the troops. The greatest threat to women came when General Westmoreland ran into Denby Fawcett while visiting an army base in South Vietnam.¹⁰⁰ Fawcett recalled:

Then, a chance meeting I had with Gen William C. Westmoreland, commander of the U.S. armed forces in Vietnam, changed everything and resulted in what could have become an enormous setback not only for me, but for all the other women reporters covering the war. The incident showed how tenuous our hard-earned privileges were, how quickly they could be rescinded.¹⁰¹

The encounter with a woman at the base prompted Westmoreland’s attempt to deny women reporters overnight stays with the troops.¹⁰² In 1967 MACV stated that women would no longer be allowed to stay the night out in the field.¹⁰³ This would have made combat reporting virtually unattainable for women reporters. Ann Morrissy Merick pointed out in her interview with Christine Martin that “It was not always possible, in fact, it was often impossible, to get out into field, do your story, and get back to Saigon in the same day.”¹⁰⁴ This could have been the beginning and end for women combat reporters in Vietnam, but the women did not give up without a fight. A group of female correspondents banded together to tackle the directive. They drew up a petition and requested to meet with Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara. Eventually, they had a

⁹⁹ Ibid, 216.

¹⁰⁰ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 11-12.

¹⁰¹ Ibid, 11.

¹⁰² Ibid, 13.

¹⁰³ Martin 121

¹⁰⁴ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 160.

meeting with Phil Goulding, the assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. After an evening of conversation and a few martinis the issue faded away. MACV never enforced Westmoreland's directive.¹⁰⁵ Women successfully established equal access but that did not stop military discrimination. Edie Lederer said: "My predecessors who came to Vietnam in the 1960s had fought and won the big battles with the U.S. military over equal access for women journalists. But that didn't translate to equality of the sexes in the eyes of most men, especially in the military."¹⁰⁶

Many officers assumed an obligation to protect women with extra security measures. This was not only believed to take resources away from the war effort, but also to cause a distraction among the men. Virginia Elwood-Akers wrote: "For reasons which usually had nothing to do with chivalry, officers fussed over the women reporters, assigned them bodyguards, and ordered them away from the front lines."¹⁰⁷ Some officers feared the repercussions of a woman being killed while under their command. Reporter Ann Bryan Mariano recalls the views of officers in the book *War Torn*. "They'd say that soldiers would be forced to protect us at the expense of protecting themselves or their units. I never experienced that at all."¹⁰⁸ Ann believed that the military perceived women as harder to protect and more easily prone to injury or death.¹⁰⁹ Correspondent Tad Bartimus said that the only obstacles to her gender she encountered

¹⁰⁵ Ibid, 160-161.

¹⁰⁶ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 173.

¹⁰⁷ Virginia Elwood-Akers. *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975*, 4.

¹⁰⁸ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 28.

¹⁰⁹ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 122.

were from the military.¹¹⁰ Jurate Kazickas experienced officers attempting to divert her the front by making it difficult to catch a ride on a helicopter. She said they would make “Subtle attempts to re-route you to safety. But they really couldn’t say no. They could just make it hard for you to get into a few hot places.”¹¹¹ While on assignment in Khe Sanh, Jurate Kazickas was injured. It was reported that a general responded: “She got what she was looking for. She came over here with a death wish. She wanted bang-bang. She got it.”¹¹² Would a general have responded the same way if it were a male reporter that had been injured?

Correspondent Gloria Emerson faced anti-female attitudes throughout her time in Vietnam. Gloria believed it did not have anything to do with her sex but more with the fact that she could not present the right attitude about war. She concluded that men presumed she could not understand how war functioned and why they engaged in it.¹¹³ In an interview with Christine Martin, Kelly Smith Tunney summed it up by saying “Perhaps, when more women go to war, the situation will change and women will be less ‘Special’. But until then, it’s a problem.”¹¹⁴

Certain branches of the military erected more barriers for women than others. Jurate Kazickas had a particularly hard time tapping in with the marines. Their military officials required her to have an escort at all times, something she had never experienced

¹¹⁰ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 196.

¹¹¹ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 98.

¹¹² Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 103.

¹¹³ *Ibid*, 224.

¹¹⁴ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 152.

with the army.¹¹⁵ She was assigned to an out of shape escort that had to be helicoptered out. She was required to leave with him, and feared that the evacuation alerted the enemy to the position of the company that was later attacked.¹¹⁶ For Edith Lederer the difficulty came when trying to access navy ships which, at the time, did not have females on the crew. After a struggle she was granted permission to go aboard but was required to sleep isolated with a guard posted for her protection.¹¹⁷

Alternatively, some women's versions of their experience contrasted with their colleagues. Several women described their interaction with military officers in positive terms. A noticeable variance appears in the reporting of older more experienced journalists. Ann Morrissy Merick said: "The military brass was always terrific to me, too. A major would always give up his hootch for me, so that I had some privacy."¹¹⁸ Dickey Chapelle never discussed the difficulties facing women. Though she had issues regarding latrines, she did not speak of it in her stories about Vietnam.¹¹⁹ Chapelle was proud of the fact that she lived like the male troops and never asked for special favors because she was a woman.¹²⁰ In the same respect, Marguerite Higgins and Patches Musgrove did not discuss hardships or discrimination they may have faced being women in the war zone.¹²¹ Several women admitted to never experiencing "antagonism" but did

¹¹⁵ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 122

¹¹⁶ *Ibid*, 131.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid*, 162.

¹¹⁸ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 158

¹¹⁹ *Ibid*, 223.

¹²⁰ Maurine Beasley, *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalism*, 218.

¹²¹ Virginia Elwood-Akers, *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975*, 223.

attest that sexual antagonism did exist.¹²² Many women such as Michele Ray chose to ignore discrimination. She went over the head of a Special Forces commander who denied her permission to go on a mission. She ended up spending eight days with the Green Berets.¹²³ The question arises: did these women truly have different experiences, or did they just not talk about it?

Much can be said about discrimination but much can also be said about the women who stuck it out and plowed their way through inequalities they were faced with everyday. In the end female correspondents forever changed the view of women war reporters as countless women today flow freely through the front lines. Their determination and professionalism created a turning point for women in American journalism.

Though commonalities can be found in women's experiences with red tape, their views on the war and the type of stories they chose to report on were very different. For this reason, it is argued that there did not exist a pure "woman's story." Some women chose to break the stereotypes by covering combat, but many chose to follow human interest stories, which had been traditionally viewed as women's coverage. For a number of women, the human interest stories rose out of the desire to reveal aspects of the war that had been ignored due to the focus on combat. For others, human interest was the only way to get published in the face of male dominated combat coverage. Regardless, women expanded the coverage of the Vietnam story.

¹²² Ibid, 6.

¹²³ Ibid, 67.

Because men were the first to be established in Vietnam, the focus of female reporting had to be distinct from the stories already coming out of the country.. Most women ventured as freelancers who joined the already existing cohort of male reporters. Combat coverage made the news and so naturally men filled the roles in this type of reporting. Christine Martin stated:

Men were assigned to the battlefield, and if women wanted to cover the war, they usually had to “make do” with stories of the suffering on sidelines. Also, just to compete with their male colleagues, who were dispatching hundreds of fairly similar battlefield accounts daily, women had to come up with something different. “Color” pieces from “somewhere near the front” fit the bill perfectly.¹²⁴

Despite the competition, several women committed themselves to combat coverage.

Author Clarence Wyatt stated: “...the primary focus of the American press in South Vietnam was combat, especially combat involving Americans.”¹²⁵ For most freelancers, the stories they could sell were the stories that were not being covered. Correspondent Jurate Kazickas pointed out “If you were a freelancer, trying to sell combat, you had to see combat... and you had to see combat that nobody else was seeing.”¹²⁶ Donna Jones Born stated: “Editors, in fact, sometimes cautioned freelancers and special correspondents against reporting the day’s fighting in Vietnam because it was already being covered by the news agencies and the major news organizations.”¹²⁷ Thus, many women filled the gap left by male reporters in the political and human interest side of the war.

¹²⁴ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories*, 24.

¹²⁵ Clarence Wyatt, *Paper Soldiers*, 142.

¹²⁶ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 99

¹²⁷ Donna Jones Born. *The Reporting Of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*. 74.

It does appear that women more readily covered human interest stories both within the majority of female reporting as well as reporting in general. Some correspondents used human interest to break into the freelancing field but many female correspondents believed they expanded a much needed perspective on the war. Ann Morrissy Merick arrived in Vietnam in 1967. She wrote about her perceptions of coverage: “Only a handful of women were covering the war. Their arrival on the scene was to make many changes in the news coverage of the war.”¹²⁸ She believed in the importance of conveying a more complete story to the American public. She pointed out, “But Vietnam wasn’t all combat; there was lots of downtime. There were many other stories to be covered, and I was responsible for ferreting them out.”¹²⁹ Pulitzer prize winner, Frances Fitzgerald was quoted as saying “One did not have to understand the French peasant to understand the American military presence in World War II. But Vietnam was very, very different. When you understood the history and the culture, you understood why the American effort was in trouble.”¹³⁰ Female correspondents attempted to report on this aspect of the Vietnam story. Christine Martin stated:

Despite the fact that in Vietnam women correspondents finally achieved total access to the battlefield, the majority of women reporters focused their coverage away from the “front”, concentrating instead on the “human interest” aspect of the war—the effects to the war on its civilian victims and the culture, politics, history and daily lives of the Vietnamese.¹³¹

Author Donna Jones Born pointed out that “While they wrote about all aspects of the war, women focused on the effects of the war on the Vietnamese people and society,

¹²⁸ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 93

¹²⁹ *Ibid*, 111.

¹³⁰ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 23

¹³¹ *Ibid*, 73.

primarily because they believed this was an important story that needed to be told but was being overlooked by the regular press corps.”¹³² While some women reported on these stories because it was a gap that freelancers could fill, others saw the importance in expanding coverage and found legitimacy in the women’s slant.

The majority of women who discussed their reporting careers in Vietnam said they included a combination of human interest, cultural and political coverage that molded into a distinctive female viewpoint. Many women believed this provided an alternative insight of the war. Reporter Kate Webb told scholar Christine Martin that she believed women had a unique perspective – “one that finds no glamour or heroics.” Kelly Smith Tunney explained that “Women correspondents were more likely to cover the Vietnamese because men either had to, or wanted to, cover combat. I think men are quick to cover conflict for what it is up front. Women just seem to know that there is more to war than the bang-bang. I think women are culturally trained to understand that.”¹³³ Tunney also pointed out that women were “willing to do the stories with no glamour, and those stories filled a gap.” In fact, some correspondents felt that women covered human-interest stories better. Tad Bartimus explained

To really explain war, you have to write about the people in the war, the people who suffer. I think being a woman gave me a certain advantage in being sensitive to that angle. I think the stereotype – that women are more sensitive to the plight of the victims – is, indeed, true. It’s not absolute. But as for me and most of my female colleagues, we just did the human interest angle better. Not better than

¹³² Donna Jones Born. *The Reporting Of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*, ii.

¹³³ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 150

Arnett. And certainly not better than Dick Blystone. But we did it better than most men.¹³⁴

Women's coverage of the human side of war provided an insight and a point of view that was missing from combat reporting. While many women embraced this, others rejected stories being labeled according to gender.

Various female correspondents denied the existence of a women's approach to wartime reporting. Reporter Liz Trotta told Christine Martin that she did not believe a female perspective on war existed. Denby Fawcett wrote:

You might wonder if women reporters expanded coverage of the Vietnam War by pursuing different kinds of stories from those sought by the male reporters. In my own case, I would have to say not. I made a point of covering exactly the same kinds of stories as my male colleagues, mainly because I never again wanted to be typecast as a women's-page reporter.¹³⁵

Correspondent Tracy Wood also resisted taking a woman's angle on her stories. She said:

I don't believe that you have to cover combat exclusively to cover a war – and in Vietnam, if you covered combat exclusively, you missed the war. But I didn't allow myself to be relegated to the "woman's angle." And I got mild resistance over that. Earlier in the war women like Ann Mariano and Liz Trotta got major resistance to that.¹³⁶

These women established a reputation as respected journalists. They rejected the idea of being singled out as women and relegated to cover a certain angle of the war. This drove their approach and coverage of stories. For a few women it motivated them pursue combat coverage.

¹³⁴ Ibid, 210.

¹³⁵ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 16

¹³⁶ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 196

A handful of women correspondents became known for their exemplary combat and field coverage. They embarked upon the mission to prove themselves as journalists and break the male mold of combat reporting. Christine Martin said: “A number of women correspondents took full advantage of their new found freedom to roam the front. They concentrated on combat coverage, daring to go where many male correspondents feared to tread, covering some of the roughest and most dangerous battles of war.”¹³⁷ She noted some of the discerning female combat correspondents including: Liz Trotta, Jurate Kazickas, Elaine Shepard and Marguerite Higgins.¹³⁸

Dickey Chapelle is one of the first and most famous combat correspondents. She was incredibly tough and chose to travel on missions with the U.S. marines. She jumped with Vietnamese airborne units, carried her own pack, marched and ate C-rations with the men.¹³⁹ At the age of 45 she was killed while accompanying ground troops sweeping mines on the Mekong Delta.¹⁴⁰

Other journalists courageously chose to place themselves amidst the intense fighting of Vietnam. Cathy Leroy, a French photographer covered the battle for Hill 881. The marines had 900 casualties from the fight. Jurate Kazickas witnessed the battle of Khe Sanh where she was injured.¹⁴¹ Liz Trotta covered combat on and off from 1968 to 1973. Christine Martin said Trotta was “always on patrol with combat troops.”¹⁴² Ann

¹³⁷ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 64

¹³⁸ Ibid, 23.

¹³⁹ Virginia Elwood-Akers, *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975*, 16-17.

¹⁴⁰ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 67

¹⁴¹ Ibid, 64.

¹⁴² Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 70

Morrissy Merrick went to Vietnam in 1967. Her main assignment evolved into combat coverage focusing on the experiences of individual soldiers.¹⁴³ Reporter Ann Bryan Mariano said she “spent at least half my time in the field with U.S. troops.”¹⁴⁴

Some correspondents managed to merge both combat reporting and special interest into their repertoire. For this reason female correspondents were known for their rounded coverage of events. Though they built combat reporting into their stories they did not allow it to become the driving force of their work. Edie Lederer distinguished her reports by centering on both politics and combat.¹⁴⁵

The women who covered combat dared to break the stereotypes held by American society. They proved that women had the strength, ability, and perseverance to report from the frontlines. Just as many women took different approaches to their stories, they also had different beliefs about the war. The only evident similarity between all of the women appeared to be that they were women in a man’s world. Their political views were both Democratic and Republican. They were both for and against the war.

The older correspondents who had been reporting since WWII leaned toward the pro war hawks. Influenced by WWII, many fostered extreme anti-communist feelings. Dickey Chapelle, Marguarite Higgins and Philippa Schuyler voiced their opinions vehemently against communist regimes.¹⁴⁶ The convictions of these women were expressed throughout their commentaries on the conflict in Southeast Asia. . Author

¹⁴³ Ibid, 157.

¹⁴⁴ Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood eds. *War Torn*, 38

¹⁴⁵ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 82

¹⁴⁶ Virginia Elwood-Akers, *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975*, 213.

Virginia Elwood-Akers wrote: “To others, like Philippa Schuyler and Patches Musgrove, the only error was in not taking a stronger stand against North Vietnam.” Schuyler believed “Communism is our implacable and declared enemy, and the greatest enemy of freedom in our time.”¹⁴⁷ She thought the United States was holding back and should take the tactic of bombing any target that would aid South Vietnam in being victorious.¹⁴⁸ Dickey Chapelle’s views were similar. “Chapelle’s opposition to Communism was total; her patriotism was unquestioning.”¹⁴⁹ The more mature journalists experiences with the effects of WWII strongly influenced the stances they took on the war, and these women outwardly expressed their opinions.

A new age for women war correspondents appeared with a younger crowd seizing the opportunity to start their careers in the mid‘60s. Keyes Beech, a correspondent for the *Chicago Daily News*, said: “To a very large extent, the Americans in Vietnam were a reflection of American society in the ‘60s. There was a generation gap in Vietnam as well as the U.S.”¹⁵⁰ The emerging group conveyed more of a dovish approach to the war than their predecessors. The new perspectives were reflected in their stories. Virginia Elwood-Akers wrote: “For the most part the women correspondents who began to arrive in South Vietnam in 1966 were in their twenties and early thirties. Few were as fervently anti-Communist as their older colleagues. Some were decidedly leftist in their philosophy.”¹⁵¹ By 1967 the views of women correspondents had gone even further left.

¹⁴⁷ Donna Jones Born. *The Reporting Of American Women Foreign Correspondents From The Vietnam War*. 65.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ Virginia Elwood-Akers, *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975*, 10.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid, 61.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

Most women either strongly opposed to the war or were neutral in their reporting.¹⁵²

Correspondent, Mary McCarthy was astonished by what she witnessed in Vietnam and she believed “Americans must get out immediately.”¹⁵³ She was not alone in her opinion.

Laura Palmer, an ABC Radio stringer, in Vietnam from 1972 to 1974 said “I always felt that America’s involvement with the war was wrong. I felt that before I went to Vietnam and I felt that after I left, and after we left.”¹⁵⁴ The pro-war attitude faded with the disappearance of the more seasoned reporters. The changes in journalism correlated with the change in American society.

Conclusion

Though it is possible to paint a picture of the female war correspondent in Vietnam, it is impossible to classify them into one category. Many women faced similar challenges but no two were exactly alike. Their lives were truly unique as were their views on war and the stories they told about Vietnam. Though it was not part of their agenda, these women truly expanded women’s reporting for future generations and forced the “men’s club” to let women join.

In the United States social changes were forcing citizens to re-examine inequities in society. Women seized this opportunity to advance their status through the women’s liberation movement. Female correspondents, though not women’s “libbers”, benefited from the pressures of the movement. The 1964 Civil Rights Act gave women legal

¹⁵² Ibid,104.

¹⁵³ Ibid,105.

¹⁵⁴ Christine Martin. *Women Correspondents In Vietnam: Historical Analysis And Oral Histories* 186

ground for complaints and forced news organizations to send women into the war zone on assignment.

Access for women was forever changed through a transformation in White House policy. The deaths of Diem and President Kennedy fostered a new opportunity for Johnson to shift government press relations. With the new Maximum Candor Policy came unlimited access and looser restrictions for all reporters, including women. The single challenge that threatened women's opportunities was the attempt of General Westmoreland to restrict overnight stays in the field for female correspondents. This ultimately failed, securing equal access in Vietnam. Many women freelancers took advantage of the freedom they now enjoyed.

Female correspondents faced a diverse set of challenges including discrimination from male colleagues as well as the military. A few women found support from men while pursuing careers in journalism. Some chose to talk about their obstacles while others did not. Regardless, all women defied the odds surmounted against them. The result of their determination established women as competent, respected members of their profession. Women transformed the men's club in wartime reporting and initiated a turning point for women war correspondents in American journalism. The results of the female war correspondents convictions during the Vietnam era are the equal opportunities that exist for journalists today. The image of a woman on the frontlines is no longer an aberration but a familiar occurrence.

LESSON PLAN: FEMALE WAR CORRESPONDENTS IN VIETNAM

Introduction

Themes:

- Well-behaved women rarely make history.
- Many parts make a whole story.

The themes should be reinforced and used to connect the information throughout the unit. The themes are a valuable tool used to help students make connections in history. The first theme emphasizes the idea that women are often overlooked in historical studies in the classroom and the women who make it into the history books have often been nonconformists. The second theme enforces the idea that historical events do not exist in a bubble, and as history students, they need to examine many stories to get a complete understanding of events.

Time frame: This lesson plan covers approximately 16 days of 55 min. classes. Most courses do not have time for a special lesson of this timeframe. You are encouraged to use the lessons in part or individually to fit your needs.

The following lesson plan addresses several historical events that helped shape the development of women journalists during the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War served as a crucial entry point for women journalists into wartime reporting. An unprecedented number of women were accredited during the war. The perseverance of these women in the face of adversity forever changed the role of women in wartime reporting and created opportunities for future female war correspondents.

Essentially, advancement can be traced to the changing role of women in American society, the 1964 Civil Rights movement and the nature of an accessible, uncensored war in Vietnam. The lesson will begin with an overview of female correspondents in Vietnam. The lesson will then analyze the restrictive social status of women in the 1950s and the development of women's rights in the 1960s. The lesson will examine key events including: the women's movement and the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Students will analyze how these key events impacted female wartime journalists and exemplify the theme that well-behaved women rarely make history.

The lesson will then examine government press relations during the Vietnam War. The class will analyze the shift in press policy from the Kennedy to the Johnson administrations. The class will examine Vietnam's development as an unrestricted and uncensored war and the implications this had for female war correspondents.

Finally, the class will take the two areas of study, analyze the impact they both had on the common subject of women in the world or wartime reporting, emphasizing the theme many parts make a whole story.

The above themes will be woven continually throughout the lesson plan. This lesson is ideal for a women's history class but can also add as a case study to a U.S. History Class. After all, women are often left out of these courses

Prior Content Knowledge and Skills: Students should have background knowledge on U.S. history prior to the time period of study. They should have working knowledge of the influences of the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and women's movements; including suffrage, prior to the 1950's. Students will use primary documents, video clips, music and handouts to complete the project. Students should know what primary documents are and have experience evaluating them. For the culminating activity they will need access to computers, the Internet and library resources.

Materials:

Song recordings:

Pearls Eye View of Dickey Chapelle by Nanci Griffith
 Woman is the Nigger of the world by John Lennon

Films:

Mona Lisa Smiles
 Good Morning Vietnam

Book:

War Torn by Tad Bartimus, Gloria Emerson, Denby Fawcett, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Anne Bryan Mariano, Anne Morrissy Merick, Laura Palmer, Kate Webb and Tracy Wood
The Feminine Mystique by Betty Friedan
 U.S. History textbooks (school copies)

Computers:

Word processing
 Internet access
 Power Point (for technological alternatives)

Content Hook

The content hook of the unit is an excerpt written by female journalist, Tracy Wood, in the book *War Torn*. See Appendix B for a copy of the excerpt. Create an overhead and display it for students to read. Ask them to respond in journal format to the following questions:

- Should women go to war?
- What type of jobs should they have?
- Is it fair to restrict women in war from doing certain jobs? Explain your answer.
- Do you think men are better suited for war? Explain.

Discuss student responses. Ask students if they knew women went to the Vietnam War. Ask them what they thought they did there. Tell students one of the themes of the unit is that ***well-behaved women rarely make history***. Ask students if they think this is true and to give some examples. Inform students that during the Vietnam War a record number of women went to Vietnam as wartime reporters. Ask them why they think these women have not made it into their history books. Inform students that women journalists were able to enter Vietnam in record numbers because of certain historical events that made it possible. Tell students the second theme of the unit is, ***many parts make a whole story***. Tell students they will be studying events that paved the way for women journalists in Vietnam.

Lesson Content

Day 1- Introduction to Female Correspondents in Vietnam

Content hook: See above explanation.

Lesson: Tell the students they are going to look at some images of a reporter who covered the Vietnam War.

The main portion of the lesson consists of a series of photographs of female journalist Dickey Chapelle in Vietnam. The images chosen are of Dickey in the field in Vietnam. Student's ideas of soldiers in Vietnam are often of men. The images of Dickey are contrary to what students might expect. Ask them to look at each photo carefully. The students will examine the photographs and evaluate them using the Photographic analysis handout (see Appendix B). Initiate a class discussion. Ask students to consider what they know about combat in Vietnam and why there are images of a woman. What is she doing there? What is her job? Discuss Dickey Chapelle. A brief biography can be found at http://www.photobetty.com/dickey_chapelle/15.htm. The images can be found at the Wisconsin Historical Society website <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org>

Suggested Photographs:

1. Chapelle in Vietnam
Image ID: WHi-33129
2. Chapelle with Pilots
Image ID: WHi-33130
3. Dickey Chapelle in Vietnam
Image ID: WHi-1943

*Note: There is a history channel video titled *Heroes Under Fire–Dickey Chapelle* and a new motion picture due out in 2007. If you have time you may consider showing one of these videos.

Wrap-up: Handout song Lyrics *Pearls Eye View of Dickey Chapelle* (see Appendix B). Play the song for the class. How doe Dickey exemplify the theme “Well-behaved women rarely make history”

Day 2- Overview Of Female War Correspondents In Vietnam

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Review: Remind students yesterday they looked at one female correspondent, but there were many. Tell them you are going to talk about them today.

Lesson: Direct Instruction- Give a lecture and overview of women war correspondents in Vietnam. (see Appendix B for notes) Read over literature review to get a working background on the subject in order to make the notes concrete for the students.

Wrap-Up: Tell students that we will be looking at two aspects of women's entry into journalism during Vietnam. We will be examining **parts that made the whole story**. We will be studying the changing society for women from the 1950s-1970s. We will also study the shift in press relations from Kennedy to Johnson administration and the unrestricted access that was granted to reporters.

Homework Read article by Joyce Hoffman that can be found at <http://www.odu.edu/ao/instdv/quest/femalecorrespondents.html> Handout and explain the questions that accompany the article (see Appendix B).

Day 3- Introduction Of The Influence Of The Women's Movement

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Review: Discuss last night's reading.

Lesson: Distribute song lyrics for John Lennon's *Woman is The Nigger of the World*. Distribute song analysis worksheet. Play the song for the class. Discuss the song.

- Why it was written, what does it mean?
- What metaphors does John Lennon create?
- Tell students it was written in 1972.
- What does this tell you about society at the time?
- Do you think it is different today? Ask students to provide examples.
- Make a connection between the song and the women's movement.

Distribute copies of the timeline of women's movement. Make an overhead and review it with students. Ask students where women war correspondents in Vietnam might fit in the timeline. They went to Vietnam between 1961-1975. Tell students that even though female correspondents were in Vietnam in the early 1960s, it was not until 1966 that they were in noticeable numbers. This correlates with the escalation of the war.

Wrap-Up: Ask students what type of challenges would have existed for women journalists. Write responses on the board.

Homework- Assign groups of 2-3 a section from the book *War Torn*. There are sections for 9 female correspondents. Students should read and take notes on their reporters in preparation for their final project (see Appendix B). They will be working in groups to create a write-up and mock interview. Tell them to take careful notes and use post-its to mark important parts of their chapter.

Day 4- Changing Role Of Women In Society 1950s

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Review: Remind students of yesterday's timeline. Tell students they are going to watch a movie clip from the 1950s. Remind them that this is prior to the events on their timeline. Play a movie clip from Clip *Mona Lisa Smile*. There are several scenes in the movie that can be used to exemplify the expectations for women in the 1950s. Discuss the clip with class.

- What can students tell about the expectations for women based on the video clip?
- How would it feel to live during that time period?
- How would the lives of women and men be different?

Discuss women of the 1950s- expectations, portrayal and how this would lead to events on their timeline. Ask students to consider what other factors would influence the women's movement (civil rights movement, student movement, counterculture etc.)

Lesson: Project or distribute a copy of a home economics book of the 1950s . This is a section on how to be a good wife. You can find copy at <http://iws.ccccd.edu/grooms/goodwife.htm>. Discuss the book.

- Does this surprise students?
- What does this tell you about expectations and choices for women?
- How is this different for women today?

Next you will analyze advertisement of the 1950s. You can find three examples at <http://web.usf.edu/~honors/current/StudentWebs/Gender%20Roles%20Website/50ads.html>. A LCD projector is best for projecting the images. Irfran View is great image viewer that is free and downloads off the Internet. Otherwise, make overhead copies. Distribute the advertisement analysis handout (see Appendix B). Put students into mixed ability pairs and have them work together to analyze the ads. Reconvene the class and discuss what these advertisements tell students about society and the role of women in the 1950s. Review the student's answers from their analysis handout.

Wrap-up: Remind students that the society you have been discussing is the society that female journalists are emerging from. Ask students what types of challenges would have existed for women journalists. Write responses on the board.

Homework: Women's Movement Terms. Have students use their textbook to complete the handout found in Appendix B.

Day 5- Changing Role Of Women In Society 1960s

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Review/Lesson: Jigsaw activity 1960's – Break students into heterogeneous groups of 4. Have the students compare their findings from the homework assignment. Have each group discuss how the terms advanced the women's movement. Ask students which term they think female journalists directly benefited from.

Wrap-up: Reading from the *Feminine Mystique*. Depending on time, read part of the first chapter titled *The Problem That Has No Name*. Initiate a discussion about the reading.

Homework: Continue reading War Torn section.

Day 6- Women and 1964 Civil Rights Act

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Review: Tell students we have been looking at the role of women in society and yesterday we looked at events, organizations etc. that advanced the movement. Tell them that we are going to look in-depth at the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Lesson: Primary document analysis. Analyze the 1964 Civil Rights Act- How would this open up opportunity? Background information and a copy of the document can be found at: <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act/#documents>. Put students into 8 heterogeneous groups. Distribute 1 page to each group and a document analysis handout (see Appendix B). Have one student record the main points of their page. When they are done have one student from each group share their findings with the class. Review Title VII on employment. How would women use the Act to further equality?

Wrap-Up: How could female correspondents benefit from the legislation? Tell students that women started to file lawsuits against news agencies in late 60s and early 70s. Though women had been freelancing in Vietnam it was not until the pressure created by the Civil Rights Act did agencies send women to Vietnam on assignment. Tell students that President Johnson signed this legislation into office. Tell students that tomorrow they will take a look at another change created by Johnson in the area of press relations. Remind them that **many parts make a whole story.**

Day 7- Introduction to Press Policy and The Vietnam War

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Review: Remind students that many parts make a whole story. Remind them that yesterday we looked at an important piece of legislation signed by Johnson in 1964. Tell them today we will be discussing another important change that occurred with the Johnson administration. Tell them we will be analyzing press policy during the Vietnam War. Tell them it is important to look at the parts of the women's movement and press relations in order to tell the complete story of female war correspondents in Vietnam.

Lesson: Good morning Vietnam- Show a clip from the movie. There are several clips in the film that show how the military received and censored news going out to the troops on the radio. Ask students to explain censorship. Ask students if war should be censored? Project the Kennedy quote (see Appendix B). What does this tell you about his policy? Tell students that the quote reflects government press relations for the time, but the relationship will change as the war progresses. Tell students it is the responsibility of government to create policy for dealing with the press. Tell students that prior to 1964 news about involvement in Vietnam was controlled. Tell students that after Kennedy was assassinated and Johnson took office, access and censorship policies were changed. Tell students they are going to investigate this change and come up with their own policy for government press relations.

Put students into mixed ability groups of 2-3 people. Distribute Developing Press Policy During Wartime handout (see Appendix B). Go over and explain the assignment. Students will need access to the computer lab and the Internet. Remind them to consider how their policy will affect women journalists.

Homework: Review your notes from your research. Brainstorm ideas that should go into your policy.

Day 8- Press Policy and The Vietnam War (continued)

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Lesson: Workday in the computer lab. Finalizing research and coming up with a press policy. Tell students they should be ready to share their recommendations with class tomorrow.

Day 9- Press Policy and The Vietnam War (continued)

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Review/Lesson: Reconvene class and have students form a circle sitting with their groups. Remind them they are advisors to the president. Tell them we are going to debate the recommendations they have for press policy and come up with a class decision. Make an overhead copy of the press policy handout to fill out with the class. Have each group discuss and debate their recommendations.

Wrap-Up: Discuss your final policy. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of restrictions on the press. Ask how the policy would affect female war correspondents.

Day 10- Press Policy and The Vietnam War (continued)

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Review: Remind students of the policy they came up with yesterday. Tell them they are going to look at the actual policy today. Share Gloria Emerson quote (see Appendix B). Ask students how this differs from Kennedy's quote.

Lesson: Direct instruction- lecture and notes on Vietnam Press Policy. Remind students that many parts make a whole story (see Appendix B).

Wrap-Up: Using the diagram circles title Factors That Advanced Female War Correspondents (see Appendix B). Combine the Women's Movement and Press Policy to tell the story of female correspondents entry into Vietnam.

Homework: Make sure War Torn reading is complete and students should come tomorrow with their notes.

Day 11- Project War Torn

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Review: Remind students that both the women's movement and the United States press policy paved the way for women to enter the Vietnam War as correspondents. Remind them that there were an unprecedented number of women accredited. Four hundred sixty seven were accredited of which 267 were Americans.

Lesson: Handout and explain the project: Interviews With Women Correspondents in The Vietnam War (see Appendix B).

Days 12-14 Project War Torn

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Workday: See project write-up found in Appendix B. Students will continue creation of their final project in preparation for their presentations.

Day 15- Project War Torn

Presentations: Hand out Interview Notes (see Appendix B). Each student needs to take notes on the presentations of correspondents. Each group should introduce their correspondent with their 1-2 page write-up and the picture and nametag. Each group will then conduct their interview while the rest of the class takes notes. See Appendix B for a grading rubric. You may need additional days for presentations depending on your class size.

Technology Alternative: If you have a computer projector you can have the students put the picture and name on Power Point and project it up during their presentation. You may want students to record their interview on videotape and then view the recordings as a class.

Wrap-up: Discuss and review the parts that made the whole story of female correspondents. List student ideas on the board. Re-visit the diagram from day 10. Remind students to study for the test.

Day 16- Test

Remind students of the two themes for the unit.

- **Well-behaved women rarely make history.**
- **Many parts make a whole story.**

Test: Traditional exam and key can be found in Appendix B.

Evaluation

Performance evaluation: The performance portion of the evaluation process of the lesson plan will consist of research and a mock interview. Students will work in pairs to read a chapter out of the book *War Torn* and develop a profile for one of the female war correspondents in the book. They will then develop a presentation in the form of a mock interview in which one student takes the role of the reporter and one student takes the role of interviewer. See Appendix B for a copy of the project.

Formal Evaluation: The formal evaluation portion the evaluation process is a traditional exam. The exam is a combination of matching, multiple choice and essay. See Appendix B for a copy of the exam and an answer key.

APPENDIX A

Grade Level Standards

California Social Science Standard

United States History

11.10 Students analyze the development of federal civil rights and voting rights.

6. Analyze the passage and effects of civil rights and voting rights legislation (e.g., 1964 Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act of 1965) and the Twenty-Fourth Amendment, with an emphasis on equality of access to education and to the political process.

7. Analyze the women's rights movement from the era of Elizabeth Stanton and Susan Anthony and the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the movement launched in the 1960s, including differing perspectives on the roles of women.

11.11 Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.

3. Describe the changing roles of women in society as reflected in the entry of more women into the labor force and the changing family structure

Civics

12.3 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are (i.e., the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations that are not part of government), their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society.

1. Explain how civil society provides opportunities for individuals to associate for social, cultural, religious, economic, and political purposes.

2. Explain how civil society makes it possible for people, individually or in association with others, to bring their influence to bear on government in ways other than voting and elections,

12.8 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.

1. Discuss the meaning and importance of a free and responsible press.

2. Describe the roles of broadcast, print, and electronic media, including the Internet, as means of communication in American politics.

3. Explain how public officials use the media to communicate with the citizenry and to shape public opinion

National Social Science Standards

United States History

Era 9 -Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)

Standard 4B

The student understands the women's movement for civil rights and equal opportunities. Analyze the factors contributing to modern feminism and compare the ideas, agendas, and strategies of feminist and counter-feminist organizations. [Marshal evidence of antecedent circumstances]

Identify the major social, economic, and political issues affecting women and explain the conflicts these issues engendered. [Formulate a position or course of action on an issue]

Evaluate the conflicting perspectives over the Equal Rights Amendment, Title VII, and Roe v. Wade. [Consider multiple perspectives]

Civics and Government

Standard II.C.2. -Describe the character of American political conflict and explain factors that usually tend to prevent it or lower its intensity.

Standard II.D.3. -Evaluate, take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of American political life are and their importance to the maintenance of constitutional democracy.

Standard II.D.4. -Evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues in which fundamental values and principles may be in conflict.

Standard II.D.5. -Evaluate, take, and defend positions about issues concerning the disparities between American ideals and realities

APPENDIX B

Handouts and Instructional Materials

Hook

I'm not violent by temperament and don't enjoy violent or even scary books or movies. I'd never known violence in my personal life and, frankly, the idea of going to Vietnam frightened me.

But the minute the invitation left Landry's mouth, the other part of me, the decisive part, knew I was going.

"When do I leave?"

Landry looked out over the newsroom.

"There's something I need to tell you."

UPI's executives had debated whether to send a woman to Vietnam. Editor Roger Tatarian and News Editor H.L. Stevenson wanted me to go. Landry, my immediate boss, didn't.

"Why not?"

Landry was a veteran foreign correspondent who'd covered the world's major conflicts and glamour spots, from the savagery of civil war in the Congo to the luxury of Paris. He's a mild, fatherly personality with no children.

"I don't believe women should cover wars," he said, the glare from the florescent lights on his glasses hiding whatever was in his eyes.

War Torn page 224

Photographic Analysis

When do you think the photo was taken (time-period)?

Describe the following:

People	Things	Happenings

What can you infer from the photo?

Is there anything that particularly stands out or strikes you about the photo?

Do you have any questions regarding the photograph?

Pearl's Eye View (The Life of Dickey Chapelle)

By Nanci Griffith and Maura Kennedy

Oh she was high up there in the air
Caught still by a soldier's stare
Whenever it was men amongst men
Down upon the land
And she followed those mother's sons
She felt the thunder of their guns
From a pearl's eye view, just a camera in her hand
She was born Georgette but the name
Didn't suit her well
So, she blew out of Wisconsin as Dickey Chapelle

Oh, she flew with a pilot's pride
The first witness to either side
She carried relief to the lost ones
Between the bombs
And we saw it all through her lens
She knew she'd go back again
When the call rang out once more from Vietnam
She's been through this before,
She'll tell ya war is hell
Her pearl earrings caught the light
On Dickey Chapelle

Oh, that's the way it was
She was the only one to tell
In 1962,
She blew the whistle loud and clear
Now we trace her wings
In her footsteps without fear
To the front lines where she fell
Where she lies still
But she's still there

It was 1965,
Over Chu Lai in a free fall dive
In a dawn patrol to cover the dead zone ground
She tiptoed through the land mines
All along the enemy lines
But she never saw the one that took her down
She captured the bloody pearls of war so well

That war was bound to steal the end of Dickey Chapelle

Dickey Chapelle (from a pearl's eye view)

Dickey Chapelle (from a pearl's eye view)

Dickey Chapelle (from a pearl's eye view)

Dickey Chapelle.

Song Analysis Worksheet

Title:

Artist:

Year it was written:

1. What is the tone or mood of the song?
2. Who or what is the song about?
3. Who do you think the intended audience is?
4. Write down at least 2 lines in the song that speak to you.
5. What, if any, historical topic(s) does the song relate to?
6. Write 2 questions you would ask the writer about the song.

Notes: Female War Correspondents.

I. Female war correspondents were in Vietnam in larger numbers than any other war.

1. Women had been covering war since the Spanish-American War.
2. WWII 127 women accredited
3. Vietnam 467 women accredited of which 267 were Americans.

II. Type of reporting

1. Most were freelancers
2. News agencies did not start to send females on assignment until the 1970s.
3. Women covered combat, human-interest, politics, and culture.
4. Many women filled the gaps in Vietnam reporting as most men had been assigned combat coverage.

III. Problems face by female correspondents

1. Many male bosses did not want to send women to cover war. Believed it was a man's world.
2. Military officers did not want women in the field.
 - A) Latrines- unavailable for women.
 - B) Protection- soldiers would feel obligated and sacrifice own safety.
 - C) Re-route them to safer areas when requesting transportation.
3. Biggest Threat to women's war coverage - Culminated when general William Westmoreland tried to keep women from overnight stays in the field.

IV. Historical events that assisted in women's entry into Vietnam wartime reporting.

1. Created- a highly accessible, uncensored war.
2. Accreditation was easy.
3. Change in government press relations.
 - A) Kennedy- shut out the press.
 - B) Johnson- opened up communication and access did away with censorship.
4. Change in American Society and women's roles.
 - A) Women's movement- changed opportunities in education and employment
 - B) Many correspondents benefited but did not identify with the Women's Movement.
 - C) 1964 Civil Rights Act- Prohibited discrimination based on sex. Put legal pressure on news agencies to assign women to Vietnam.

“On Their Own: Female Correspondents in Vietnam” Reading Questions

1. Describe how female correspondents were “on their own” in Vietnam.
2. Why do you think some female correspondents rejected the Women’s Movement?
3. Why do you think the achievements of female correspondents went unnoticed compared to their male colleagues?
4. How did female correspondents in Vietnam advance women in journalism?

Woman is the Nigger of the World
By John Lennon

Woman is the nigger of the world
Yes she is...think about it
Woman is the nigger of the world
Think about it...do something about it

We make her paint her face and dance
If she won't be a slave, we say that she don't love us
If she's real, we say she's trying to be a man
While putting her down, we pretend that she's above us

Woman is the nigger of the world...yes she is
If you don't believe me, take a look at the one you're with
Woman is the slave of the slaves
Ah, yeah...better scream about it

We make her bear and raise our children
And then we leave her flat for being a fat old mother hen
We tell her home is the only place she should be
Then we complain that she's too unworldly to be our friend

Woman is the nigger of the world...yes she is
If you don't believe me, take a look at the one you're with
Woman is the slave to the slaves
Yeah...alright...hit it!

We insult her every day on TV
And wonder why she has no guts or confidence
When she's young we kill her will to be free
While telling her not to be so smart we put her down for being so dumb

Woman is the nigger of the world
Yes she is...if you don't believe me, take a look at the one you're with
Woman is the slave to the slaves
Yes she is...if you believe me, you better scream about it

We make her paint her face and dance
We make her paint her face and dance
We make her paint her face and dance
We make her paint her face and dance
We make her paint her face and dance
We make her paint her face and dance

Women's History Timeline
1960s Onward

1961	President John F. Kennedy creates the Commission on the Status of Women.
1963	Betty Friedan writes <i>The Feminine Mystique</i> . Equal Pay Act passes Congress- illegal to pay men more than women for the same job. The Commission on the Status of Women issues a report.
1964	The 1964 Civil Rights Act is passed in July. Title VII prohibits job discrimination based on race, color religion, national origin and gender.
1965	Griswold v. Connecticut. Supreme Court says the state cannot make laws preventing the use of contraceptives by married couples.
1966	The National Organization of Women (NOW) is founded.
1967	Executive Order 11375 issued by Johnson, prohibits sex discrimination by the federal government in employment. NOW supports an Equal Rights Amendment and the repeal of antiabortion laws through a "Bill of Rights for 1968".
1968	Shirley Chisholm is elected the first black woman to Congress.
1969	Week v. Southern Bell. U.S. Court of Appeals landmark decision strikes down weight-lifting restrictions for employment bas on Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.
1970	ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) hearings in Senate. ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) hearings in House of Representatives.
1972	ERA approved by congress and sent to the states for ratification by March 22, 1979. Congress passes Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments Act prohibiting sex discrimination in all federally funded educational programs. Ms, magazine begins monthly publication.
1973	Roe v. Wade Landmark Supreme Court decision overturns antiabortion laws. Frontiero v. Richardson. Overturns decision that the armed forces could deny military women's dependents the same benefits of military men's dependents.
1974	The Women's Educational Equity Act passes congress. Provided funding to develop nonsexist educational programs to promote equity between the sexes.
1976	The Hyde Amendment passes Congress. Medicaid funding is limited for abortions.
1978	NOW lobbies for extension of the ERA deadline to June 30, 1982. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act is passed by Congress.

-
- 1981** Sandra Day O'Connor is nominated to the Supreme Court.
The ERA fails 3 states short of the 38 needed to ratify (Illinois, N. Carolina, Florida).
- 1983** ERA reintroduced and fails in the House of Representatives.
- 1984** ERA reintroduced and fails in the House of Representatives.
Congress woman Geraldine Ferraro is elected as Vice Presidential candidate for the Democratic Party.
- 1986** The Family and Medical Leave Act is introduced in Congress.
- 1993** The Family and Medical Leave Act is signed by Bill Clinton.
-

Document Analysis Worksheet

Title:

Author:

Date:

Type of Document:

1. What audience was the document written for?
2. List 3 important things the document says:
3. Why do you think the document was written?
4. What historical events does the document relate to?
5. List at least 2 questions you have about the document.

<i>Women's Movement Terms</i>

Term	Definition	How it advanced women
NOW (National Organization For Women)		
Feminine Mystique		
ERA (Equal Rights Amendment)		
Equal Pay Act		
EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)		
1964 Civil Rights Act		
Title XII		
Roe v. Wade		

President Kennedy Quote

If the press is awaiting a declaration of war before it imposes the self-discipline of combat conditions, then I can only say that no war ever posed a greater threat to our security. If you are awaiting a finding of “clear and present danger,” then I can only say that the danger has never been more clear and its presence more imminent...Every newspaper now asks itself with respect to every story: “Is it news?” All I suggest is that you add the question; “Is it in the interest of national security”

John F. Kennedy, April 1961

Developing Press Policy During Wartime

Leaders are often faced with decisions about public relations. Throughout history the government has set policies in dealing with the press. Depending on the time period these policies have changed according to the events unfolding in history. The Vietnam War was a time when the administration had to make decisions regarding the information given to the press. Your job is to take the role of a press advisor during Vietnam. Examine the following facts and come up with a relationship you think is most appropriate with the press,

Things to Consider:

- Security
- Public Opinion
- Re-election
- Military Operations
- Power of the Press (influence on public opinion)
- Should the government exercise press censorship during wartime

The Scenario

- You are advisor to the President in early 1964.
- We are on the brink on committing more troops to Vietnam.
- It is crucial that the public support your intended operations.
- We are going to Vietnam to combat communism.
- Many citizens are opposed to communism.
- Much of the public does not want to see the United States Involved in another War.
- The government is attempting to subvert communist aggression with clandestine military operations.
- The press corps is present in Vietnam.
- Your re-election depends on the votes from the public.
- The public has a right to information.

Directions:

1. Use the following sites to complete the Press Relations Data Sheet and d locate background information to create you press policy. You will need to become experts on Vietnam reporting.

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/reportingamericaatwar/chronology/#>

<http://www.newseum.org/>

http://www.usnewsclassroom.com/resources/activities/war_reporting/timeline/

<http://faculty.smu.edu/dsimon/Change-Viet2.html>

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/learning_history/vietnam/vietnam_escalate.cfm

<http://www.odu.edu/ao/instadv/quest/femalecorrespondents.html>

2. Develop your own press policy using the Press Policy handout.
3. Be ready to share your findings and Policy with class.

Press Relations Data Sheet

1. What kind of information do you think should be shared about war?
2. What kind of information should not be shared during wartime?
3. Should there be restrictions of the number of reporters allowed to cover a war?
Why or why not?
4. Would greater censorship during the war have changed the negative public opinion about the war? Why or why not?
5. What type of technology expanded war coverage during Vietnam? How did this change reporting and public sentiment?
6. What travel restrictions did reporters have during the Vietnam War? Why?
7. What is the government's view of journalists during Vietnam?
8. How many troops were in Vietnam in Jan. of 1965? End of 1965? End of 1966?
How would the escalation change reporting of Vietnam?
9. Where there clear battlefronts of the war?

10. What was the public opinion about the war like at the beginning? At the end? When did it change?

11. What were the requirements of press accreditation during Vietnam?

12. What were the 5 o'clock follies?

13. How did press relations affect women correspondents?

Notes:

Gloria Emerson Quote

"There was no censorship. Of course you were called in and reproached if your coverage was deemed slightly too negative. But reproached in the most sort of nonchalant way. You were urged to see the brighter side of things."

- *Gloria Emerson*

Notes- Vietnam Press Policy

I. Kennedy Administration Press Relations in Vietnam 1961-1963

1. Did not want public to have knowledge of the extent of the involvement in Vietnam
 - A) If they could restrict information they could limit appearance of moving towards war.
 - B) Created a restrictive policy with the press. Silence and deception.
 - C) Limited type and amount of information.

 2. Diem regime did not cooperate with United States Press
 - A) Feared damaging reports about regime coming out on country.
 - B) Controlled and made accreditation difficult.
 - C) By 1963 used police attacks, censorship, searches, wiretaps and expulsion.

 3. Move towards restrictions
 - A) 1961- all American personnel were ordered to give only “routine cooperation to correspondents on coverage of current military situation in Vietnam.”¹⁵⁵
 - B) 1962- American prohibited from riding on helicopters during assault missions.

 4. Feb. 20, 1962- Cable 1006 stated
 - A) American personnel should not grant interviews or other actions implying U.S. Involvement or discuss casualties.
 - B) Diem regime should be discussed in a positive way.
 - C) Do not discuss number of Americans involved or materials used
 - D) Tactical strengths and weaknesses
 - E) Do not take correspondents on missions that might produce negative stories.

 5. Result of shutting out the press
 - A) Turned to unofficial sources who were not happy with the way things were going.
 - B) Evidence of a mounting war surfaced.
 - C) Stories emerged questioning Vietnam and military operations.
 - D) Poor public image.

 6. Kennedy and Diem assassinated in 1963
-

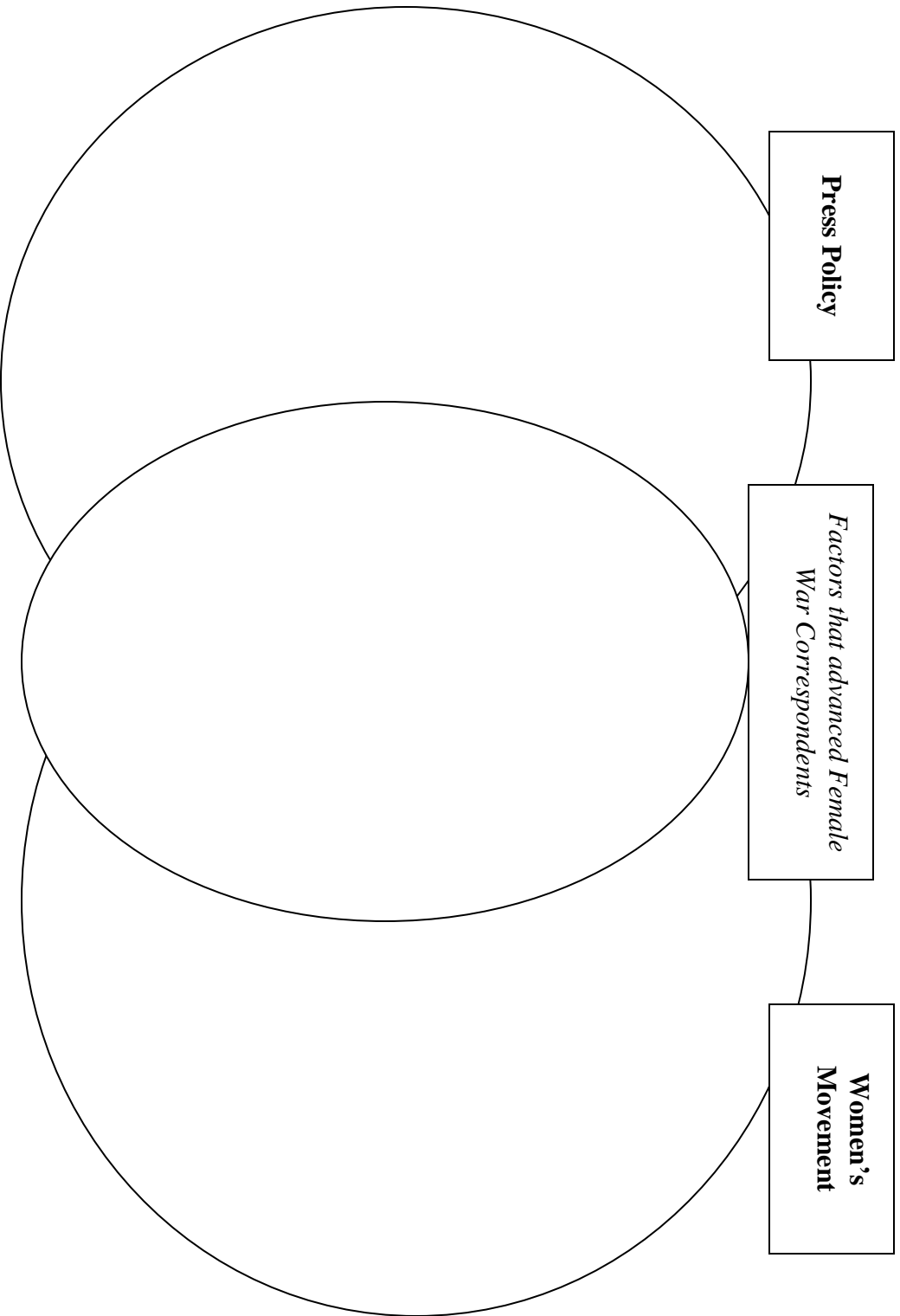
II. Johnson Administration Press Relations In Vietnam 1964.

1. Administration saw need to mend relations with the press.
 - A) The press was going to get information; the government should be the ones to give it.
 - B) Use the press as an advantage.

2. July 1964 Operation Maximum Candor-
 - A) Staff of civilian and military operations enlarged.
 - B) MACV- expanded briefings, gave more information, greater accuracy.
 - C) Given access to officials.
 - D) Improved facilities.
 - E) Censorship restrictions lifted.

3. Accreditation by United States.
 - A) Agreed to ground rules on what not to report (mostly military strategy).
 - B) Apply for a Visa.
 - C) Correspondents on assignment- present letter of employment.
 - D) Freelancers- present 2 letters from agencies intending to by dispatches.

4. Unlimited Access- "The Uncensored War"
 - A) Facilities, rations and transportation, 5 o'clock Follies.
 - B) Correspondents could go anywhere.
 - C) By 1965 300 reporters present. 5,100 moved through Vietnam by the end of the war.
 - D) First and last time in United States History of unlimited access.
 - E) Access opened door for women freelancers.



Final Project — War Torn

Interviews With Female War Correspondents In The Vietnam War

Overview: With your partner you will complete a biography of your assigned correspondent and create a presentation in which one of you will take the role of the correspondent and one of you will take the role of interviewer. You will present a brief biography of your correspondent and then present experiences of your correspondent in the form of an interview.

Day 1-Workday

- ❖ Share notes on your correspondent.
- ❖ Discuss interesting events/ beliefs/thoughts/experiences your correspondent wrote about.
- ❖ Begin to develop a 1-2 page write-up on your correspondent.
- ❖ Homework: Each group member needs to develop 15-20 questions you could ask the correspondent based on their reading.
- ❖

Day 2-Workday

- ❖ Share and pick the best 15-20 interview questions you would ask the correspondent you read about.
- ❖ Answer the questions based on the reading.
- ❖ Type or write neatly the questions and answers.
- ❖ Choose a group member to play the correspondent and a group member to play the role of the interviewer.
- ❖ Homework: Review/rehearse either the questions or the responses you have developed.

Day 3- Workday

- ❖ Finalize your write-up on the correspondent.
- ❖ Locate a picture of your correspondent to share and create a nametag to go with the picture.
- ❖ Rehearse your interview session.

Day 4-Presentations

- ❖ Introduce your character.
- ❖ Share the information from your write-up and put up your picture and nametag.
- ❖ Conduct the interview. Essential Question: How does your correspondent exemplify the theme well-behaved women rarely make history?
- ❖ Take questions from the audience.

Students will be graded on:

1. 1-2 page write-up
2. Picture and nametag
3. Written questions and responses
4. Presentations
5. Notes on presentations

Name:

Final Project- War Torn- Notes

Interviews With Female War Correspondents In The Vietnam War

Correspondent	Notes
Tad Bartimus	
Denby Fawcett	
Jurate Kazickas	
Edith Lederer	

Ann Bryan Mariano	
Anne Morrissy Merick	
Laura Palmer	
Kate Webb	
Tracy Wood	

Historical Role Play: Female War Correspondent- Vietnam

Student Name: _____

Name of Correspondent: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Role	Point-of-view, arguments, and solutions proposed were consistently in character.	Point-of-view, arguments, and solutions proposed were often in character.	Point-of-view, arguments, and solutions proposed were sometimes in character.	Point-of-view, arguments, and solutions proposed were rarely in character.
Historical Accuracy	All historical information appeared to be accurate and in chronological order.	Almost all historical information appeared to be accurate and in chronological order.	Most of the historical information was accurate and in chronological order.	Very little of the historical information was accurate and/or in chronological order.
Knowledge Gained	Can clearly explain several ways in which his character "saw" things differently than other characters and can clearly explain why.	Can clearly explain several ways in which his character "saw" things differently than other characters.	Can clearly explain one way in which his character "saw" things differently than other characters.	Cannot explain one way in which his character "saw" things differently than other characters.
Required Elements	Student included more information than was required.	Student included all information that was required.	Student included most information that was required.	Student included less information than was required.

(source: <http://rubistar.4teachers.org>)

*Female War Correspondents in Vietnam Exam***Formal Evaluation****Matching:**

Term	Definition
1. NOW 2. Accreditation 3. Feminine Mystique 4. ERA 5. 1964 Civil Rights Act 6. EEOC 7. Roe v. Wade 8. Equal Pay Act 9. Title XII 10. Maximum Candor	A. A federal agency created to administer laws and enforce laws dealing with discrimination in the workplace. B. A book written in 1963 that exposed the dissatisfaction many women were experiencing in America. C. An act signed by congress that established equal rights for all citizens. D. An organization created in 1966 that demanded equality for women. E. 1973 legal decision establishing a woman's right to choose. F. The process of receiving official approval as a reporter. G. A law passed that prohibited employers from paying different wages for the same job. H. A section of the 1964 Civil Rights Act that outlawed job discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, and gender. I. The open press policy enforced by the LBJ administration. J. An amendment proposed to protect women from discrimination that failed to be ratified.

Multiple Choice:

11. Betty Friedan was
- A. the first black congresswoman.
 - B. the author of *The Feminine Mystique*.
 - C. a famous female wartime correspondent.
 - D. a member of President Kennedy's cabinet.

12. The ERA was passed in
- A. 1970
 - B. 1978
 - C. 1984
 - D. Never
13. President Kennedy's first action towards helping women with equality was
- A. the creation of the EEOC
 - B. President Kennedy did not help the women's movement.
 - C. the creation of the Commission On Status of Women.
 - D. the introduction of the ERA.
14. Most female reporters in Vietnam were
- A. freelancers.
 - B. sent on assignment by news agencies.
 - C. worked for television stations.
 - D. assistants to male reporters.
15. The biggest threat to female reporters in Vietnam was
- A. the lack of women's latrines.
 - B. General Westmoreland's attempt to prohibit overnight stays in the field.
 - C. lack of support by male colleagues.
 - D. not being able to keep up with men when in the field.
16. Which of the following was not a factor in contributing to the access gained by women in Vietnam:
- A. The 1964 Civil Rights Act
 - B. Unrestricted access to battlefronts
 - C. Cable 1006
 - D. Operation Maximum Candor
17. President Kennedy
- A. saw the press as a beneficiary tool in Vietnam.
 - B. created obstacles for the press to get the story in Vietnam.
 - C. was not trying to conceal the extent of American involvement in Vietnam.
 - D. feared the American public was not being exposed to the whole story.

18. The Vietnam War was

- A. the first and last time the press had unlimited access to war.
- B. paved the way for reporters to have unlimited access in future wars.
- C. a censored war.
- D. the first and last time women were allowed to report from the frontlines.

Essay Questions: Address the following prompts in at least 3 paragraphs for each essay. Use specific examples to discuss each point of the question and develop a conclusion:

1. The Vietnam War was a turning point for female war correspondents. Explain how the changing role of women in American society and the shift in government press relations created an unprecedented opportunity for women wartime reporters. How did *the many parts make the whole story*?
2. Explain how female war correspondent exemplify the theme *well-behaved women rarely make history*. Share examples you found in the experiences of the reporter you did your interview project on and the presentations from class.

Answer Key : Matching and Multiple Choice

Formal Evaluation

1. D
2. F
3. B
4. J
5. C
6. A
7. E
8. G
9. H
10. I
11. B
12. D
13. C
14. A
15. B
16. C
17. B
18. A

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