

# Full Metal Jacket - Questions

- To what extent is the movie critique or celebration of the ideology of the U.S. Marine Corps?
- How would you politically evaluate the film's representation of Vietnam?
- How are perceived American and consequently Vietnamese soldiers in the movie?

# Full Metal Jacket part I

- First part of the movie:
  - new recruits are transformed into soldiers (or machines for killing?) at the training camp
    - Mentally damaged private Pyle kills Hartman (commanding and training officer and then turns the weapon against
    - Hartman: “if you ladies leave my island, if you survive recruit training, you will be a weapon, you will be a minister of death, praying for war” (Full Metal Jacket).
    - Loss of individuality
    - Totally reshaping the guys in according to the desires of military so they are more likely to survive the war
    - Stripping the guys off their pre-war identity and replace their identity with unified picture of soldier
    - Replacement of their old names with new nicknames by Hartman
    - Becoming a small part of the “big machine”.



# Full Metal Jacket part II

- Second part of the film takes us to Vietnam and takes place around and during the 1968 Tet Offensive
- Kubrick's film is seen primarily as carrying a strong anti-war message

(Kolcún 2008)



# Message

- „On one hand, Kubrick follows the typical combat film/war drama pattern—boot camp, firefights, brutality of the war, the life of the soldiers etc.“(Kolcún 2008: 23).
- Vietnamese women depicted as a prostitutes
- Enemy depicted as a cold piece of meet
- Mortality

## BUT

- It supplies “the neat parcel of guilt” (Klein 29).
  - lacks any redeeming philosophy
  - lacks any ideals, or a cause which might serve as a
  - lacks any justification for all the horrors
- Vietnamese girls depicted as a fearless combatants

(Kolcún 2008)





# How to describe the movie?

- nihilistic
- emotionally distant (Hillstorm and Hillstorm 123),
- devoid of what we normally called human response (Gilman 206)
- dehumanization” in relevance to the people involved in the war
- Deglorification of the war and sides involved - The war itself is deglorified and reduced to “a slaughter.”
- “Kubrick’s war” is neither explained, nor judged. It simply is, being “reduced to [its] most basic elements” (Falsetto 73).
- Superficially unconcerned with representation of women
- a construct of the American psyche (Westrup 2006)

(Kolcún 2008)

# How to describe the movie?

- satirical inversion and parody of the combat film/war drama genre
- Emphasizing the negative aspects of the war and the hardships the soldiers have to suffer both during basic training and during the war itself.
- It provides no explanation why this should be done or why this is worth it.
- Kubrick delivers a very strong anti-war message. However, it is not overtly presented and is hidden behind a seemingly unremarkable, and cold spin-off of the combat film/war drama.

(Kolcún 2008)

# Propaganda in Communist Vietnam

thieu duong...  
những tiền đề cho bước phát triển tiếp theo của cách mạng Việt Nam dưới  
lãnh đạo của Đảng Cộng sản Việt Nam.

In 1858, the French colonialist with the help of the Spain Empire had carried out the invasion of Vietnam. The Nguyen Dynasty started resistance wars. Due to the immense power of the French, the Nguyen Dynasty surrendered. In 1883, Vietnam was being domination of the French colonialist.

At that time, the people of Vietnam refused to let themselves enslaved, had risen and fought bravely to regain freedom. Many revolutions, patriotic movements occurred all over the country. Such as: Truong Dinh Uprising (1861 - 1864), Nguyen Trung Truc Uprising (1861 - 1868), Yen The Uprising (1884 - 1913), Huong Khe Uprising (1885 - 1896), Duy Tan movement (1906 - 1908), Vietnam Restoration League (1913 - 1916), Thai Nguyen revolution (1917), the revolution led by the Vietnamese Nationalist Party in the Northern (1930)...

The uprising and patriotic movements failed eventually due to the lack of ideology and right leadership. However, This was a foundation for the development of Vietnam revolution led by Vietnam Communist Party.



# Propaganda in Communist Vietnam





# French Colonization and Ho Chi Minh's Life

- BBC Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7era7dT-zGg>

# Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum





# French colonization



Những nữ nghĩa quân tham gia khởi nghĩa Ba Đình bị thực dân Pháp bắt, giam  
Woman insurgent troops who took part in Ba Đình uprising arrested and kept by French colonist  
Insurgées ayant participé au soulèvement de Ba Đình



Criminels inculpés dans le complot des Empoisonneurs (Juillet 1908)  
à la barre de Justice, dans la prison





Quang cảnh buổi xử tử hình các chiến sĩ yêu nước tham gia vụ "Hà Thành đầu độc" tại sân Quán Ngựa Hà Nội (8/7/1908)  
The scene of the execution for patriotic soldiers participated in "Hanoi poisoning" case, in Quan Ngua yard, Hanoi on 8 July 1908  
Exécution des auteurs de la tentative d'empoisonnement de la garnison française de Hanoi à Quan Ngua, le 8 juillet 1908







Hành động nhân đạo của bộ đội ta đối với tù binh bị thương trong chiến dịch Biên giới, năm 1950  
An act of humanitarianism of Vietnam People's Army soldiers toward wounded enemy





Các bác sỹ Quân y điều trị vết thương cho John Mc.Cain - phi công Mỹ bị bắt tại hồ Trúc Bạch, Hà Nội, ngày 26/10/1967  
Army doctors treated a wound for John McCain an American pilot was arrested at Truc Bach Lake - Hanoi on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1967  
John McCain dont l'avion est tombé dans le lac Truc Bach à Hanoi le 26 octobre 1967, soigné par les médecins militaires



Vietnamese laborers transporting goods and weapons by bicycle to the battlefield in 1954.



*Đoàn xe đạp chở lương thực, vũ khí phục vụ chiến trường trong Đông Xuân 1953-1954  
Vietnamese laborers transporting goods, weapons to battle field in Winter - Spring 1953-1954*



Women and children living in hanoi, who were killed by American soldiers in 1972.



Phụ nữ và trẻ em sống tại khu phố Khâm Thiên, Hà Nội bị máy bay B52 của Mỹ ném bom rải thảm giết hại, tháng 12/1972.  
Women and children living in Kham Thien Street, Hanoi were killed by American bombers in Hanoi in December 1972.



# End of the civil war and „liberation of the south“ in 1975 and 1976

## CREATING POSITIONS, CREATING FORCES, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES (1973-1974)

Despite the signing of the Paris Agreement, but with the aggressive nature of the United States imperialists continue to implement the strategy "Vietnamization of war". They strengthen the aid arms, means of war, efforts to consolidate puppet troops, puppet power. Based on US aid, the Saigon government repeatedly launched operations in the liberated area.

In July 1973, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers' Party met at the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The conference affirmed that "The path of revolution in the South was the path of revolutionary violence." Implementing Resolution 21<sup>st</sup>, our forces and people in the South countered the encroachment of the Saigon army, protecting the liberated area. Notable was Chu Nghe in the Central Highlands (September 1973), Chuong Thien in the Mekong Delta (October 1973).

In 1974, the revolution of the South changed positively. On the battlefields we won a great deal. Particularly, the Nong Son - Thuong Duc campaign in Zone 5 (Jul 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, 1974) proved that our main force was superior to that of the enemy. With victory on the battlefields, the main force is strengthened and developed. The Corps 1; 2; 4 were born.

The situation in the South changed dramatically, the Politburo Conference (December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1974 - January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1975) adopted the final determination to liberate the South. At the same time, the Road No 14 - Phuoc Long Campaign, which took place and won, strengthened the Politburo's determination to liberate the South in 1975 and 1976.



# U.S. Forces going home

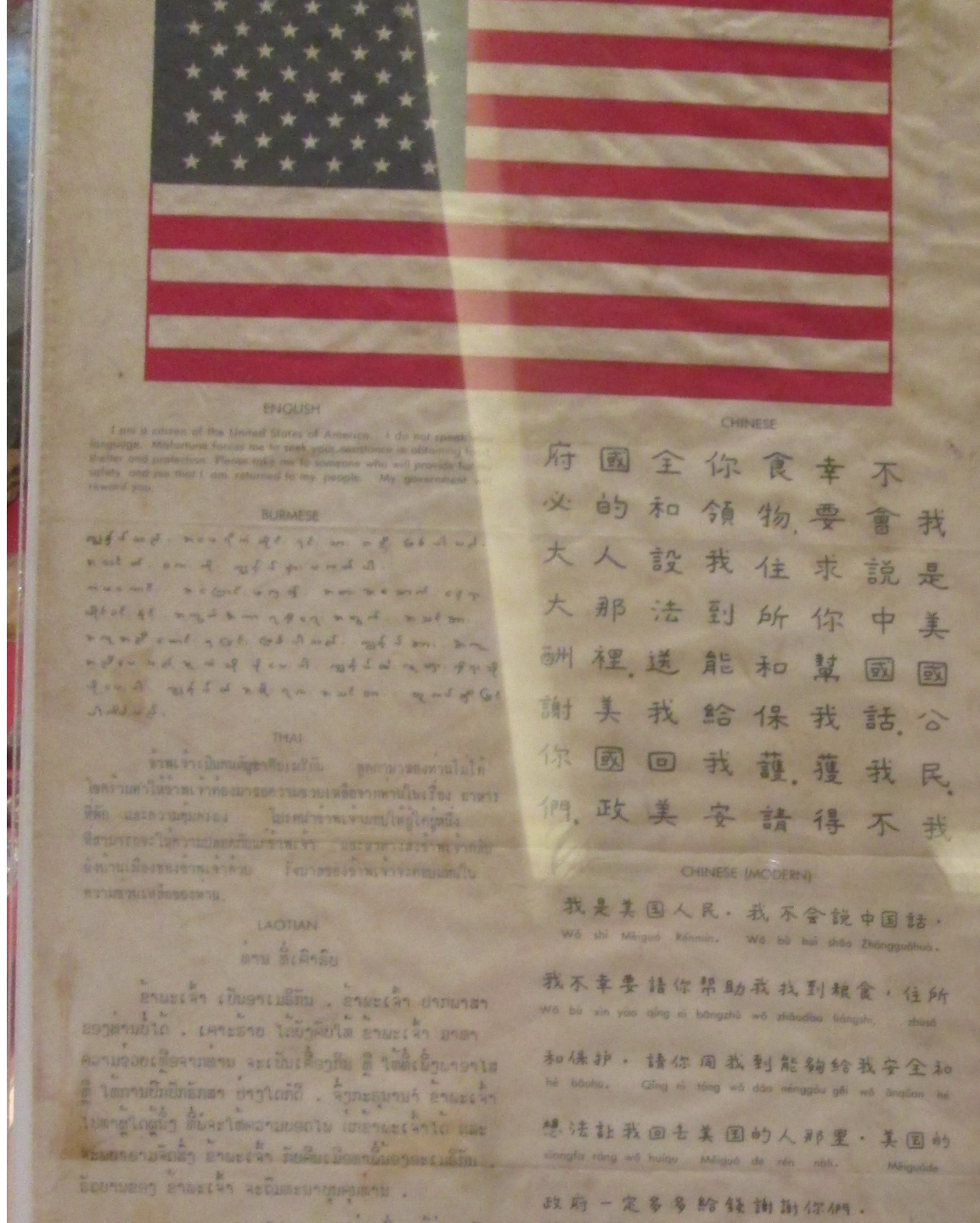


Quân đội Mỹ lên máy bay rút khỏi miền Nam Việt Nam dưới sự kiểm soát của đoàn Chính phủ Việt Nam Dân Chủ Cộng Hòa và đoàn Chính phủ Cách mạng lâm thời Cộng hòa Miền Nam Việt Nam, ngày 14/3/1973.  
US forces boarded the plane withdrew from South Vietnam under the control of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1973.



Meanings of counter-insurgency war in Vietnam

„winning hearts and minds“



TÔI LÀ MỘT NGƯỜI MỸ. TÔI KHÔNG NÓI ĐƯỢC TIẾNG VIỆT. GẶP BƯỚC KHÔNG MAY TÔI PHẢI NHỜ QUÝ ÔNG GIÚP ĐỠ, KIẾM THỨC ĂN, CHỖ Ở VÀ NHỜ QUÝ ÔNG BẢO VỆ TÔI. RỒI TÔI MUỐN NHỜ QUÝ ÔNG ĐƯA TÔI ĐẾN MỘT NGƯỜI NÀO CÓ THỂ CHE CHỖ CHO TÔI VÀ ĐƯA TÔI VỀ NƯỚC. CHÍNH PHỦ CHÚNG TÔI SẼ ĐỀN ƠN CHO QUÝ ÔNG.

I AM A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. I DO NOT SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE. MISFORTUNE FORCES ME TO SEEK YOUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING FOOD, SHELTER AND PROTECTION. PLEASE TAKE ME TO SOMEONE WHO WILL PROVIDE FOR MY SAFETY AND SEE THAT I AM RETURNED TO MY PEOPLE. MY GOVERNMENT WILL REWARD YOU.

JE SUIS UN CITOYEN DES ETATS UNIS D'AME'RIQUE. JE NE PARLE



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