

The Vietnam War: The Price for Black Civil Rights?

By

Sal DePasquale

The Vietnam War: The Price for Black Civil Rights?

- Convergence of issues rooted in Colonialism
 - Slavery: a by-product of colonialism
 - Revolutionary independence movements
 - Aimed at overthrow of colonial rulers
 - Usually correlated with Communism

The Vietnam War: The Price for Black Civil Rights?

- LBJ and limits of power: How much change?
 - Communism: Invest Presidential prestige in changing views about communism and communists, as Kennedy argued in his speech at American University shortly before the assassination?
 - Revolutionary independence movements: Viewed as a component of communist conspiracy.
 - Slavery: Use Kennedy martyrdom to attain passage of meaningful Civil Rights legislation?
 - Pick One: Communism or Slavery

The Vietnam War: The Price for Black Civil Rights?

- LBJ selects Civil Rights

- Carve his place in history

- Interested in domestic affairs

- Stepping stone for launching Great Society

- Meeting with James Farmer

- Kultur International Films (2005) **The LBJ tapes: the Johnson White House tapes. Volume 4., Chapter 8.**

The Vietnam War: The Price for Black Civil Rights?

- The price for focusing on Civil Rights and domestic issues.
 - Continuation and expansion of U.S. involvement in Vietnam with no way out
 - Perpetuating the notion of the domino theory
 - Fighting a war he believed unwinnable and unnecessary
 - Wished Vietnamese would accept a Korea solution, or simply just go away so he could focus on the things he enjoyed

The Vietnam War: The Price for Black Civil Rights?

- Evidence against involvement in Vietnam
 - Colonel A. Peter Dewey, September, 1945
 - General Matthew Ridgeway report for Eisenhower
 - Views of Senators Richard Russell and Mike Mansfield
 - Intelligence reports
 - LBJ's instinct
 - http://whitehousetapes.net/clips/1964_0707_russell/
 - http://tapes.millercenter.virginia.edu/clips/1964_0707_russell/

The Vietnam War: The Price for Black Civil Rights?

- So why fight in Vietnam?
 - Fear of Soft on Communism label
 - Opposition could use this label to derail his domestic agenda, most specifically Civil Rights
 - Evidence the passion to win Civil Rights encapsulated in Voting Rights speech of March 16, 1965