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A Rumor of War

1980 Brad Davis, Keith Carradine, 183 Min. NR

This two part made for TV dramatization of a true story is perhaps the best film for high school use since it concentrates on the idealistic early years of the war and resists the urge to sensationalize.

<p>Danang, South Viet Nam 1963, Philip Caputo is accused of murder .</p> <p>1:00 Flashback to college years, home life and idealism.</p> <p>10:30 Kennedy assassination triggers a decision to join the Marines.</p> <p>13:30 Marine basic training.</p> <p>28:00 Shipping out to Viet Nam, March, 1965. Gradual hardening of views.</p> <p>56:00 First helicopter assault; jungle patrol.</p> <p>1:14:00 Danang City brothel; doubts surface about the war.</p> <p>1:27:00 On patrol; targeted by enemy artillery; sergeant is killed.</p> <p>PART II</p> <p>Helicopter assault; further hardening of attitudes.</p> <p>12:00 Regimental Headquarters, December, 1965; major new offensive is discussed</p>	<p>Seminar Questioning Sequence:</p> <p>What is meant by the policy of "Containment"? How did President Truman seek to carry out the policy? Was Containment a success? Why was it modified after Korea?</p> <p>What was behind the idea of "Massive Retaliation" favored by the Eisenhower administration? Was it successful?</p> <p>Why did President Kennedy modify it after the Cuban missile crisis? What was the idea behind Kennedy's policy of "Flexible Response"? What role did it play in leading America into the Viet Nam War?</p> <p>In what ways does the film illustrate the ambivalence in American foreign policy during the Johnson years?</p>	<p>Report topics should make it possible to trace the development of American cold war foreign policy from Truman through the Kennedy/Johnson years. Reports could be delivered as a chronology leading to American involvement in the Viet Nam war.</p> <p>1947 Truman Doctrine Rio Pact Marshall Plan 1948 OAS Berlin airlift 1949 4 Point Plan 1950 Korean War intervention 1952 B-52 bomber SAC 1954 U.S.S. Nautilus SEATO Treaty with Nationalist China 1957 Eisenhower Doctrine 1959 Polaris Missile 1960 Fidel Castro revolution in Cuba U-2 incident 1961 Alliance for Progress 1962 Cuban missile crisis American military advisor to Viet Nam 1965 First combat troops to Viet Nam 1967 Increasing troop levels</p>
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<p>15:00 Assault begins with heavy casualties.</p> <p>25:30 Frustrated marines raid and burn a Vietnamese village; Lt. Caputo joins in for the first time.</p> <p>28:00 Caputo is transferred to a staff position counting casualties.</p> <p>35:30 Lining up enemy dead for the brass to see.</p> <p>39:00 Discussion of reasons for the war and people are dying.</p> <p>50:00 Caputo learns of the death of his close friend Lt. Cohen.</p> <p>55:00 Caputo is transferred to Cohen's old platoon.</p> <p>1:00:00 Caputo leads his new patrol on a search and destroy mission.</p> <p>1:08:00 Caputo plans and leads an ambush at a Vietnamese village; they kill two civilians.</p> <p>1:14:00 Flash forward to Caputo's Court Marshall.</p> <p>1:31:00 Philip Caputo leaves Viet Nam with the coffins of dead American soldiers.</p>		
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