

Editor
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Dear Sir,

William Colby's reminder as to who originated, perpetrated and, regrettably, won the "Second Indochina War, 1960-75", and the fact that it was printed in the Post of May 19, lead one to hope that plain truth does tend to surface in the long run. It becomes ~~more~~ again more possible to suggest that America's fight against totalitarianism - not only of the Hitlerian variety of World War II but also of the ~~Stalinist~~ Stalinist variety thereafter - was a good one, that the venue shifted from Western Europe, to ~~the~~ Greece, Korea and Vietnam, but the validity of the cause did not depend on its venue. That it was not somehow "right" to oppose totalitarian expansion in those areas where we won, but "wrong" to resist it in Vietnam where we finally chose, for the first time, to lose.

Unfortunately when people decide to walk away from a cause, they must rationalize their failure. So they proclaim that the cause was wrong. Having done this, they are then estopped to respond when the same issue presents itself again, whether in the form of Cuba and East Germany setting up police states in Africa, or Vietnamese exterminating the hill tribes of Laos, or Pol Pot killing a third of the population of Cambodia, or Soviet tanks pulverizing Afghan villages. ~~Outrage~~ ^{humane} Outrage is replaced by an embarrassed silence. This is the real moral dominion of Vietnam.

As to the validity of our former cause, it is illuminating to reflect on what the world would, in all reasonable probability, be like today if totalitarianism were to be victorious.

~~And~~ And the West would have retained its self-confidence.

certainly be in Cuba, and the Soviet ~~army~~ ^{armies} in its barracks,
~~not~~ not Afghanistan. ^{Undermining} There would be several million less
refugees in the world, with all the savings in treasure and
human suffering ^{that} this implies. ~~And~~ ^{For} those who would
rejoice that the totalitarian aggression was not the problem,
but rather our ~~of~~ arrogant, "imperialist" attempt to
~~resist~~ resist it, such as Walesa and the Poles would no
~~do~~ doubt provide useful commentary on the relative merits
~~of~~ of resistance and non-~~resist~~ ^{resistance} to evil.
The analysis of the West, and its malaise, will start to go
when we stop falsifying our ^{present} past. Colby's reminder is a
step in the right direction.