

News of a Peace Accord Elicits Relief,

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Skepticism and Thoughts on the Future

Concern Voiced on How Nation Has Changed

By ISRAEL SHENKER

This is the way the war ends, not with a binge but a whimper; not with exultation but with relief; not with trumpets piercing but with the muted timbre of doubt and hope.

During the Vietnamese war, there was no unanimity on its pursuit, its aims or its methods, and there was none on its end. In a random survey of opinions yesterday, the reactions of New Yorkers and of visitors told a little about what the war had meant and what peace suggests. Their opinions follow.

JOSE DAVILA
Mailroom worker

I think the war could have ended much sooner, but I think it's just great that the war is over. They say man is going to change his thinking,



and maybe this is the beginning. Maybe there are not going to be any more wars—but I doubt it.

I first heard about the war in the sixth grade, and it was a great shock. It made me think: Why is life worth living if there's a war?

H. VAN R. WILSON

Retired philosophy professor

The war has had a dreadful effect: the dividing of the country, an increasing feeling on the part of those opposed to the war that they



weren't being listened to, increasing violence as a reflection of Vietnam, diverting of resources from the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson.

I think this country will get back to some sane priorities. But I'm a little skeptical about the promise that the South Vietnamese will have a free election. I suspect the minority candidates will be put in jail, as they were before.

NELL KIRBY

Restaurant owner

I thought it was absolutely wonderful that it was ended, but I always remember what an English friend of mine said: "Why did you ever want to get in the war? Why did it start?" This war seems worthless, and a crushing



amount of time was spent on it. We surely have gone downhill, haven't we? I think a war is always devastating, and I think it's been disastrous to our thoughts these many years.

It's hard for me to be hard on Nixon because I'm a Quaker and he's of Quaker background, too. I thought he did the best he could.

ELLIOTT KABACK
Librarian

It hardly came as a surprise to anybody. Thank God it's over but the end is long



overdue. I'm now apprehensive because people will undoubtedly expect to have more attention given to domestic problems, and I don't expect Nixon to do any more there than he's doing now, especially based on his inaugural address.

The war has meant a tremendous setting aside of all the energies that could have ameliorated all our worst problems. Violent crime has become the norm for our society, and I can't recall things being at all like that before Vietnam.

DAVID GOLLAN
Travel magazine executive

The end of the war is going to mean an increase in the travel business. There's no doubt that Vietnam is a tourist destination for the future, along with mainland China. If you have a lot of money to invest, South Vietnam has beaches second to none.

Watch the Holiday Inns move in. People will want to



The New York Times by JACK MANNING
go to Saigon, which has the reputation of a lively city, and any American who gets there will want to see Hanoi as well. The big circuit will be Hong Kong, Peking, Hanoi, Bangkok, Saigon, Singapore.

LAURIE PRENTICE
Housewife

I'm very pro-Nixon. He didn't get us into the war, and I'm sorry there's no celebration now that it's over. We had to do something about Vietnam and I think it turned into something



larger than we really expected during the Kennedy Administration. I sympathize with Nixon on that. I think peace will have a good effect on Wall Street.

MARTIN S. FRIEDMAN
Lawyer

The major part of our involvement is over, and the end of the war is ending a bleeding sore. What hap-



pened in the United States is what happened in France—people just got tired of bleeding.

But we still have the B-52's in Thailand and troops and C.I.A. units in surrounding areas. I don't think this is an honorable peace at all; it's a face-saving device.

I hope that we will have an opportunity to increase rather than decrease the amount of freedom the individual citizen has. I don't see much prospect of allocating money to basic research to make the life of the citizen better.

ROSAMOND REINHARDT
Housewife

I'm not an American citizen; I'm English. My chief reaction is that if you can stop it now, why couldn't you stop it sooner? In my



opinion any war is indecent. I don't care whether it's World War I or II or this war. I lived through the bombing in England and every time I heard about bombing in Vietnam my heart sank.

I'm just very, very thankful that the slaughter has come to an end. I keep thinking of the last to be killed. There always has to be a last as there was a first, and I feel so sorry for the parents of the last one.

WALTER REDDICK
Tax researcher

I was in Vietnam for 19 months and it was rough. I'm celebrating, rejoicing, glad it's over. I think it gives the South Vietnamese freedom. It gave us inflation and lack



of jobs. It really started a revolution among people here—young against old. The older people were saying 'why end the war now?' and the younger ones were saying end it now.

MELISSA CORNICK
Broker's sales assistant

I have no reaction at all: I didn't believe the war would end. I felt we shouldn't be



there, but I didn't believe Nixon would pull out the troops, because he hadn't told us the truth all along. Economically, I think there'll be a big depression now.

MICHAEL BERKOWITZ
Jeweler

This has made the name Kissinger a household word. Nobody heard of him before. Now I think that certain political groups which have been motivated by opposition to the war will turn their impulses to other goals. You'll have a split in domestic affairs. I don't think the country will ever recover from the trauma of the past years.

This is the only war I am old enough to remember, and



I really feel bad that I won't see a victory parade down Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn.

ROSALYN KESSERT
Student nurse

The whole thing depresses me because we waited so long for it to happen. Unfortunately the news of the end of the war had less effect on people than the death of one person—like President Johnson. That's sad. Everyone is



so upset about an ex-President and no one takes time to think of all the orphans we have because of this war.

I hope we don't have any bitter feelings now, but I'm glad there won't be any killings. We've had enough bloodshed.

FRED BAUER
Insurance representative

I'm wondering if we don't go too far out in these foreign situations and then get



it in the neck and lose friends. But as long as we had committed ourselves I felt we should live up to our commitments.

I have three boys and they all put in two years in the Navy. I'm glad it's over with. It'll be a great thing if we don't have more wars, if children can grow up with a greater sense of security.