



Rockland Coalition
for Peace & Justice

McNamara's War

Source: "Vietnam War Architect Robert McNamara Dies at 93" interview by Amy Goodman, Democracy Now, July 7, 2009



Robert McNamara, the architect of the Vietnam war who later **said it should never have been fought**, died on July 6. He was 93 years old.

As defense secretary from 1961 to 1968 under presidents John F Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, he was instrumental in pushing and managing the Vietnam war.

Over half a million Americans went to war on his watch, a war that ultimately **killed over 58,000 American soldiers and at least 3 million Vietnamese**.

In 1995, he published a memoir "In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam" apologizing to the American people that he and his colleagues had been "**Wrong, terribly wrong.**" But the sentence that followed next was "**We weren't wrong in our values and our intentions; we were wrong about our judgments and capabilities.**" In other words, **he apologized ONLY for not winning the war**. He never admitted that the Vietnam War was immoral. Of course, he never apologized to the Vietnamese people.

Historian Howard Zinn said **McNamara was bright and smart, "but he had no moral intelligence...**One of the many things we can learn from this McNamara experience is that we've got to stop revering these superficial qualities of brightness and smartness, and bring up a generation which thinks in moral terms."

Instead of asking "Do we win or do we lose?" we should ask the questions "Is this right? Is this wrong?" McNamara never asked these moral questions. Have we asked such questions about our current wars?



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Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY

For info: www.rocklandaction.org

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