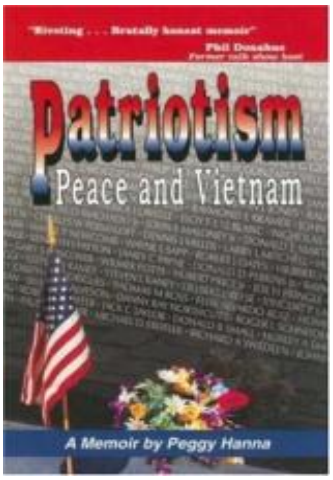
Patriotism, Peace and Vietnam: A Memoir

by Peggy Hanna



About the Book

Though there is no shortage of Vietnam-era books, Peggy Hanna?s tale comes from a unique angle ? that of a Midwestern Catholic homemaker and ?hawk? turned peace activist.

Hanna gives a fascinating inside look at just how far the outposts of the peace movement stretched. Its epicenter may have been on college campuses, but, as Hanna shows, its ripples were felt in the small towns and ranch houses of the Midwest.

Today, the voices of "regular" people doing their part to struggle for peace are more important than ever. Hanna?s voice is a worthwhile addition to that chorus.

Discussion Guide

1. How do the author and her friends change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger such changes?

2. What specific themes did the author emphasize throughout the novel? What do you think she is trying to get across to the reader?

3. What stereotypes, regarding the peace movement, did you accept as true prior to reading this book? Have your views of peace activists changed?

4. What event in the book was most moving for you? What was the most powerful scene in the book?

5. Prior to reading this book, how would you define patriotism? After reading the book, has your perception of

?patriotism? changed? If so, how?

6. What did you find surprising about the facts introduced in this book? Can you relate to the author and the other?s emotions and positions about the war in Vietnam? To the war in Iraq? To what extent do they remind you of yourself or someone you know?

7. How has reading this book changed your opinion of the peace movement? Do you empathize with them or not?

8. Do you believe it is possible to object to a war and still be patriotic?

9. Does the author present information in a way that is interesting and insightful, and if so, how does she achieve this?

10. Does the author give consideration to all sides of the debate?

11. Has the book increased your interest in war and peace, activism and politics?

12. Do you feel ?changed? in anyway? Did it expand your range of experience or challenge your assumptions? Did reading it help you to understand a person better ? perhaps a friend or relative, or even yourself?

13. Have you ever been placed in a situation where you have questioned your own stance on an issue? To defend your stance?

Author Bio

Peggy Hanna, a Chicago native, became active politically after moving to Ohio in 1965. She was the co-chair of Springfield People for Peace and elected a McGovern delegate to the 1972 Democrat National Convention.

Gary Hart delegate. Her experience with local politics started when local Democrats unwittingly elected a man pledged to Lyndon LaRouche as their candidate for U.S. Congress. Frustrated with the options she faced as a voter, she ran as a write-in candidate against popular incumbent Republican Congressman, Michael DeWine (later a U.S. Senator). Through her candidacy, Peggy hoped to make a political statement about the issues of peace and the nuclear arms race. In 1986, 1990 and 1992, she conducted three unsuccessful but very close campaigns for state representative.

Throughout the years, Peggy proved her passion for service, serving on numerous not-for-profit boards. She is especially proud of helping establish the Springfield Peace Center, an initiative that teaches area youth how to resolve conflicts without violence, and The DECK, a local youth center in Urbana. Both Peggy and her husband Jim served on the Ohio Family Care Association Board of Directors during the 1990?s. They are the proud parents of nine children, four of whom are adopted, and grandparents of fourteen.

Critical Praise

"Peggy Hanna leads us into an antiwar movement beyond the one the media followed. Here in Springfield, Ohio, as

elsewhere in small city America, patriotic moms and dads felt betrayed by the war and tried to stop it. A highlight of Hanna's story is her experience with a friend at the 1971 Paris Peace Talks and their reception at home afterward. This book is candidly, engagingly written --- a good read. It is also a passionate plea for understanding, then and now."

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