

- 2) The war then was defined by sovereign nations and international boundries, fueled by an idealology, this time itâ€™s a war defined by one side with national boundries, and an opponent that knows no territorial constraints, yet it still filled by an idealology;
- 3) If the insurgents do make a â€œfinal sprintâ€• in the hopes of biasing the outcome of the November 7th elections, they will be in poor logistical shape to follow up on any attacks, therefore we need to be ready to step up and squash them when they are at a low point militarily and;
- 4) Our political leaders can use this analogy to their advantage, while the press will try to use it to the nationâ€™s disadvantage.

In the aftermath of the Tet Offensive, and even the Vietnam War, both sides of the equation, the Coalition and the insurgent forces, can take lessons learned away from the Tet Offensive. It is not a perfectly modeled analogy, but it has similarities. It would serve the press well to do some more detailed study of the actual battles across South Vietnam. It would serve the military, and our political leadership well to study the battles across South Vietnam.

If the military has read the tea leaves correctly, they will have stockpiled supplies, pre-positioned troops and tactical/strategic reserves, and have shored up the defenses. In addition, focused analysis of intelligence, to help tactically prepare for the next 3 1/2 weeks. Once the battle has joined, then it will be time to crush the exposed enemy forces, then be prepared to follow them, physically or via collected intel, back to their safe houses to continue the fight, with one intention to eliminate every possible combatant, then, they will have correctly interpreted the lessons of February 1968.

The press should spend some time studying history, beyond what some old timer in the press room tells them. Iâ€™m sure George Stephanopoulos doesnâ€™t comprehend the bigger implications this all has within the story from a war long ago, which I discussed above. If he somehow thinks the current levels of violence, like Tet will cause us to â€œcut and run,â€• he has to understand the US military didn not â€œcut and runâ€• from that battle, in fact, they stood tall and obliterated the VC in massive numbers. We are doing the same thing today. If anyone cut and ran, it was the Democratically controlled Congress, that withdrew funds from the Vietnamization effort and the US military for non-Army support for the ARVN forces.

Our leadership needs to prepare us for a potential â€œOctober Surpriseâ€• from the enemy in the form of massive, coordinated, widespread and well documented attacks, and also the knowledge that our military is prepared to take it to the enemy and put the dampers on civil war, insurrection and other violence behind us and the people or Iraq. If anything, President Bush should highlight that it was the Democrats who lost their nerve in the face of the enemy, but only after a Republican took office. They certainly supported the war (and the dreaded â€œmilitary-industrial complexâ€•) while Kennedy and Johnson were in office. If any lessons should be taken away from Tet, it is that one in the last sentence.

As a final statement, even General Giap acknowledged to a US officer, many years later, that the NVA/VC never won on the battlefield of Vietnam, but he also stated, wisely and accurately, that fact was also completely irrelevant.

Trackbacked at: [Mudville Gazette](#), [Samantha Burns](#), [Blue Star Chronicles](#), [Stuck on Stupid](#), [TMH Bacon Bits](#), [Linkfest Haven](#), [third world country](#), [Castle ARGGHHH!](#)

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