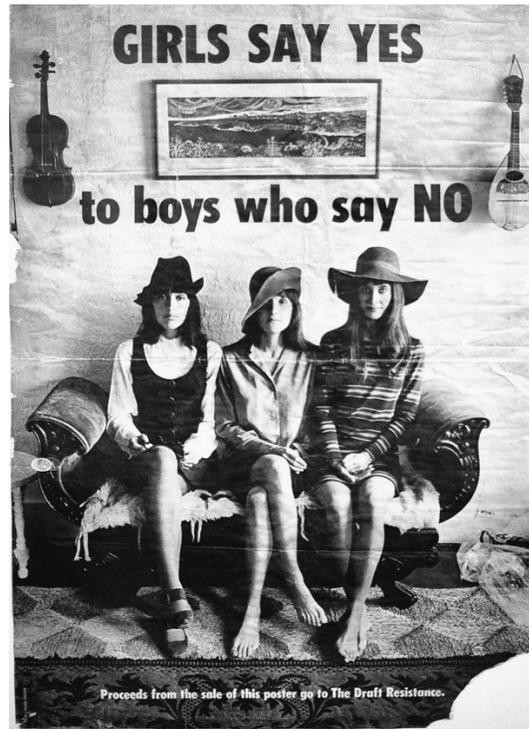

The Vietnam war: a national trauma.

❶ Made in 1968 from a Jim Marshall photograph, it featured the Baez sisters—Joan, Pauline, and Mimi. The poster appeared on many a dormitory wall as the anti-Vietnam War movement itself expanded.



❷ John Kerry, a Vietnam veteran, addresses the Senate's Foreign Affairs committee on 22 April 1971.

We could come back to this country, and we could be quiet. We could hold our silence. We could not tell what went on in Vietnam. But we feel because of what threatens this country we have to speak out. Millions of men who have been taught to deal and to trade in violence and who were given a chance to die for the biggest nothing in history. Men
5 who have returned with a sense of anger, and a sense of betrayal which no one has yet grasped. We rationalized destroying villages in order to save them. We saw America lose her sense of morality as she accepted very coolly a mere lie, and chose to give up the image of American soldiers that hand out chocolate bars and chewing gum. We learned the meaning of 'free fire zones', 'shoot everything that moves', and we watched while America placed a
10 cheapness on the lives of Orientals. We watched the United States' falsification of body counts, in fact the *glorification* of body counts. We watched while men charged up hills because a general said that hill has to be taken. And after one platoon or two platoons, they marched away to leave the hill for the reoccupation of North Vietnamese. And we are asking Americans to think about that. Because how do you ask a man to be the last man
15 to die in Vietnam? How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?

➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, explain why the Vietnam war became a national trauma.