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Auszug aus:

*Speech Analysis - Martin Luther King - Why I oppose the War
in Vietnam*

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Titel:	Politische Rede: Martin Luther King
Reihe:	Redeanalyse Landeskunde USA
Bestellnummer:	4116
Kurzvorstellung:	Übungsklausur zur Rede "Why I oppose the war in Vietnam". Zur Rede eines der begnadeten Redners des 20. Jahrhunderts werden vier Fragen gestellt und exemplarisch beantwortet. Ideal als Übungsklausur zu verwenden!
Inhaltsübersicht:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarize the speech in about 100 words.• Which reasons against the war in Vietnam does King give?• How does Martin Luther King want to achieve his goal (peace and freedom)? Would you call his way "aggressive"?• Comment on the last paragraph (I call on Washington....God).

Rede vom 16.4. 1967 in Atlanta, Georgia***“WHY I OPPOSE THE WAR IN VIETNAM”***

Now since I am a preacher by calling, I suppose it is not surprising that I have seven major reasons for bringing Vietnam into the field of my moral vision ...

And you may not know it, my friends: it is estimated that we spend five hundred thousand dollars to kill each enemy soldier, while we spend only fifty-three dollars for each person classified as poor. And much of that fifty-three dollars goes to salaries to people who are not poor. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy, of the poor and attack it as such.

5 Perhaps a more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and die in extraordinarily higher proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not
10 found in Southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schoolroom. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that they would hardly live on the same block in Chicago or Atlanta. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor.

15 My third reason moves to an even deeper level of awareness. for it grows out of my? experience in the ghettos of the North over the last three years, especially the last three summers. As I have walked among the desperate, rejected and angry young men, I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my deepest compassion, while maintaining my conviction that social change comes most meaningfully, through non-violent action.

20 But, why, asked and rightly so. What about Vietnam? They asked if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted. Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having, first spoken clearly, to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today: my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government. for the sake of the
25 hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence. I cannot be silent ...

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion. My mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak not now of the soldiers of each side, not of the military government in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too,

30 because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution until some attempt is made to know these people and hear their broken cries.

Now let me tell you the truth about it. They must see Americans as strange liberators. Do you realize that the Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1945 after a combined French and Japanese occupation? And, incidentally, this was before the Communist revolution in China. They
35 were led by Ho Chi Minh. And this is a little known fact. And these people declared themselves independent in 1945. They quoted our Declaration of Independence in their document of freedom. And yet our government refused to recognize them. President Truman said they were not ready for independence. And so we fell victim as a nation at that time of the same deadly arrogance that has poisoned the international

40 situation for all of these years. France then set out to reconquer its former colony. And they fought eight long, hard, brutal years trying to reconquer Vietnam. You know who helped France? It was the United States of America. It came to the point that we were meeting more than eighty percent of the war costs. And even when France started despairing of its reckless action, we did not.

And in 1954, a conference was called at Geneva. And an agreement was reached, because France
45 had been defeated at Dienbienphu. But even after that, and even after the Geneva Accord, we did not stop. We must face the sad fact that our government sought in a real sense to sabotage the Geneva Accord.

Well, after the French were defeated, it looked as if independence and land reform would come through the Geneva Agreement. But instead the United States came and started supporting a man
50 named Diem who turned out to be one of the most ruthless dictators in the history of the world. He set out to silence all opposition; people were brutally murdered merely because they had raised their voices against the brutal policies of Diem. And the peasants watched and cringed as Diem ruthlessly rooted out all opposition. And who are we supporting in Vietnam today? It's a man by the name of General Ky who fought with the French against his own people, and who said on one occasion that the greatest hero of his life is Hitler. This is who we are supporting in Vietnam today. Oh,
55 our government, and the press generally, won't tell us these things. But God told me to tell you this morning. The truth must be told. Let me say, finally, that I oppose the war in Vietnam because I love America. I speak out against this war, not in anger, but with anxiety and sorrow in my heart, and above all, with a passionate desire to see our beloved country stand as the moral example of the world. I speak out against this war because I am disappointed with America.
60

I call on Washington today. I call on every man and woman of good-will all over America today. I call on the young men of America who must make a choice today and take a stand on this issue. Tomorrow may be too late. The book may close. And don't let anybody make you think that God chose

65 America as his divine messianic foster being - a sort of policeman of the whole world. And God has a way of standing before the nations with judgement and it seems that I can hear God saying to America: "You are too arrogant. And if you don't change your ways, I will rise up and break the backbone of your power. And I'll place it in the hands of a nation that doesn't even know my name. Be still and know that I'm God."



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