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critical lens essay

"War is a Crime. Ask the infantry and ask the dead." I interpret this quote as war causes people to do acts considered a "crime" in modern society. The actions of soldiers are very different in war than in everyday society. In both The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien and "I Miss Iraq, I Miss My Gun, I Miss My War" by Brian Mockenhaupt. In each piece of literature they reveal an essence of crime associated with war. In The Things They Carried O'Brien describes his struggle as a soldier in the Vietnam war both mentally and physically. In "I Miss Iraq, I Miss My Gun, I Miss My War" Mockenhaupt describes his experiences in war and his post life after the war. Each work of literature to show the sicknesses of war and dealing with the tragedies that go along with it. The authors use characterization and simile to prove that war causes people to perform acts considered to be a crime.

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Clear Thesis

In comparison to a war, a fight has many similar emotions. In "I Miss Iraq, I Miss My Gun, I Miss My War" Mockenhaupt tells us about the power that's associated with war. In the passage he states, "Pumped up on dreams of duty and heroism and the intoxicating power

power of weapons". This quote shows how having one little item such as a gun or anything that has the ability to harm someone can change how you're seen by people and gives you authority. People who have been in a fight may know this power. For example, fighting gives you power. People who have become good at fighting have a fear to their presence. This causes people to avoid conflicts with them and do what they are told because they know that person has the ability to harm them. This effect has a similar effect to a soldier carrying a weapon. Another example is when Mockenaupt writes about the adrenaline rush associated with the combat of war. The quote "yet I still revelled in the raids, their intensity and uncertainty". This relates to the simile because the intensity of a fight and uncertainty of the outcome is identical to the feeling of combat. Also in combat you let the instinct to defend yourself take over which is also why many fights take place. Therefore, war gives soldiers a sense of power and authority just like being a strong fighter. War also comes with an addicting adrenaline rush that may resemble the rush while fighting. Each of these show how war has power and can cause people to do acts considered a crime

* Key Quotes

* Strong details + elaboration

Good smooth transition

to regain either one. } clear int.

In the story The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien, characterization was used to show how war causes soldiers to commit criminal acts. For example in the story a soldier named rat Kiley ~~was~~ is upset from the death of one of his comrades. While marching to a near by village he discovers a water buffalo, out of anger and sadness he slaughters the buffalo. Tim O'Brien then says "It's not a war story. It was a love story". This quote shows how he did kill a water buffalo but it was because he cared about his friend. This shows how Kiley is actually a caring person but the effects of war result in him doing acts that would be seen as a crime in society. The final example is when a soldier in Vietnam flies his girlfriend in to stay with him at a base. At the start of the chapter she is a normal, fragile and innocent girl. As it progresses she physically and mentally begins to alter. The quote "She was dangerous. She was ready to kill" was told by her boyfriend when entering her cabin and found her with a necklace of tongues. This shows how war can change anyone including innocent girls into war hardened

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good details

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← good direction

Soldiers which ultimately causes them to perform criminal acts such as wearing a necklace of tongues. The characterization of Rat Kiley and Mary Anne or the Soldiers girlfriend, show how even innocent and good people can be forced to do acts ^{clear} considered crimes by the effects of war. int.

The author's ^{use} use of characterization and simile ~~to~~ prove that war causes human beings to perform acts considered to be a crime. In The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien, the use of characterization shows how any good person in society would be turned into a criminal during war. In the passage "I Miss Iraq, I Miss My Gun, I Miss My War" by Brian Mockenhaupt we see how the power that a soldier has based on there weapons and equipment can also cause a soldier to commit unjust acts. In wars today many of our soldiers still continue to do acts that are seen as wrong by community's at home and this may never change. In order to end these acts the simplest solution would be to avoid war if and as long as possible.

good concl.