S7274 STAR TREK (9/8/1966-9/9/1969) [TV SERIES]

Series summary: Science fiction series set in the 22nd and 23rd centuries following the voyages of the starship U.S.S. Enterprise, representing the United Federation of Planets, as it explores the universe seeking new life forms, new worlds, and new civilizations. A number of episodes were written as allegories for by current events on the 1960s Earth, including the Vietnam War.

City on the edge of forever (4/6/1967)

Credits: director, Joseph Pevney; writer, Harlan Ellison.
Summary: Kirk, Spock and a landing party discover a “time portal” through which McCoy disappears. Something he does in the past annihilates the future in which the Enterprise exists, so Kirk and Spock must follow McCoy back to 1930s New York to set things right. Arriving in 1930, Kirk falls in love with Edith Keeler (Collins), a social worker and pacifist, only to learn that she must die in a traffic accident so as not to change the future they know. Spock speculates that if Edith had lived, her pacifist philosophy could have spread, delayed America’s entry into World War II, and changed the outcome. This plot element was added to the script as it was rewritten in 1966 as a conscious reference to the contemporary anti-Vietnam war movement (c.f. H. Bruce Franklin, "Star Trek in the Vietnam era")

Let that be your last battlefield (1/10/69)

Credits: director, Jud Taylor; writer, Oliver Crawford.
Summary: The Enterprise becomes the battleground for two aliens who have pursued each other through space for thousands of years in an episode reflecting the racial conflict of the United States in the 1960s. It is a parable about two races, one black/white, the other white/black who annihilate each other in a struggle between oppression and revolution. The Vietnam war connection was identified by H. Bruce Franklin in his article “Star Trek in the Vietnam era.” He states: “Enraged by millennia of persecution, the oppressed are led by a fanatic militant. In a clear allusion to the disproportionate deaths suffered by Afro-Americans in Vietnam, he asks crew members of the Enterprise: ‘Do you know what it would be like to be dragged out of your hovel into a war on another planet, a battle that will serve your oppressor and bring death to your brothers?’” This episode concludes with a vision of global disaster projected as a possible outcome of the Vietnam War in the earlier Star Trek episode “Omega glory.”

Omega glory (3/1/1968)

Credits: director, Vincent McEvet; writer, Gene Rodenberry.
Summary: Captain Tracey had violated the prime directive because he thought Omega IV's atmosphere granted immortality. Now his schemes include the crew of the Enterprise. Kirk and company are drawn into a conflict between the “Yangs” and the “Coms” exacerbated by Tracey’s interference. An analogy to the American involvement in Southeast Asia.

Private little war  (2/2/1968)

Credits: director, Marc Daniels ; writers, Don Ingalls, Gene Rodenberry,
Summary: Kirk (Shatner) and company beam down to a primitive planet visited by Kirk thirteen years before. Some of the once peaceful natives now have sophisticated weapons courtesy of the Klingons. Kirk decides to help the tribe he befriended in order to maintain the “balance of power.” The program was intended to reflect the American dilemma in Vietnam

Asherman, Allan. The Star trek compendium New York : Pocket Books, 1989. (p. 90, 100)
Auster, Albert and Quart, Leonard. How the war was remembered: Hollywood and Vietnam [GB] (p. 99)
Quart, Leonard (see under Auster, Albert)

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