



**Muhammad Ali
the
Conscientious
Objector**

Vietnam War 1955- 1975

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Vietnam Diary

VIET CONG FIGHTER

- 1) What does he care about?
- 2) What does he want for Vietnam?

AMERICAN SOLDIER

- 1) What worries him about the war?
- 2) How does he see his role as a soldier?

Why was America fighting in Vietnam?

How did Ali respond to the Draft?

In 1965 young black men were 11% of the American population but 16.5% of those drafted

The army drafted 64% of eligible black men and 31% of eligible white men

By 1968 19,560 Americans had died in Vietnam

Black soldiers were more likely to be drafted and placed in the front lines than white soldiers

'It has been said that I have two alternatives, either go to jail or go to the army. But I would like to say there is another alternative. And that alternative is justice.'
(Muhammad Ali)

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What was the impact?

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Ali was stripped of his Olympic medal and heavyweight title

Ali was condemned by the media for being a coward and anti American

Ali visited universities to give speeches about the war.

In 1967: sentenced to five years in prison, fir draft evasion, fined \$10, 000, boxing ban for 3 years

Every state withdrew his boxing licence so he couldn't box.

Opposition to the war increased and there were 171, 700 conscientious objectors.