

Delve Deeper into "Soldiers of Conscience"

A film by Catherine Ryan and Gary Weimberg

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Rebecca Federman of the New York Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Soldiers of Conscience" that premieres on October 16th, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

When is it right to kill? In the midst of war, is it right to refuse? Eight U.S. soldiers, some who have killed and some who said no, reveal their inner moral dilemmas in "Soldiers of Conscience." Made with official permission of the U.S. Army, the film transcends politics to explore the tension between spiritual values and military orders. "Soldiers of Conscience" follows the stories of both conscientious objectors and those who criticize them. Through this clash of views, the film discovers a surprising common ground: All soldiers are "soldiers of conscience," torn between the demands of duty and the call of conscience.

ADULT NONFICTION

Benderman, Sgt. Kevin. *Letters from Fort Lewis Brig: A Matter of Conscience.* The Lyons Press, 2007. Written by one of the soldiers featured in "Soldiers of Conscience," this book is written by a soldier who, after seeing the horrors of war, decided he could not return to Iraq for a second tour of duty, and was court-martialed and imprisoned as a result.

Casteel, Joshua. *Letters from Abu Ghraib.* Essay Press, 2008. Written by one of the soldiers featured in "Soldiers of Conscience", this book is a collection of email messages sent from Joshua Casteel to his friends and family during his service as an U.S. Army interrogator and Arabic linguist in the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion.

Delgado, Aidan. *The Sutras of Abu Ghraib: Notes from a Conscientious Objector.* Boston: Beacon Press, 2007. Written by one of the soldiers featured in "Soldiers of Conscience," this book documents Delgado's time at the Abu Ghraib and his decision to become a conscientious objector.

Dewey, Larry. *War and Redemption: Treatment and Recovery in Combat-Related Traumatic Stress Disorder.* Ashgate Publishing, 2004. Using the cases of 65 veterans from various wars, Dr. Larry Dewey chronicles the successful treatment of veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Eller, Cynthia. *Conscientious Objectors and the Second World War: Moral and Religious Arguments in Support of Pacifism.* New York: Praeger, 1991. Accounts of conversations with conscientious objectors from WWII who struggled with moral questions about the "good war."

Gioglio, Gerald R. *Days of Decision: An Oral History of Conscientious Objectors in the Military During the Vietnam War.* Trenton: Broken Rifle Press, 1989. Gioglio interviews men who refused to partake in the Vietnam War, because they felt the United States failed to offer a good reason for why they should fight.

Goosen, Rachel Waltnr. *Women Against the Good War: Conscientious Objection and Gender on the American Home Front, 1941-1947.* The University of North Carolina Press, 1997. During WWII, more than 12,000 male conscientious objectors were allowed to do work through Civilian Public Service, as an alternative to military service. This book focuses on the more than 2,000 women who joined them in defying social expectations by not supporting the war effort.

Guthrie, Charles. *Just War: The Just War Tradition: Ethics in Modern Warfare.* Bloomsbury, 2007. This book analyzes the Just War tradition, which has its roots in Christianity and western moral thought, while covering ethical issues faced by the international community in confronting peace and security challenges.

Hutto, Jonathan W. *Antiwar Soldier: How to Dissent Within the Ranks of the Military.* New York: Nation Books, 2008. A basic handbook that educates servicemen and women on their rights with regards to non-participation.

Laufer, Peter. *Mission Rejected: U.S. Soldiers Who Say No to Iraq.* White River Junction: Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 2006. Interviews with, and profiles of, U.S. soldiers back from Iraq who vehemently oppose the war.

Marshall, S.L.A. *Men Against Fire: The Problem of Battle Command.* Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000. A reprint of Marshall's controversial 1947 book which claimed that the majority of U.S. troops never fired their personal weapons. Marshall's book is mentioned frequently in "Soldiers of Conscience" and he was the official historian of the U.S. Army.

Mejia, Camilo. *Road from ar Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Mejia: An Iraq War Memoir.* Haymarket Books, 2008. Written by one of the soldiers featured in "Soldiers of Conscience", this account lends a first person perspective of the Iraq War and a soldier's immoral complicity in it.

Sherman, Ben. *Medic!: The Story of a Conscientious Objector in the Vietnam War.* Ballantine Books, 2007. This story chronicles the author's experience from playing Goofy at Disneyland, to being drafted in 1968, during the height of the Vietnam protests, to his service as a medic in Vietnam.

Swain, Henry. *Why Now? The Evolution of a Conscientious Objector.* Lotus Petal Publishing, 2006. The author explores the mindset of conscientious objectors, under his own belief that their actions are one of the only viable alternatives to the destruction of civilization itself.

Tick, Edward. *War and the Soul: Healing Our Nation's Veterans from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.* Quest Books, 2005. This book addresses how war damages the psyche, while teaching how to heal war trauma in veterans, their families, and our communities.



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Tollefson, James W. *The Strength Not to Fight: Conscientious Objectors of the Vietnam War – in Their Own Words*. Potomac Books Inc., 2000. This book explores the mindset of conscientious objectors of the Vietnam War; the depth of their convictions, their struggle to prove sincerity in the face of persecution, and their feelings today about their actions then.

Walzer, Michael. *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument With Historical Illustrations*. Basic Books, 2006. Using examples dating as far back as ancient Greece, Michael Walzer examines the moral issues surrounding military theory, war crimes and the spoils of war.

Wright, Ann and Susan Dixon. *Dissent: Voices of Conscience*. Koa Books, 2008. Profiles men and women, who risked careers, reputations, and even freedom in order to protest government actions, which they believed, were against the rule of law.

ADULT FICTION

Carroll, James. *Prince of Peace*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1984. Michael Maguire is a priest and a celebrated Korean War hero, yet now he takes a heroic stand against the controversial Vietnam War.

Chaplin, Ralph. *Bars and Shadows: The Prison Poems of Ralph Chaplin*. New York: Leonard Press, 1922. As a member of the International Workers of the World, Ralph Chaplin was put in prison for speaking out against World War I. These are the poems he wrote in prison.

Cicero, Noah. *The Human War: A Novella and Two Short Stories*. New York: Fugue State Press, 2003. When a young soldier goes to war in Iraq, he has no idea what he's in for, and reacts accordingly.

Maruya, Saiichi. *Sasamakura: Grass for my Pillow*. Translated by Dennis Keene. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002. Set in Japan in 1966, the novel follows draft dodger Hamada as he tries to live a normal life, but is haunted by the past.

Mueller, Marnie. *Climate of the Country*. Willimantic: Curbstone Press, 1999. Denton Jordan, a conscientious objector during WWII, is sent to work in a Japanese Internment camp in Tule Lake, California, where he finds himself among conflicting loyalties.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Freedman, Suzanne. *Clay v. United States: Muhammad Ali Objects to War*. Springfield: Enslow 1997. As a Muslim, Muhammad Ali refused to fight for the army during the Vietnam War. This book explains why Islam forbids it, what conscientious objectors are, and how Ali's decision changed the way the government deals with C.O. status. (Grades 7 and up)

Gottfried, Ted. *The Fight for Peace: A History of Anti-War Movements in the United States*. Minneapolis: Twenty-first Century Books, 2004. A history of anti-war movements throughout history, from ancient Greece to the Iraq War.

Lee, Nancy and Lonnie Schlein and Mitchel Levitas, eds. *The Nation Challenged: A Visual History of 9/11 and its Aftermath*. New York: Scholastic, 2002. Photographs and stories based on the *New York Times* section called "A Nation Challenged."

Moore, Joy Hofacker. *Ted Stuebaker: A Man Who Loved Peace*. Herald Press, 1987. A biographical story book about a man who, following his religious beliefs, became a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, but was killed serving as an agriculturist there. (Grades 2-4).

Schultz, David A. and John R. Vile. *The Encyclopedia of Civil Liberties in America*. Armonk: Sharpe Reference, 2005. A multi-volume set that includes entries on civil disobedience, speech rights and conscientious objectors.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Jarman, Julia. *Peace Weavers*. New York: Scholastic, 2006. While Hilde's mother travels to Iraq to protest the war, she must live with her father on a military base in Suffolk, England.

Kerr, M.E. *Slap your Sides*. New York: HarperTeen, 2001. Jubal's brother Bud is a devout Quaker who refused to fight in the military during World War II. This decision creates friction among the family and townspeople and Jubal must decide for himself what to do.

Lynch, Janet Nichols. *Peace is a Four-Letter Word*. Berkeley: Heyday Press, 2005. Emily is living her normal California life until a new teacher comes into her life and awakens her to ideas about the world she's never had before.

Mead, Alice. *Dawn and Dusk*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux 2007. Told from the perspective of a 13-year-old Iranian Kurd, *Dawn and Dusk* tells the story of the boy's family, their difficult life as Kurds during the bombings by Saddam Hussein, and the overall horrors of war.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Sunrise Over Fallujah*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2008. Robin decides to join the Army after September 11th and is soon sent to Iraq where he sees destruction and death all around him.

Reeder, Carolyn. *Shades of Gray*. New York: Macmillan, 1989. As an orphan during the Civil War, Will goes to live his relatives in Virginia, including an uncle who refuses to fight for the Confederate Army.

Radunsky, Vladimir. *Manneken Pis: A Simple Story of a Boy who Peed on a War*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002. The famous fable of a boy who thought war was just silly.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

The Best Years of Our Lives. A film by William Wyler. MGM, 1946. (168 mins.) Winner of seven Academy Awards, this film tells the story of three World War II veterans who return home and try to adjust back to regular life.

Birdy. A film by Alan Parker. Sony Pictures, 1984, (120 mins.) Based on William Wharton's novel, this film chronicles the friendship between two men before and after their tour in Vietnam. www.amazon.com



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Body of War. A film by Phil Donahue and Ellen Spiro.

Docurama, 2007. (87 mins.) A soldier returns home from Iraq with sustained injuries and a new outlook on the administration and the war.

www.bodyofwar.com/

Born on the Fourth of July. A film by Oliver Stone. **Universal Studios, 1989. (145 mins.)**

Based on the true story of Vietnam vet Ron Kovic, who left for Vietnam as a dedicated soldier, and came back an outspoken antiwar protestor.

www.amazon.com

The Deer Hunter. A film by Michael Cimino. **MCA/Universal, 1979. (183 mins.)**

A film about the personal impact of war that follows three friends as they deal with their experiences in the Vietnam War.

www.amazon.com

The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It. Directed by Judith Ehrlich and Rick Tejada-Flores. **Bullfrog Films, 2000. (57 mins.)**

A PBS documentary featuring interviews with a few of the thousands of U.S. soldiers who acted as conscientious objectors in World War II.

www.bullfrogfilms.com

In the Year of the Pig. A film by Emile de Antonio. **Homevision, 1969. (103 mins.)** Interviews with journalists and government officials regarding the United States' involvement in Vietnam.

www.amazon.com

Jarhead. A film by Sam Mendes. **Universal Studios, 2005. (123 mins.)**

During the first Gulf War, the day-to-day existence in the life of a group of U.S. Marines.

www.amazon.com

Stop-Loss. Directed by Kimberly Peirce. **Paramount/MTV, 2008. (111 mins.)**

When a soldier is told to report back to Iraq for another tour of duty, he questions his loyalty to his country.

www.stoplossmovie.com/

