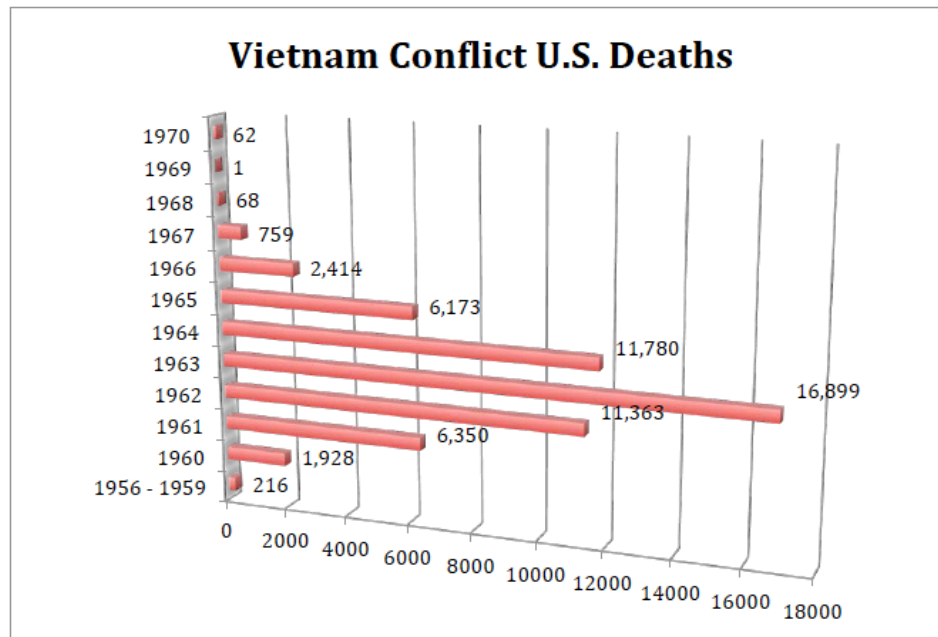


"Vietnam Conflict U.S. Deaths" Chart



Jim Ryan Photo (of March, 1976)



Source 1: Jim Ryan, a photograph reflecting the idea that many wealthy men were able to get draft deferments while racial minorities and working-class men made up a disproportionate number of draftees, c1970.

Fortunate Son (song / video)

Click for [Link](#)

Fortunate Son by Creedence Clearwater Revival

(Songwriter John C. Fogerty)

Some folks are born, made to wave the flag
Ooo, they're red, white and blue
And when the band plays "Hail to the Chief"
Ooo, they point the cannon at you, Lord

It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no senator's son, son
It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no fortunate one, no

Some folks are born, silver spoon in hand
Lord, don't they help themselves, y'all
But when the taxman comes to the door
Lord, the house looks like a rummage sale, yeah

It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no millionaire's son, no, no
It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no fortunate one, no

Some folks inherit star spangled eyes
Ooh, they send you down to war, Lord
And when you ask 'em, "How much should we give?"
Ooh, they only answer "More! More! More!", y'all

It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no military son, son
It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no fortunate one, one
It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no fortunate one, no, no, no
It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no fortunate son, no, no, no

THE DRAFT

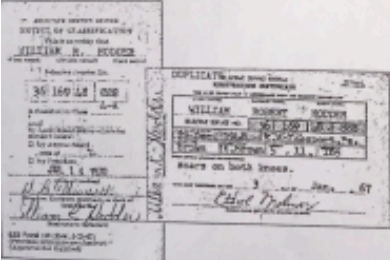
QUICK FACTS

- The Selective Service System was composed of almost 4,000 local draft boards and staffed by unpaid volunteers, most of whom were white males who were veterans of earlier wars. A 1966 survey of 16,638 board members of the draft revealed that only 1.3 percent were African American. Women were not allowed to serve on draft boards until 1967.
- Women were not affected by the draft. All women who served in the military were volunteers.
- One favorite option for white upper-middle-class males wishing to serve in the military but avoid the possibility of being stationed in Vietnam was to join the National Guard. In 1968 only 1 percent of the Army National Guard troops were African American.
- More than 57 percent of the eligible males from 1964 to 1973 received deferments. Only 2 percent, or approximately 520,000 young men, committed draft violations.

During the Vietnam War, men were inducted into the military services in one of two ways: they either volunteered or they were conscripted by law. Conscription into the military under the Selective Service System—the “draft”—affected approximately twenty-six million American males ages eighteen to twenty-four during the Vietnam War. The purpose of the draft was to provide a sufficient source of manpower to fill the ranks of the different services. The intent was that all men, excepting those with medical disabilities, should be obligated for service. But the reality fell short. The draft was unfairly administered, filled with loopholes that allowed a young man to avoid military service through deferments. The most abused of these were the college deferments, which favored the affluent and well-educated American males of draft age.

James Lafferty, an activist lawyer who established a number of draft counseling centers in the midwest, advised young men about the legal means available to them to avoid the draft. He observed, “Every aspect of the draft had a built-in bias against the poorest young men in the country.” One deferment that, on the surface, appeared to favor the poor was the “hardship” deferment. But as Lafferty pointed out, “If you were an unemployed kid in inner-city Detroit and your mom was on welfare, military service might actually improve your economic circumstances and give you more money to send home to your mom, while the wealthy could claim that military service would be an economic crisis if the circumstances were right.”

The men most passionately opposed to the war chose to emigrate rather than be drafted. Canada, because of its shared border with the United States and its similar culture, was the country most often used for this. Tim O'Brien, who graduated from college in 1968, was drafted and shipped to Vietnam in 1969. He later observed, “There were a lot of us in Vietnam who didn't want to be there, and many of us didn't have the courage to do what the resisters did. It took a lot of courage to cross the border and leave behind your family and your hometown and your girlfriend. . . . I ended up going to Vietnam just to protect my reputation and sense of self-esteem, but the guys who went to Canada somehow were able to find the moral courage to make a choice they knew was gonna dog them the rest of their lives.”



The image shows the front and back of a Selective Service registration card. The front (left) is a form with fields for name, date of birth, and classification. The back (right) is a duplicate of the front, showing the same information. The card is for William Robert Secord, born 10/10/44, classified 1-A (Available for service).

Above: The front and back of a Selective Service registration card, also known as the draft card.

Martin Luther King Jr, Speech (A Time to break the Silence, 1967)

"Somehow this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being **subverted** [undermined]. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home and death and corruption in Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours."

"Military Costs" - CQ Almanac, 1975

"Although the Pentagon estimated that military expenditures for the Vietnam war between fiscal 1965 and 1974 amounted to \$138,974,000,000, the department noted that a large portion of that sum would have been spent in any event. The department prepared another total, called "war costs only," that came to \$110.7-billion and represented expenditures that would not otherwise have been made.

To make the Defense Department statistics comprehensible to the public, James L. Clayton of the University of Utah made several comparisons. The war cost 10 times more than support for all levels of education and 50 times more than was spent for housing and community development during that same period, Clayton said. The United States spent more money on Vietnam in 10 years than it spent during the nation's entire history for public higher education or for police protection."

For this part, your responses can look like this: “A _____ (military/ethical) argument against the war could have been.....”

John Kerry testimony, 1971

“We found that most [Vietnamese] people didn’t know the difference between communism and democracy. They only wanted to work in rice paddies without helicopters strafing them and bombs with napalm burning their villages and tearing their country apart. They wanted everything to do with the war, particularly with this foreign presence of the United States of America, to leave them alone and in peace....

We saw first hand how money from American taxes was used for a corrupt dictatorial regime....
We rationalized destroying villages in order to save them...

We learned the meaning of free fire zones, shooting anything that moves, and we watched while America placed a cheapness on the lives of Orientals [outdated term - used for people of Asian descent]

Search & Destroy (video clip)

Click for [link](#).

1st Photos of Viet Mass Slaying

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER
CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1969

128TH YEAR—NO. 324 * * * * *

96 PAGES 10 CENTS

WEATHER
Snow flurries and
colder today.
High in the upper 20s.
Details on Page 5-C.

FINAL
Stocks & Races
Dow-Jones off 5.21



Exclusive

This photograph will shock Americans as it shocked the editors and the staff of The Plain Dealer. It was taken by a young Cleveland area man while serving as a photographer with the U.S. Army in South Vietnam.

It was taken during the attack by American soldiers on the South Vietnamese village My Lai, an attack which has made world headlines in recent days with disclosures of mass killings allegedly at the hands of American soldiers.

This photograph and others on two special pages are the first to be published anywhere of the killings.

This particular picture shows a clump of bodies of South Vietnamese civilians which includes women and children. Why they were killed raises one of the most momentous questions of the war in Vietnam.

**Cameraman
Saw GIs Slay
100 Villagers**

By JOSEPH ESZTERHAS
(c) 1969, The Plain Dealer

A clump of bodies on a road in South Vietnam.

“Exclusive. This photograph will shock Americans as it shocked the editors and staff of The Plain Dealer. It was taken by a young Cleveland area man while serving as a photographer with the U.S. Army in South Vietnam. It was taken during the attack by American soldiers on the South Vietnamese village My Lai, an attack which has made world headlines in recent days with disclosures of mass killings allegedly at the hands of American soldiers. This photograph and others on two special pages are the first to be published anywhere of the killings. This particular picture shows a clump of bodies of South Vietnamese civilians which includes women and children. Why they were killed raises one of the most momentous questions of the war in Vietnam.”

Agent Orange video clip

End of Question 1 - proceed to the next section...

3) Were the anti-war protesters patriotic OR unpatriotic?

Paul Potter, Anti-war Speech, 1965

"I mean people who are willing to change their lives, who are willing to challenge the system, to take the problem of change seriously. By a social movement I mean an effort that is powerful enough to make the country understand that our problems are not in Vietnam, or China or Brazil or outer space or at the bottom of the ocean, but are here in the United States. What we must do is begin to build a democratic and humane society in which **Vietnams** [meaning: wars in nations, like Vietnam] are unthinkable, in which human life and initiative are precious. The reason there are twenty thousand people here today and not a hundred or none at all is because five years ago in the South students began to build a social movement to change the system. The reason there are poor people, Negro and white, housewives, faculty members, and many others here in Washington is because that movement has grown and spread and changed and reached out as an expression of the broad concerns of people throughout the society. The reason the war and the system it represents will be stopped, if it is stopped before it destroys all of us, will be because the movement has become strong enough to exact change in the society."

Robert Geary, 50, an office worker for the Colonial Hardware Corporation:

I'm very proud to be an American, and I know my boy that was killed in Vietnam would be here today if he was alive, marching with us...I know he died for the right cause, because in his letters he wrote to me he knew what he was fighting for: to keep America free and to avoid any taking over by Communists--atheistic Communists, by the way.

I think most of them [college dissenters] are influenced by a few vile people...I'll tell you one person who smudged the name of my son and that was Mayor Lindsay. When he stands up and says men who refuse to serve in the armed forces are heroic, then I presume by the same category that my son that was killed in Vietnam is a coward, the way he thinks. Eighty per cent of the people are behind America and the flag...I believe that what we're fighting for is worth it, yes, but nobody likes war.

Of the flag: It's me. It's part of me. I fought for it myself two or three years in the Second World War...It's the greatest country in the world. All they [dissenters] have to do is move out.

5) Summative Performance Task: Please raise your hand when you arrive at this portion of the assignment.

6) Extension: Please read these directions in your packet. You may wish to conduct research to help answer these questions. [Click here](#) for some background reading.