

Black Americans in the Vietnam War: A Turning Point for Black Rights

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Individual Website

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Two years ago, during my ninth-grade year, I stumbled upon a video showcasing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The solemnity of the site, with its black granite walls bearing the engraved names of forlorn veterans who perished or went missing in the Vietnam War, left an indelible impact on me. This unsettling experience propelled me to delve deeper into the Vietnam War, and unexpectedly, it revealed an untold narrative within the Black American community. When I saw the theme, “Turning Points,” for National History Day this year, I felt compelled to shed light on the experiences of Black Americans during the Vietnam War, given their significant contributions and role during a tumultuous period in history. Black American involvement in the Vietnam War was a turning point in their civil and social rights in the military; it helped forge the fairer and more egalitarian United States that we know today.

To conduct my research, I employed a comprehensive methodology. I began by reviewing general articles to gain a basic understanding of the Vietnam War. From there, I explored a wide range of primary and secondary sources. I immersed myself in novels like *The Vietnam War: An Intimate History*, which provided a detailed overview of the war's events. To gain a more intimate perspective, I then turned to books that centered around oral histories of Black veterans during the Vietnam War. After repeatedly hearing the names Martin Luther King Jr and Muhammad Ali, I realized the importance of their leadership and activism during that generation, and thus incorporated multimedia into the website featuring both of them. I also consolidated information from other sources like

newspaper archives, valuing their insight into the media coverage of relevant events in the mid-twentieth century.

Formulating my argument seemed like a natural progression once I had read several books on the Vietnam War and considered multiple Black American perspectives. To begin with, I organized my thoughts by creating an outline and referring back to my consolidated notes. Then, categorizing information based on its relevance and flow, I revisited my sources to gather pertinent quotes, images, and multimedia. Afterward, through multiple rounds of editing and revising cogent arguments, I refined my narrative and ensured the coherence of my website. Finally, I meticulously reviewed my bibliography and cited information to ensure accuracy and thoroughness.

As our nation continuously undergoes a critical examination of its past, acknowledging historical faults and pivotal moments becomes crucial for progress and collective understanding. The Vietnam War, as the first major integrated American conflict, not only exposed the systemic racism faced by Black Americans in the military but also served as a catalyst for increased military involvement. In doing so, Black Americans brought attention to broader civil and social issues, bridging racial and social divides and reshaping their political positions. This undeniably controversial yet fruitful chapter in American history was a turning point for the acceptance and recognition of Black Americans in the military, and it has left an unerasable mark on our nation's trajectory.

Primary Sources

Interviews

Ali, Muhammad. "Ali on Draft." Interview. Video, 00:30. YouTube. Posted by Slate, June 18, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAXP7j5uQj0>.

This primary source is an interview with Muhammad Ali in 1967, shortly after his refusal to be inducted, and it was broadcasted on the Black public affairs television program, *Like It Is*, now under Slate. In the interview, Ali explicitly states his opposition to the draft and aligns himself with the Vietnamese; this empathetic attitude toward the Vietnamese would soon grow even stronger in Black communities across America. I chose to include a recording of this interview on my "Bridging the Gap" page because I felt that Ali's voice held clear conviction and was representative of an emerging belief in Black American communities.

Gragg, John. "John Gragg." Interview. Video, 24:41. YouTube. Posted by Korean War Legacy Foundation, June 28, 2013. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amKiUQsm-OU>.

In this primary source, John Gragg, a Black American Korean veteran, recounts how he served in a segregated unit despite desegregation laws, facing mistreatment from his white commander. Despite his experiences, Gragg received numerous medals for his service and remains deeply affected by the plight of the Korean people. I used a quote from his interview about how white officers who could not serve as officers in white units were delegated to Black units, and I also

noticed an interesting parallel between Black-Vietnamese and Black-Korean solidarity.

Key, Phillip. "Vietnam: A Television History; Vietnamizing the War (1968 - 1973)."

Interview. Video, 47:08.

https://openvault.wgbh.org/catalog/V_F3B240DC7AA64A408AFC4DEBFC42D9

[9B](#).

The interview with Philip Key describes his journey to Vietnam, from initially considering joining the Marines due to a knee injury preventing college attendance, to ultimately being drafted and deployed to Vietnam despite efforts to avoid it. Key vivid recollections upon arrival in Vietnam convey the initial shock of witnessing the war-torn landscape, the smell in the air, and the suffering of the local population, highlighting the stark reality of war. I learned more about the complexities and lies surrounding military conscription and deployment to Vietnam, and I quoted Key in my website, given his experience with being lied to.

Rangel, Charles. "Charles Rangel." Interview. Video, 25:24. YouTube. Posted by Korean War Legacy Foundation, May 28, 2013.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WSqlFLHUI0>.

In this interview with Charles Rangel, a Black American Korean War veteran and former United States Representative, Rangel chronicles the challenges of integration for Black Americans at the time. I learned from Rangel's account that despite efforts towards integration, the Korean War was far from being fully integrated, and racism persisted within the military. This interview supports the

notion that the Vietnam War was indeed the first fully desegregated conflict, and I included a recording of Rangel's interview on my "Trails of Struggle" page to provide my audience with a powerful testimony to the realities of racism and discrimination within the military, despite official efforts towards integration.

Legal Documents

Exec. Order No. 9981 Fed. Reg. (July 26, 1948).

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/executive-order-9981>.

Executive Order 9981, signed by President Harry S. Truman on July 26, 1948, mandated equality of treatment and opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin in the United States Armed Forces; it initiated the desegregation process in the military. Additionally, the Executive Order also established the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services to review and recommend changes to military regulations to ensure the implementation of this policy. I studied this legal document and used a photograph of this source on my "Trails of Struggle" page to provide historical context behind integration within the United States military.

National Intelligence Estimate. *POST-GENEVA OUTLOOK IN INDOCHINA*, August 3, 1954. <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1952-54v13p2/d1105>.

This document explains the perspective of the foreign policy establishment during the Eisenhower administration. It discusses the various historical, political and military factors that have led to the concluding of the agreement. I used a quote

from this document to show the anti-Communist sentiment that the American government held during the Cold War.

Servicemen's Readjustment Act, Pub. L. No. 346, 58 Stat. 284-286 (June 22, 1944).

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/servicemens-readjustment-act>.

Also known as the G.I. Bill, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, provided federal government aid to World War II veterans and offered them funds for college education, unemployment insurance, and housing, thereby facilitating their transition back into civilian life and contributing to the development and prosperity of the nation. I provided an image of this legal document on my "Crossroads of Prosperity" page to show one of the main motivations behind Black Americans to join the army in subsequent wars. However, it is also important to acknowledge that copious amounts of Black veterans received blue discharges and were prevented from attaining their rightful veteran benefits.

Tonkin Gulf Resolution, H.R.J. Res. 1145, 88th Cong., 2d Sess. (Aug. 10, 1964).

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/tonkin-gulf-resolution>.

The Tonkin Gulf Resolution, as signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 10, 1964, permitted the American government to heighten its involvement in the Vietnam War. From studying the document, I was able to discern the broad discretionary powers granted to President Johnson, which allowed for the escalation of military action in Vietnam without a formal declaration of war by Congress. As this expansion of executive authority had significant implications for

the course of the war and for the lives of countless individuals, including both Black Americans and the Vietnamese, I included an image of it on my “Venturing into Vietnam” page.

Newspapers

From News Dispatches. "Dr. King Is Slain in Memphis; Troops Ordered into City." *The Washington Post*, April 5, 1968.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/from-the-archive-dr-king-is-slain-in-memphis-troops-ordered-into-city/2018/04/03/cd84a9d8-376e-11e8-9c0a-85d477d9a226_story.html.

Published on the front page of *The Washington Post* issue on April 5, 1968, this article details the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Reading through the article, I learned about the tragic assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, including the immediate chaos that ensued, the pursuit of suspects, and the tense atmosphere surrounding ongoing civil rights demonstrations and legal battles. I used a photograph of the front page on my “Bridging the Gap” page to demonstrate the event that triggered racial hostility within the already-tense American military.

Hamilton, Thomas J. "INDOCHINA ARMISTICE IS SIGNED; VIETNAM SPLIT AT 17TH PARALLEL; U.S. FINDS IT CAN 'RESPECT' PACT." *The New York Times* (New York City), July 21, 1954.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1954/07/21/issue.html>.

This article was published on the front page of *The New York Times* issue on July 21, 1954, and it captures an example of American media coverage surrounding the Geneva Accords. With a fairly neutral tone surrounding the war, this article acted in stark contrast to the ardent and passionate articles and speeches that would erupt a mere few years later. I used a photograph of the front page of this newspaper on “The Geneva Conference” section of my website, as I found it interesting that the article emphasized that the United States was willing to “‘respect’ [the] pact,” but evidently unwilling to sign it.

James, Caryn. "The Evolution of a Very Confused Young Man." *The New York Times* (New York City), September 29, 1995.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1995/09/29/806895.html>.

Set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War era, this article by *The New York Times* reviews the film *Dead Presidents*, which follows a young man named Anthony as he navigates life in a Black neighborhood in the Bronx, as well as his experience in the war and his struggles upon returning home. While the film showcases talent in cinematography and action sequences, the reviewer argues that it falls short in terms of character development and dialogue. Even despite its flaws, the article states that *Dead Presidents* would be featured at the New York Film Festival and opens in theaters in New York soon, which is why I chose it as an example of enduring cultural legacy of the Vietnam War.

Leviero, Anthony. "TRUMAN ORDERS END OF BIAS IN FORCES AND FEDERAL JOBS; ADDRESSES CONGRESS TODAY." *The New York Times* (New York

City), July 27, 1948.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1948/07/27/issue.html>.

Published on the front page of *The New York Times* issue on July 28, 1948, a week after *The New York Times* covered the Geneva Conference, this article details Truman's issuing of Executive Order 9981. From this article, I learned that Truman had addressed Congress. I used a photograph of the front page to showcase how there was nationwide interest surrounding Executive Order 9981.

New York Daily News. "SIR, MY MEN REFUSE TO GO!' Weary Viet GIs Defy Order."

New York Daily News (New York City), August 26, 1969, 1.

<https://nydailynews.newspapers.com/image/395296472/>.

This is the front page of the *New York Daily News* issue on August 26, 1969. With bold, large words stating, "'SIR, MY MEN REFUSE TO GO!' Weary Viet GIs Defy Order," it immediately caught my attention, and as I ventured deeper into the newspaper issue, I read an article about the exhaustion that American soldiers were facing abroad in Vietnam. This newspaper allowed me to gain a better understanding of the fatigue that American soldiers felt during the Vietnam War, and I used it on my "Bridging the Gap" page to demonstrate the pushback against the war by soldiers too.

Schmidt, Dana Adams. "Classes in Race Relations Ordered for Armed Forces." *The New York Times* (New York City), March 6, 1971.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1971/03/06/81876613.html>.

This primary source, the front page of *The New York Times* issue on March 6, 1971, describes how the Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced a new program requiring all armed forces personnel to undergo race relations training, aiming to prevent racial conflicts and ensure combat readiness. The initiative, overseen by the Defense Race Relations Institute and supported by interracial councils, reflects efforts to address recent reports of racial tensions within the military. From this primary source, I learned about the Defense Department's growing approach to promoting racial harmony and its recognition of the broader societal implications of fostering diversity and inclusion in the armed forces, and I quoted this on my "Turning into Today" page as I felt it was a clear example of how the American military was evolving from race blind to race conscious.

Sheehan, Neil. "Vietnam Archive: Pentagon Study Traces 3 Decades of Growing U.S. Involvement." *The New York Times* (New York City), June 13, 1971.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1971/06/13/issue.html>.

This primary source is an article on the front page of *The New York Times* issue on June 13, 1971, and I learned from it about how there was a growing nationwide awareness surrounding how the United States had been involved with Vietnam for longer than expected—for decades. I chose to include a photograph of this article in my "The Geneva Conference" section because I felt that it would allow the reader to learn about how the United States had not informed its citizens about the true depth of its involvement with Vietnam.

Winston-Salem Chronicle (Winston-Salem, NC). "A. Philip Randolph Created A Legacy That Lives, Grows." February 18, 1982.

<https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn85042324/1982-02-18/ed-1/seq-11/#words=Executive+Order+9981>.

This newspaper article from the *Winston-Salem Chronicle* issue on February 18, 1982 recounts the legacy of A. Philip Randolph and various events in American history. It mentions Randolph's efforts in fighting discrimination and, notably, his warnings to President Truman about segregation in the armed forces and his strategy of mass protest. From this text, I learned about A. Philip Randolph's significant contributions to the civil rights movement, particularly in advocating for fair treatment of Black workers and challenging racial discrimination in various sectors and will quote his work in my "Trails of Struggle" page, as I believe it would be helpful to the audience to put his legacy in conversation with Executive Order 9981.

Photographs

Adams, Eddie. Under sniper fire, a Vietnamese woman carries a child to safety as U.S. Marines storm the village of My Son, near Da Nang in Vietnam, searching for Vietcong insurgents. Da Nang was one of the major harbors in Vietnam, where the American army had a large air base during the war. It was also the city where Adams arrived, when he came to Vietnam in 1965. Having been a U.S. Marine himself during the Korean War, he traveled with the Marines and stayed with them

at their camp in Da Nang. April 1, 1965. Photograph.

<https://www.worldpressphoto.org/collection/photo-contest/1965/eddie-adams-ne/1>.

This photograph was taken by Eddie Adams, a famed photographer who won a Pulitzer-Prize while covering the Vietnam War, and it depicts a Vietnamese woman carrying a child as her village is stormed by American soldiers. I used this photo on my “Venturing into Vietnam” page to demonstrate firsthand how unarmed and often helpless Vietnamese citizens were impacted by the war. After the Gulf of Tonkin incident in August 1964, the United States dramatically heightened its involvement in Vietnam, leading to more combat deployments as demonstrated within the photograph.

Albion College. *Gerald Ford*. Photograph.

<https://www.albion.edu/academics/centers-institutes/ford-institute/ford-vision/gerald-ford-and-albion-college/>.

This is a photograph of Gerald Ford, who was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He served as the thirty-eighth president of the United States and emphasized ethical leadership and collaboration across political divides. I included a photograph of Ford on my “Turning into Today” page as The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 was implemented under him.

Bettmann Archives. “President Harry Truman Proclaims February 1st, the Anniversary of The...” Photograph.

<https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/president-harry-truman-proclaims-february-1st-the-news-photo/515181602?adppopup=true>.

This primary source is a photo, taken by an unknown photographer and stored within the online Bettmann Archive, of President Harry S. Truman proclaimed February 1st as National Freedom Day, marking the anniversary of the signing of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which abolished slavery. I used this image to demonstrate the precursors to Executive Order 9981, which was issued 27 days later, highlighting Truman's chronological commitment to civil rights and desegregation in the United States Armed Forces.

———. *Vietnam Veteran Parade*. November 13, 1982. Photograph.

<https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/vietnam-veteran-eugene-brice-raises-his-american-flag-while-news-photo/514679654?adppopup=true>.

This primary source is a photograph of Black American Vietnam Eugene Brice raising his American flag during the Vietnam Veterans parade in 1982, signifying the recognition of the involvement of Black American soldiers during the war. As seen in the photo, Brice's expression is incredibly expressive and powerful.

———. *Student Anti-Vietnam Rally, 1968*. Photograph.

<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/student-anti-vietnam-rally-1968-bettmann.html>.

This photograph features an anti-Vietnam War sentiment among students. I chose to include it as I felt it reflected the prevailing attitude during the Vietnam War era.

Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum. *President Harry S. Truman Shakes*

Hands with African American Air Force Sergeant. October 12, 1950. Photograph.

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/photograph-records/65-2494>.

This photograph captures the moment when President Harry S. Truman shook hands with Black American Air Force Sergeant Edward Williams during a casual meeting on October 12, 1950. By then, Executive Order 9981 had already been implemented for over two years. I included this image on my “Trails of Struggle” page because I felt that the handshake between the president and a Black serviceman symbolized the gradual recognition of Black American soldiers during Truman’s presidency.

IMDb. *Dead Presidents.* Photograph.

<https://m.imdb.com/title/tt0112819/mediaviewer/rm2720765952>.

This is a photograph of a scene from the film *Dead Presidents*, which was published in 1995. I used it to provide my viewers with a visual example of the cultural legacy left behind from the Vietnam War.

Levy, Builder. *Harlem Peace March.* April 15, 1967. Photograph.

https://nmaahc.si.edu/object/nmaahc_2017.43.3.

This photograph was taken in 1967 Harlem, a little less than three years after the Gulf of Tonkin and one year after Muhammad Ali’s refusal to be inducted. In this monochrome photograph, Black American men, women, and children protest the war and hold signs, and their sympathy toward the Vietnamese is evident in the signs. I used this photograph in my “Bridging the Gap” section to exhibit the

turning tides within Black American sentiment toward the war, its broader shift toward reexamining the racial and class discriminations inherent within American society, and to demonstrate that individuals from all sorts of age groups were protesting the war.

O'Sullivan, Timothy H. *Fredericksburg, Virginia. Burial of Federal dead.* May 20, 1864.

Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2018670786/>.

Taken on either May 19 or 20 in 1864, this photograph depicts Black Americans burying the dead at a hospital during the Civil War. During the Civil War, a fight for Black freedom, Black Americans themselves were generally prohibited from taking part in combat positions, and they were often relegated to support activities.

I chose to include this photograph in my “Trails of Struggle” section to demonstrate how, even from the very beginning in their fight for freedom, Black Americans were not seen and treated equally as their white peers in the American military.

Saigoneer. *The IJA captures Hanoi.* 1940. Photograph.

<https://saigoneer.com/vietnam-heritage/2073-when-the-japanese-occupied-vietnam-part-i>.

This photograph portrays the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) celebrating their capture of Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, and it is symbolic of Japan’s colonialism of Vietnam and French Indochina. In the center of the image, Japanese officials fly a Japanese flag over the Vietnamese lands and underneath the French words, “Au Majestic,” meaning “To The Majestic.” I selected this photograph and placed it on

my “Venturing into Vietnam” page as I felt it was important to acknowledge that the French were not the only ones who colonized Vietnam, preventing them from true liberty; Japan did too.

Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. *End the Draft*. 1960-1970.

Photograph. <https://whitney.org/collection/works/56373>.

This photograph shows a light brown poster by the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam with the statement "END THE DRAFT." The Student Mobilization Committee was a prominent organization advocating for an end to the Vietnam War and opposing the military draft, and I chose to include this photograph on my “Turning into Today” page to exhibit one example of the “protests and shifting public opinion” that compelled the American government to turn to an all-volunteer force.

Terry, Wallace. Soldiers in Vietnam do the "dap," a stylized greeting used to signify a shared black culture and racial unity, 1969. 1969. Photograph.

<https://adrianemiller.com/soul-foods-legacy-in-vietnam/>.

This photograph shows ten Black American soldiers doing the “dap,” an intricate and lengthy handshake popularized during the Vietnam War as a form of Black power. I included this photograph because it presents the awakening of Black American pride and self-dignity that occurred during the Vietnam War; indeed, as Ethel Payne once recounted, a new generation of Black soldiers had arrived, now “more aggressive, more militant,” but most importantly, “more confident.”

University of Arkansas. Muhammad Ali - When the boxer refused military service as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, he became a polarizing figure.

Speaking at the U of A in 1969, Ali still found students divided in their thinking about him. 1969. Photograph. <https://freespeech.uark.edu/campus-history/>.

This photograph of Muhammad Ali speaking at the University of Arkansas in 1969 captures in Ali's life and career as he attempts to connect with the younger generation amid his controversial stance against the Vietnam War. As a polarizing figure during a turbulent era, Ali's presence at the university spotlights his attempt to bridge generational divides through words and actions. With that in mind, I added this photograph to my “Bridging the Gap” page.

University of Massachusetts Amherst. U.S. soldiers and veterans who opposed the war.

Photograph.

<https://www.umass.edu/news/article/umass-amherst-display-new-exhibit-vietnam>.

This black-and-white photograph depicts a crowd of soldiers of various races holding up peace symbols as they look into the camera. I chose to include this photograph on my “Bridging the Gap” page to highlight the unity among soldiers, regardless of race, in their opposition to the war. It serves as a powerful reminder that the anti-war sentiment was not exclusive to Black soldiers but was shared by soldiers of all backgrounds—that there was a collective desire for peace and solidarity.

Western Newspaper Union. *Colored Troops - Doing Kitchen Police on Board the Celtic*.

1917-1918. Photograph. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/26431410>.

This photograph presents Black Americans cleaning aboard the Celtic during World War I, which was one of the many support duties they held prior to the Vietnam war. I selected this photograph to be on my “Trails of Struggle” page to offer insight into the biased treatment and perception of Black Americans in the military during earlier conflicts.

Zinn Education Project. Veterans protesting war. June 1, 1967. Photograph.

<https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/vietnam-veterans-war/>.

This monochrome photograph exhibits a veteran protest, composed of men across several races, against the Vietnam War. The prominent banner "WE WON'T FIGHT ANOTHER RICH MAN'S WAR!!!" displays a growing societal consciousness among veterans, highlighting their belief that the conflict is rooted in class inequalities. This image serves to illustrate the shifting sentiment and public resistance toward the American government's involvement in warfare during this period.

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Speeches

Bailey, Beth. "The War within the War: Race in Vietnam - Beth Bailey." Speech, February 26, 2020. Video, 65:44. YouTube. Posted by National WWI Museum and Memorial, February 26, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJnIglTIphk>.

This primary source is a speech given by Beth Bailey, a professor of history at the University of Kansas. She describes the research she has done to an audience, and her argument that the military has evolved from race blind to race conscious. I used a clip of her presentation on my website to show how modern historians still value and continuously examine the legacy left behind from the Vietnam War.

Johnson, Lyndon B. "Report on the Gulf of Tonkin Incident." Speech, August 4, 1964.

Miller Center of the University of Virginia. Last modified August 28, 2023.

<https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches/august-4-1964-report-gulf-tonkin-incident>.

This speech is a recording of President Lyndon B. Johnson's address to the nation regarding the Gulf of Tonkin Incident. In the speech, Johnson informs American citizens of the North Vietnamese attacks on American warships, and he emphasizes the American government's commitment to retaliation. I quoted Johnson's speech at the end of my "Venturing into Vietnam" page, as I believe it provides an accurate viewpoint regarding the official reasoning behind the American government's decision to heighten their involvement in Vietnam.

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence." Speech presented at Riverside Church, New York City, April 4, 1967. American Rhetoric.

<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkatimetobreaksilence.htm>.

In Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence, King articulates his deep opposition to the Vietnam War and explains why he feels compelled to speak out against it.

He highlights the interconnectedness of issues like poverty, racism, and militarism, condemning the war as detrimental to the interests of the poor and marginalized communities. I learned about Dr. King's moral conviction to confront the injustices perpetrated by his own government and his belief in the power of nonviolent action to effect social change from this speech, and I quoted him on the beginning of my "Bridging the Gap" page, as I felt his words and attitude toward the war would set the tone well for my page.

Nixon, Richard. "The All-Volunteer Armed Force." Speech, October 17, 1968. The

American Presidency Project.

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/remarks-the-cbs-radio-network-the-all-volunteer-armed-force>.

This primary source is a speech by President Nixon addressing the issue of compulsory military service in the United States. Nixon argues for a transition to an all-volunteer armed force, citing changes in military needs and the inequities of the draft system. I gleaned that Nixon believed an all-volunteer military would be more professional, efficient, and aligned with the principles of individual liberty and equality under the law.

———. "Statement About Signing the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972."

Speech, March 25, 1972. The American Presidency Project.

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/statement-about-signing-the-equal-employment-opportunity-act-1972>.

This primary source is President Nixon's statement on the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, detailing its significance in combating employment discrimination and expanding protections to previously excluded groups. I learned that the Act empowered the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Justice Department to enforce anti-discrimination laws more effectively, addressing discrimination in various sectors of society. From this statement I learned more about the rationale behind passing legislation designed to combat discrimination in the employment process, and the protections afforded to more vulnerable groups within America.

Statement

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. "SNCC Statement on Vietnam." SNCC

Digital Gateway. Last modified January 6, 1966.

<https://snccdigital.org/inside-sncc/policy-statements/vietnam/>.

This primary source is a statement from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), expressing its dissent against U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. It calls to attention of SNCC's belief that the U.S. government's claims of concern for freedom, both domestically and abroad, are deceptive and

hypocritical. From this source, I learned about SNCC's stance on the Vietnam War and its broader critique of U.S. foreign and domestic policies.

Secondary Sources

Books

Esper, George. *The Eyewitness History of the Vietnam War, 1961-1975*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1983.

While the book was written by George Esper, an Associated Press journalist during the Vietnam War, it was a compilation of primary sources rather than one in itself, as such, it is a secondary source. From this book, I used a photograph of the 1954 Geneva Conference. As depicted within the photo, there are many international leaders present at the Geneva Conference, and I used this photo in my “The Geneva Conference” section to demonstrate the prominence of the event, as well as the planning and international discussion that went into the creation of the Geneva Accords.

Gregory, Hamilton. *McNamara's Folly : the Use of Low-IQ Troops in the Vietnam War ; plus the Induction of Unfit Men, Criminals, and Misfits*. West Conshohocken, PA: Infinity Publishing, 2015.

McNamara's Folly sheds light on controversial aspects of the Vietnam War, particularly the utilization of troops with low intelligence quotients and the induction of individuals deemed unfit, including criminals and misfits. The book explores the implications of such policies on the effectiveness of military

operations and the well-being of both the soldiers and the Vietnamese population. I was able to gain a more comprehensive understanding about the ethical and strategic challenges associated with military recruitment practices during the Vietnam War era through this secondary source, and I quoted some of the findings in my website.

L. Phillips, Kimberley. *War! What Is It Good For? : Black Freedom Struggles and the U.S. Military from World War II to Iraq*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.

This book delves into the impact of Black Americans' fight for the right to fight in the military on their broader struggles for freedom. Specifically, within the Vietnam War chapters, this book explores how this fight led to increased antiwar activism and prompted a reevaluation of the relationship between militarism and the pursuit of equality and freedom. Through the insights provided, particularly those drawn from Black American Chicago correspondent Ethel Payne (which I included on my website), I gained a deeper understanding of the militant attitudes prevalent during the Vietnam War and their significance in shaping the broader civil rights movement.

Ward, Geoffrey C, and Ken Burns. *The Vietnam War : an Intimate History*. Abridged ed. New York, NY: Random House Audio, 2017.

This secondary source offers an extensive account of the Vietnam War, covering its political context, military tactics, and the personal narratives of individuals involved. Accompanied by a significant collection of photographs, many of which

were incorporated into my website, as well as an entire season of episodes on the Vietnam War, the book provides an incredibly comprehensive understanding of the nature of the conflict.

Terry, Wallace. *Bloods : Black Veterans of the Vietnam War : an Oral History*. Presidio Press mass market edition ed. New York: Presidio Press, 2006.

This secondary source is another compilation of primary sources via oral histories. Delving into their personal narratives, this primary source offered a comprehensive view into the Black American experience and detailed the unique circumstances and societal contexts that forced many Black American men to join the war. Unlike the other compilation of oral histories that I read, this secondary source tended to have primary sources that were more negative towards the war, and I quoted many of the Black American soldiers on my website, specifically about their experiences with racism.

Websites/E-sources

A&E Television Networks. "Geneva Conference to Resolve Problems in Asia Begins." History. Last modified April 24, 2024.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/geneva-conference-begins>.

This secondary source details the international conference held in Geneva, where representatives addressed conflicts in Asia, focusing on the war between French and Vietnamese nationalists. I learned that the agreements reached in July 1954 resulted in the temporary division of Vietnam at the 17th parallel, with plans for reunification elections. Prompted by this source, I also decided to explore media

coverage surrounding the Geneva Conference, leading me to later find a *The New York Times* newspaper issue on it.

"African-Americans In Combat." Public Broadcasting Service.

<https://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/feature/african-americans-in-combat/>.

This secondary source charts the involvement of Black Americans in combat from the colonial era to the 1991 Gulf War. Despite enduring racial segregation and discrimination, Black American soldiers made notable contributions, ultimately leading to the desegregation of the military in 1948. I learned about how the Korean War tested this policy, with Black Americans serving in integrated units, while the Vietnam War saw a higher proportion of Black Americans in combat.

"African-Americans in the Korean War." Korean War Legacy Foundation. Last modified July 4, 2020.

<https://koreanwarlegacy.org/chapters/african-americans-in-the-korean-war/>.

This secondary source describes the involvement of Black Americans in the Korean War, which followed directly after the issuance of Executive Order 9981. It analyzes the experiences of Black Americans who witnessed the gradual desegregation in the military and highlights numerous personal accounts depicting the persistent racism encountered by Black soldiers despite official desegregation efforts. This source led me to further explore the Korean War Legacy Foundation and, from it, I was able to glean more information through interviews from individuals such as Charles Rangel.

"African Americans in the Vietnam War." In *Historic U.S. Events*. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2020. Gale in Context: U.S. History.

This secondary source discusses the role of Black Americans in the Vietnam War, emphasizing their overrepresentation in combat roles due to draft exemptions targeting the economically disadvantaged. It also delves into the challenges encountered by Black American veterans upon their return from Vietnam, including a lack of public recognition and struggles with reintegrating into society. This one was one of the first sources I read about the Vietnam War, and it acted as a fantastic overview, expanding on topics, such as the military desegregation, just enough that I was able to research them more in depth later.

"African Americans in World War I." In *Gale U.S. History Online Collection*. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2023. Gale in Context: U.S. History.

This secondary source delves into the experiences of more than 350,000 Black soldiers during World War I, offering insights into their varied roles, which ranged from predominantly support-oriented tasks to occasional combat positions. Additionally, it examines the war's influence on racial demographics and the obstacles Black veterans faced upon their return home, including instances of violence and discrimination. Like the secondary source about Black Americans in the Vietnam War from Gale, I used this source as an introduction into the generations-long history behind the military biases that Black American soldiers faced and expanded on the parts I learned from it through other sources.

"African Americans in World War II." In *Gale U.S. History Online Collection*. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2023. Gale in Context: U.S. History.

This secondary source provides an overview of the experiences of Black Americans during World War II, focusing on the segregation of Black soldiers into separate units. It explores the persistence of racial discrimination on the home front despite their significant contributions, such as their receiving of blue discharges. This source, like the other ones I used from Gale, was a great overview on the overlap between race and World War II.

"Anne Kniggendorf. "A Kansas Historian Details How the U.S. Army Confronted Its 'race Problem' during Vietnam War." KCUR, August 25, 2023.

<https://www.kcur.org/arts-life/2023-08-25/a-kansas-historian-details-how-the-u-s-army-confronted-its-race-problem-during-vietnam-war>.

In her article for KCUR, Anne Kniggendorf explores the efforts made by the U.S. Army to address racial issues during the Vietnam War. Through analysis of historical records and accounts, the article delves into the complexities of race relations within the military during this turbulent period. From Anne Kniggendorf's article on KCUR, I gained insights into the initiatives undertaken by the U.S. Army to confront racial challenges during the Vietnam War era.

"Artist A Day Challenge (3) Elizabeth Catlett." Colony Little, Culture Shock Art, February 4, 2017.

<https://cshockart.com/2017/02/03/artist-a-day-challenge-3-elizabeth-catlett/>.

The article explores Catlett's significant contributions to the art world, particularly her impactful depictions of African-American and Mexican-American experiences. It provides a glimpse into Catlett's artistic style, themes, and the social commentary embedded within her work, shedding light on her enduring legacy as a trailblazing artist and advocate for social justice. I learned

A Veteran's Experience with Discrimination on the Battlefield and at Home during the Vietnam War. Directed by Iowa PBS. 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vjx-ycfmjfA>.

This secondary source is a snippet from the documentary *Iowans Remember Vietnam*. This secondary source describes how discrimination was still prevalent even after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and how interracial bonds were formed during the war. This short video clip inspired me to seek out more sources surrounding the interracial bonds that formed from wartime conflict.

"Black History And The Vietnam War, a story." African American Registry. Last modified December 29, 2021.

<https://aaregistry.org/story/black-history-in-the-vietnam-war-a-brief-story/>.

This secondary source explores the racial dynamics and experiences of Black Americans during the Vietnam War, and it sheds light on disparities in draft rates, racism within the military, and the challenges faced by Black troops regarding representation and cultural recognition. From this source, I also learned about the limited acknowledgment of Black soldiers' contributions, specifically concerning the underrepresentation of Black recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Blakemore, Erin. "How the GI Bill's Promise Was Denied to a Million Black WWII Veterans." History. Last modified June 21, 2023.

<https://www.history.com/news/gi-bill-black-wwii-veterans-benefits>.

This article investigates how the promise of the GI Bill, designed to aid World War II veterans, was denied to many Black Americans, contributing to widening gaps in wealth and opportunity. Despite the bill's inclusive language, its implementation favored white veterans, with Southern Democrats using tactics to limit benefits for Black veterans and perpetuate racial segregation. I used a quote from this article by Ira Katznelson on the disadvantages World War II veterans faced to showcase the era's impact on wealth disparities.

Bradshaw, Peter. "Da 5 Bloods review – Spike Lee ignites a Vietnam cocktail of fire and fury." Review of *Da 5 Bloods*, 2020. *The Guardian*, June 10, 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jun/10/da-5-bloods-review-spike-lee-delroy-lindo-vietnam-war>.

This review of Spike Lee's *Da 5 Bloods* captures the film's explosive blend of satire, emotion, and historical reflection. Through its exploration of race, war, and the American experience, the film delivers a powerful narrative that challenges conventions and confronts uncomfortable truths. I used a quote from this review to highlight how Black American involvement in the Vietnam War has left a lasting cultural legacy.

Blum, Paul Von. "Elizabeth Catlett: An Appreciation." Truthdig, May 25, 2021.

<https://www.truthdig.com/articles/elizabeth-catlett-an-appreciation/>.

I use this secondary source to learn more about cultural perspectives of Catlett's piece, "Target." I quoted Blum as I thought he had an interesting interpretation of Catlett's work.

Chow, Andrew R., and Josiah Bates. "As *Da 5 Bloods* Hits Netflix, Black Vietnam

Veterans Recall the Real Injustices They Faced During and After the War." *Time*, June 12, 2020. <https://time.com/5852476/da-5-bloods-black-vietnam-veterans/>.

This secondary source presents interviews and insights from Black American Vietnam veterans, offering firsthand accounts that complement those featured on my website—notably Professor Hasan Kwame Jeffries from Ohio State University, who provides valuable analysis on the discriminatory military roles faced by Black American soldiers prior to the Vietnam War. It also introduced me to *Da 5 Bloods*, a movie that examines the Black American experience during the Vietnam War. I thought that this source was particularly interesting as it blends a combination of personal narratives, popular culture, and scholarly commentary together.

Coski, John. "Myths & Misunderstandings | Black Confederates." The American Civil War Museum. Last modified November 7, 2017.

<https://acwm.org/blog/myths-misunderstandings-black-confederates/>.

This article considers the contentious topic of "Black Confederates" during the Civil War era, examining the debate surrounding their status as soldiers. While

some argue that Black Americans served as soldiers in the Confederate army, the author of this article contends that their roles were primarily as laborers and support staff rather than formally enlisted soldiers. This article helped me better understand the controversy surrounding Black American involvement in wars previous to the Vietnam War.

Ford, Nancy Gentile. "Fighting on Two Fronts: African Americans and the Vietnam War." *Journal of American Ethnic History* 17, no. 4 (1998): 124+. Gale in Context: U.S. History.

This secondary source evaluates two books: *Fighting on Two Fronts* by James E. Westheider and *Black Valor* by Frank N. Schubert, and the review commends Westheider's exploration of the racial tensions encountered by Black soldiers during the Vietnam War, citing its thorough examination of relevant statistics and historical records. However, it also notes some limitations, including potential generalizations drawn from a restricted number of first-hand accounts. Overall, this source introduced me to two books, one of which (*Fighting on Two Fronts*) that I would use later to complement my learning.

Goldenberg, Richard. "African-American Troops Fought to Fight in World War I." United States Department of Defense. Last modified February 1, 2018.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/1429624/african-american-troops-fought-to-fight-in-world-war-i/>.

The article recounts the experiences of Black American National Guard soldiers during World War I, initially assigned to labor duties in France but ultimately

joining combat alongside French forces. Despite facing discrimination and being relegated to non-combat roles, they proved their worth as skilled fighters, earning recognition for their bravery and resilience on the battlefield, and I learned about some more contributions of Black American troops to the war effort.

"History." Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

<https://www.defenseculture.mil/About-DEOMI/History/>.

This secondary source explains how, for over 50 years, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) has enhanced military readiness by promoting equity, leadership, and inclusive teamwork across the Department of Defense (DoD). Initially established in 1971 as the Defense Race Relations Institute to address racial tensions, DEOMI has expanded its mission to include gender, religion, national origin, and other diversity areas. I used an older photograph of the Defense Race Relations Institute on my website to show my audience how it looked before the 2000s.

"HOW DID ENSLAVED PEOPLE SUPPORT THE CONFEDERACY?" Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

<https://virginiahistory.org/learn/how-did-enslaved-people-support-confederacy>.

During the Civil War, both enslaved and free Black individuals provided significant labor for Confederate farms and industries, including essential roles in manufacturing and construction. Despite being forced into service and facing minimal wages, their contributions supported the Confederate war effort. Reading this article aided me in better understanding the complexity of Black American

experiences, and it challenges the simplistic narratives of Confederate loyalty, instead spotlighting the pervasive impact of slavery on Southern society.

Johnson, Theodore. "Harry Truman Wasn't Perfect, but He Made Progress. Take the Win."

The Washington Post, July 25, 2023.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/07/25/harry-truman-desegregate-military-win/>.

In this secondary source, the author recounts President Truman's signing of Executive Order 9981, which desegregated the military and was a landmark moment influenced by various factors. The author argued that Truman's decision, regardless of his personal beliefs, significantly advanced civil rights and equality in the military. I used a quote from the article about how one of the factors that influenced Truman was about reports of violence against Black veterans, as it disrupted my original belief that—based on my understanding from previous sources—Truman had only done it solely out of political considerations.

Lacdan, Joseph. "Army academic leaders pledge to end racism, increase inclusion."

United States Army. Last modified September 9, 2020.

https://www.army.mil/article/238783/army_academic_leaders_pledge_to_end_racism_increase_inclusion.

This secondary source describes how the U.S. Military Academy is poised to welcome its most diverse freshmen class, reflecting efforts to promote inclusivity within its ranks. General Darryl A. Williams, its then superintendent, punctuates the academy's commitment to eradicating racism and fostering equal treatment

among its cadets, and I included a quote from him in this article on my “Turning to Today” page to show how the American military, beginning with education, is working toward greater representation in combat arms and leadership positions.

Latty, Yvonne, and Ron Tarver. *We Were There : Voices of African American Veterans from World War II to the War in Iraq*. New York: Amistad, 2005.

This secondary source is a compilation of primary sources, and it compiles oral histories of Black American veterans spanning from World War II to the Iraq War. Focusing primarily on the eight oral histories present regarding Black American veterans, I learned a lot about the wide variety of perspectives and experiences held by Black American Vietnam soldiers—most notably, about female Black American experiences. I was also able to integrate many of these veterans’ experiences into my website, specifically for both their bonds and conflicts with white individuals.

Morgan, Ken. "20th Anniversary of Vietnam War's End." Edited by Kief Schladweiler. African-American Involvement in the Vietnam War.

https://www.aavw.org/protest/malcolmx_malcolmx_abstract02.html.

This website contains an excerpt from a 1995 newspaper publication in the *Chicago Defender* by Ken Morgan, and the excerpt reflects on the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, drawing parallels between the struggles of the Vietnamese people and Black Americans facing oppression in the United States. It emphasizes the inspiration drawn from the Vietnamese people's resilience and victory against imperialism, as highlighted by Malcolm X's perspective on the

global rebellion against oppressors. From this, I learned about the interconnectedness of liberation movements worldwide and the significance of historical events in shaping collective struggles against injustice.

“Murder of Sammy Younge & SNCC’s Statement on Vietnam.” SNCC Digital Gateway, September 24, 2021.

<https://snccdigital.org/events/murder-of-sammy-younge-snccs-statement-on-vietnam/>.

From this passage, I learned more about why the SNCC decided to release a statement opposing Vietnam. I selected an image from this website page to showcase on my website because I thought that their anti-war sentiment was relevant to my message.

National Museum of African American History and Culture. "Black Liberation and the Vietnam War." Smithsonian Institution.

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/vietnam-war-50th-anniversary-commemoration>.

This secondary source provides a comprehensive overview of the Vietnam War's impact on Black Americans, detailing their evolving perspectives and contributions to the antiwar movement. It explores divisions within the African American community regarding the war, with figures like Martin Luther King Jr., Muhammad Ali, and various organizations denouncing it. From this source, I learned about the intersectionality of the antiwar movement with the fight for racial equality and the significant role played by Black Power advocates in opposing the war while advocating for freedom and equality.

Netflix's 'Da 5 Bloods' tells Black Vietnam veterans' stories the way only Spike Lee can.

Last modified June 14, 2020.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/netflix-s-da-5-bloods-tells-black-vietnam-veterans-stories-ncna1231021>.

This review praises *Da 5 Bloods* as a poignant portrayal of the Black veteran experience during the Vietnam War, stating that it does so through its complex characters like Paul and compelling storytelling. This film highlights the importance of confronting historical injustices and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities in cinematic narratives, and I used a picture from a scene in *Da 5 Bloods* for my photograph as part of my section on cultural legacy.

“President Obama Celebrates U.S. Troops on Memorial Day.” National Archives and Records Administration. Accessed May 14, 2024.

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2012/05/28/president-obama-celebrates-us-troops-memorial-day>.

This article provides an overview of Obama's tribute to servicemen and women, highlighting his remarks and activities honoring their sacrifice and dedication to the nation's defense. From this article, I learned about President Obama's commitment to honoring the sacrifices and hardships of U.S. troops during this difficult period in America's history.

"Project 100,000." 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/1966-1967_taking_the_offensive/Project-100-000/.

This secondary source discusses Project 100,000, a social program initiated by Secretary of Defense McNamara during the Vietnam War era, which aimed to address the shortage of military personnel by accepting individuals who didn't meet the standard qualifications. Despite its intentions, the program faced criticism for placing disadvantaged individuals, particularly southerners and Black Americans, into combat roles without equipping them with skills relevant to civilian life. I used a photograph of Robert McNamara on my website to show my audience who initiated Project 100,000.

“Remarks by the President at the Commemoration Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.” National Archives and Records Administration. Accessed May 14, 2024.

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2012/05/28/remarks-president-commemoration-ceremony-50th-anniversary-vietnam-war>.

In his speech, Obama acknowledges and honors the service and sacrifices of Vietnam War veterans, emphasizing the importance of recognizing their contributions to the nation's history and expressing gratitude for their bravery and dedication, while also recognizing the urgency of properly addressing the past injustices that have occurred.

Robertson, Clyde C. "Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era."

The Journal of African American History 93, no. 2 (2008): 298+. Gale in Context: U.S. History.

This secondary source reviews the novel “Soul Soldiers: African Americans in the Vietnam Era” and its exploration of the role of Black American servicemen and women during the Vietnam War and its aftermath. The book is an extension of the

“Soul Soldiers” exhibit. Although I was unable to access the book itself, the review’s examination of topics within the book such as Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination allowed me to complete further independent research into the subjects via other sources I could access.

Roy, Jennifer. "Army Veteran Finds His Calling Helping Incarcerated Veterans Turn Their Lives around: VA Houston Health Care." Veterans Affairs. Last modified February 12, 2022.

<https://www.va.gov/houston-health-care/stories/army-veteran-finds-his-calling-helping-incarcerated-veterans-turn-their-lives-around/>.

This secondary source is an article that delves into the Veterans Justice Outreach Program provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The accompanying photograph, depicting a Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist aiding incarcerated veterans, is featured on my “Turning into Today” page to showcase the sacrifices made by Black American veterans and the supportive programs established to assist them. From this article and the accompanying photograph, I learned about the Veterans Justice Outreach Program and its efforts to assist incarcerated veterans, as well as the struggles veterans face.

Spector, Ronald H. "Vietnam War." Britannica. Last modified May 9, 2024.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Vietnam-War>.

This secondary source, an article about the Vietnam War, offers a comprehensive overview of the conflict. Particularly focusing on the end of French rule and the

division of Vietnam, I was able to decipher the beginnings of the conflict and consequently Black American involvement within it too.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute. "Vietnam War." Stanford University. <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/vietnam-war>.

This secondary source elaborates on Martin Luther King Jr.'s evolving stance on the Vietnam War, emphasizing his increasing opposition. From this source, I learned about the significance of King's speech, "Beyond Vietnam," as well as his activism, which intersected with the broader struggles against racism, poverty, and war, continued until his assassination in 1968. I would later use "Beyond Vietnam" as a primary source itself, thanks to this secondary source.

"The Path to Ending the Draft." Richard Nixon Foundation. Last modified November 26, 2014. <https://www.nixonfoundation.org/2014/11/path-ending-draft/>.

This source outlines President Nixon's amendment to the Military Selective Service Act of 1967, which introduced the draft lottery for military conscription amid public discontent with the Vietnam War. It stresses the pivotal role of Peter Flanigan, an influential figure in Nixon's administration, in spearheading efforts to overhaul the Selective Service System and ultimately end the military draft by 1973. From this secondary source, I learned about the Nixon administration's strategic approach to phasing out the draft and the significance of key individuals like Peter Flanigan in achieving this goal, and I used a photograph from this website showing Nixon signing the amendment.

Thompson, Erica. "Serving without 'equal opportunity': Vietnam veterans faced racism at home and abroad." *The Columbus Dispatch* (Columbus, OH), December 9, 2020. <https://www.dispatch.com/in-depth/news/2020/12/03/black-vietnam-veterans-systemic-racism-military/3627846001/>.

This secondary source elucidates the experiences of Black American Vietnam War veterans Joseph Jennings and Edward Morast, one of whom I quoted on my website. From the article, I learned more about how these veterans faced racism both at home and in the military, and I felt that it was worth including their experiences on my website to demonstrate the challenges of serving in a war for a country that denied them basic freedom

U.S. Air Force. "GENERAL CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR." United States Air Force. Last modified November 2023.

<https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/108485/charles-q-brown-jr/>.

This secondary source offers a comprehensive overview of General Charles Q. Brown, Jr. and his illustrious career in the United States Air Force. Notably, Brown made history in 2020 as the first Black Chief of Staff and currently holds the esteemed position of the 21st chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. On my “Turning into Today” page, I cited Brown as an example of how leadership in the American military and government is becoming more diversified.

"U.S. Army Europe and Africa Command Biography." U.S. Army Europe and Africa.

<https://www.europeafrica.army.mil/Who-We-Are/Leadership/Leaders-Article-View/Article/1418980/commanding-general/>.

This secondary source provides an account of General Darryl A. Williams and his career in the U.S. Army, specifically his historic appointment as the first Black superintendent of the United States Military Academy in 2018 and his subsequent command of the U.S. Army in Europe and Africa from 2022. On my “Turning into Today” page, I included Williams as an example of the American military becoming more diversified and inclusive of those who are qualified but would have been historically barred from entering such leadership roles on the basis of their race alone.

"VIETNAM." John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

<https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/vietnam>.

The source outlines the escalation of United States military involvement in Vietnam during the early 1960s due to internal divisions in South Vietnam and the perceived threat of Communist expansion. It describes the overthrow of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963 and the subsequent escalation of American military presence under President Johnson, leading to a prolonged conflict that ended with the fall of Saigon in 1975. I learned about the historical context surrounding the era’s existing political instability and the consequences of foreign intervention in Vietnam during this period.

Research Paper

Fiman, Byron G., Jonathan F. Borus, and M. Duncan Stanton. "Black-White and American-Vietnamese Relations among Soldiers in Vietnam." *Journal of Social Issues* 31, no. 4 (1975): 39-48.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-4560.1975.tb01010.x>.

The research paper administered an anonymous questionnaire to assess the attitudes and perceptions of 126 Black and 359 White soldiers returning from Vietnam regarding black-white and American-Vietnamese relations. Interestingly, soldiers in combat units perceived the American-Vietnamese relationship more negatively, and overall, Blacks reported less negative attitudes toward the Vietnamese than Whites. I quoted one of the statistics from this newspaper on my website as part of exhibiting how racial lines blurred in combat.

