

Author Notes

The Vietnam War was a complex and long-lasting endeavor that morphed into horrific tragedy for many Americans and the Vietnamese people. There were many sides and as President Richard Nixon said, the Vietnam War is neither easily explained nor understood.

Below are some facts and statistics about the Vietnam War and the Peace Movement. This list is a longer version than the one at the end of the book.

Facts about the Vietnam War

- While the Vietnam War lasted from 1954-1973, the U.S. had the largest military presence and dominated between 1965 and 1968. In Vietnam it is known as the American War.
- The U.S. supported the Republic of South Vietnam against communist forces that included South Vietnamese guerrillas, Viet Cong units (VC), and the North Vietnamese Army (NVA). Because U.S. involvement failed, South Vietnam was taken over by the North in 1975.
- More than 58,000 U.S. soldiers and civilian personnel died, over 150,000 were injured. Nearly 2,000 are still unaccounted for today. Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21. These numbers don't include men who suffered physical and emotional injuries that surfaced later and last a lifetime. South Vietnam suffered much higher casualties, both military and civilian.
- 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam. 1 to 1.6 million of those served in combat, were near combat or in a close supporting role often exposed to combat.
- Twenty-five percent of those serving were draftees. More than 30 percent of combat deaths were draftees.
- 75,000 men returned disabled, one third of these had severe disabilities.
- Nearly 7,500 women served in Vietnam of whom 83.5 percent were nurses.
- Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of that generation.
- More than 80 percent of men who were involved in heavy combat believe that the war could've been won, had there been the political will to do it.