

## The Anti-Vietnam War Movement

The movement against the Vietnam War occurred when the United States gradually increased the presence of troops in Vietnam to intervene in a civil war between the Communist North Vietnam and the U.S.-backed Southern Vietnamese. The war was one of the most controversial in history, not only because it was perceived by many as the U.S. becoming involved in a war which was none of their business, but because of the widespread atrocities committed, including the now infamous My Lai massacre in which a whole village was slaughtered and the use of the exfoliant chemical napalm which burns on human skin. Furthermore, the Vietnam War was happening at a time when TV ownership was becoming widespread and this enabled many more people to feel indignant about what they were seeing. The anti-Vietnam War movement intersected, particularly in the U.S., with a variety of protest movements, including the student movement (often associated with hippies) and the Civil Rights movement, to name just two. Because it occurred during one of the most tumultuous periods of history (the 1960s), it has become the object of lots of cultural products – references to the anti-war movement can be found in many films, documentaries and songs.

Whilst exploring the anti-Vietnam War movement, we would like you to research;

- How did it start?
- Where and when did it take place?
- Who were some of the key people involved?
- How / where did the movement set up in the United Kingdom? Look into the role of anti-war campaigners like Peggy Duff, Anne Kerr MP and the pacifist group CND.
- How did governments react to the movement?
- How did certain elements of the world's press react to the movement?
- Can you find any famous people from the world of sport, music and film that supported the movement?
- What was its conclusion / legacy?
- Did any laws or policies change, or were new ones introduced?

*Forrest Gump* (1994)

*Born on the Fourth of July* (1987)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JDM4MY71G4> - Muhammed Ali refuses induction to the U.S. draft

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f17HXUvMebk> - Martin Luther King Jr. speaks out against the war

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/11/battle-of-grosvenor-square-50-years-vietnam-protest-donald-macintyre> - a British protestor discusses his role in the 'Battle of Grosevnor Square'

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/march/17/newsid\\_2818000/2818967.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/march/17/newsid_2818000/2818967.stm) - actress Vanessa Redgrave's role in the anti-war movement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB786dkSx48> - the monk that burned himself to death over the Vietnam War (skip to 1:23 for the start)