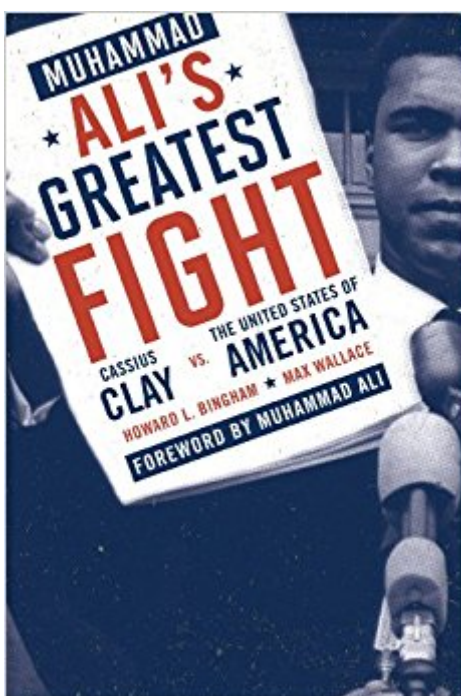


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# Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight: Cassius Clay Vs. The United States Of America



## Synopsis

Now an HBO film! Catch the premiere this fall. In 1966 Muhammad Ali announced his intention to refuse induction into the United States Army as a conscientious objector. This set off a five-year battle that would strip him of his world heavyweight title, bar him from boxing, and nearly send him to prison—all at the peak of his career as the greatest boxer in history. Ali defiantly proclaimed his refusal to go to war with the assertion that it violated his beliefs as a black Muslim. The subsequent legal battle proved to be a test tougher than fighting Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier and George Foreman combined. Framed with photos from Ali's photographer and good friend Howard Bingham, Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight is the extraordinary story of the greatest challenge to the greatest champion of the century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here, Bingham (Muhammad Ali: A Thirty-Year Journey), Muhammad Ali's best friend and favorite photographer, contends that the former heavyweight champ's greatest legacy is that, owing to his conversion to the Nation of Islam and subsequent refusal to enter the military during the Vietnam War, Ali served as a touchstone for the racial and antiwar upheavals that rocked the Sixties and changed our country. Bingham offers a friendly portrayal of the conscientious objector/Black Muslim minister Ali but doesn't beyond a shadow of a doubt answer the question of whether his motives for evading the draft were self-serving, racial, or religious--though it is easy to imagine that at the least they might have evolved from the former to the latter. One cannot deny Ali's influence on his times,

though. And neither can one deny that, whatever his motives for refusing military service, he paid a great price by being banned from boxing for three and a half years during his prime. While not "The Greatest," as its subject proclaimed himself, Bingham's book deserves a place in the sports collections of most public libraries. With a foreword by Ali himself, this book ably supplements the Hauser and Remnick biographies.-Jim G. Burns, Ottumwa P.L., IA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The son of a minister and Pullman porter, Howard L. Bingham was the first black photographer to work on a Hollywood Camera Guild crew. His long-time friendship with Muhammad Ali led to the publication of a definitive book of photographs of the fighter, Muhammad Ali: A Thirty Year Journey. Max Wallace is a Canadian journalist, filmmaker, and human rights activist.

There are only two kinds of men, those who compromise and those who take a stand. There are only two kind of reader, those who read this book and know this incredible character and those who have not read and think he was just an athlete. Oh boy, the author compares the Ali behavior with Jordan was almost as if he had taken a shock: "Jordan's legacy will forever be tainted by the marketing connection that marks the chasm between him and the truly great athlete like Muhammad Ali. How can a man who most certainly does not need the money go on pushing Nike after he learns about their sweatshops in Southeast Asia? Ali understood the political dimension: he refused to go to Vietnam because he understood the irony of exploited young blacks, Hispanics, and poor white males being sent halfway around the world to fight poor Asian boys involved in a war of national liberation that had nothing to do with U.S. or its national interests. A decade after the end of the Vietnam War, Jordan willingly became a worldwide spokesman for a U.S corporation that exploited the children of the boys Ali refused to fight. In the global context, that is far more significant than anything he achieved in the basketball court. Remember, a generation grew up wanting to be like Mike. Maybe that's why their aspirations today don't extend beyond the next video game, or the next new pair of Nikes. Once you get past the highlight film, it's not much of a legacy. By the way, I change my Jordan poster for Ali!!!!

I first saw the movie on cable tv which inspired me to purchase both the book and dvd. Both arrived safe and sound and ahead of expectation as is usual from . I am old enough to have been a teenager when the events in this story unfolded. I remembered the details only vaguely so both the

book and the story have provided me with the forgotten detail. Muhammad Ali's story reflects a pivotal point in the rights of individuals and their relationship to government in the 20th century. I will share this story with my students to show them that some battles in life, come at great personal cost, but at the end of the day one has to stand up for what one believes in irrespective of the wider public opinion. I have ranked this as five stars because it is an inspirational story, well told and suitably referenced. John Barnes Bangkok Thailand

Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight: Cassius Clay vs. the United States is little more than a freshman term paper masquerading as a book. It is filled with snippets from other authors' works about Mr. Ali's career and life. Bingham and Wallace merely comment on those snippets to tell their story--much the same as liberal and conservative commentators do on cable TV and radio. And though Mr. Ali's story is very compelling, the authors do it an injustice by cutting and pasting other's work to tell it. Mr. Ali is an original. Bingham and Wallace should have approached their story in the same vein.

Growing up after Ali hung up his belt, I was not exposed to his story. Now that he is gone, I am sad I didn't know more about him much, much sooner. Why is this book not required reading in an American history class?

Great great book, wish I had read it years ago when it first came out. It focuses on the period in Ali's career when he refused to be inducted into the Army to fight in the Vietnam War. Ali challenged America on what it really means to have freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and civil & equal rights for all of its citizens. This book should be a standard textbook in classes on 20th-century US history.

A good overall look at Ali's life and the turbulent times of the 1960's. I feel the title is a little deceiving. While the current movie "Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight" is completely about the court case Cassius Clay vs. the United States of America, the book deals with it almost as an aside. Having seen the movie first, I was expecting full concentration on the court case; instead, the book is far more comprehensive.

I saw the movie first and then read the book. This is one of the very few times I would say the movie was far superior. The book is supposed to be about the Supreme Court decision overturning Ali's

conviction but most of it was not about that at all. Lots of details about Ali's early life. Interesting, but not what the book is supposed to be about.

Very good book. Ali's story in many ways is the story of the 1960's. I also recommend the excellent movie by the same name.

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