African American Contributions to the Vietnam War: The Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement
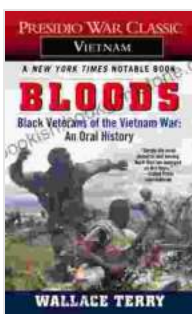

The Vietnam War had a profound impact on American society, and African Americans played a significant role in the conflict. Over 300,000 African American men and women served in the U.S. military during the war, and many of them made significant contributions to the war effort. Despite their service, African American veterans have often been overlooked in the history of the war. This article will shed light on the experiences of African

American veterans of the Vietnam War and their contributions to the civil rights movement.

African Americans in the Vietnam War

African Americans have a long history of military service in the United States. During the Vietnam War, African Americans served in all branches of the military, and they made up a disproportionate share of combat troops. According to the Department of Defense, African Americans made up 12.6% of the U.S. population in 1965, but they accounted for 23.3% of U.S. military personnel in Vietnam.

Bloods: Black Veterans of the Vietnam War: An Oral History by Wallace Terry

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5156 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 328 pages

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African Americans served in a variety of roles in Vietnam, including infantry, artillery, aviation, and medical support. They fought in some of the most intense battles of the war, including the Tet Offensive and the Battle of Hamburger Hill. African American soldiers also played a significant role in the pacification of the countryside and the provision of humanitarian aid to the Vietnamese people.

Despite their contributions to the war effort, African American soldiers faced discrimination and prejudice from their fellow soldiers and from the American public. They were often assigned to the most dangerous and undesirable jobs, and they were frequently denied promotions and other opportunities. African American soldiers also faced harassment and violence from white soldiers and civilians.

The Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War

The Vietnam War had a profound impact on the civil rights movement. The war exposed the deep racism that still existed in American society, and it led to a growing militancy among African Americans. Many African Americans began to question their loyalty to a country that was fighting a war against a people of color.

The civil rights movement also had a significant impact on the Vietnam War. The movement's success in achieving desegregation and other civil rights reforms helped to create a more inclusive military. The movement also helped to raise awareness of the plight of African American soldiers in Vietnam.

African American Veterans of the Vietnam War

African American veterans of the Vietnam War returned home to a country that was still struggling with race relations. They faced discrimination in employment, housing, and education. Many of them were also haunted by the memories of their experiences in Vietnam.

In the years since the war, African American veterans have made significant contributions to American society. They have served in public office, led civil rights organizations, and worked to improve the lives of

other veterans. They have also shared their stories of service and sacrifice, and they have helped to educate the public about the role of African Americans in the Vietnam War.
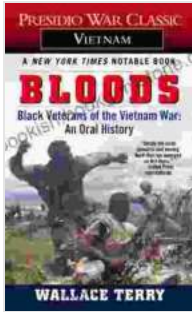
African Americans made significant contributions to the Vietnam War. They served in combat, provided humanitarian aid, and helped to pacify the countryside. Despite their contributions, African American soldiers faced discrimination and prejudice from their fellow soldiers and from the American public.

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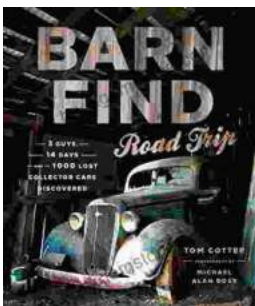
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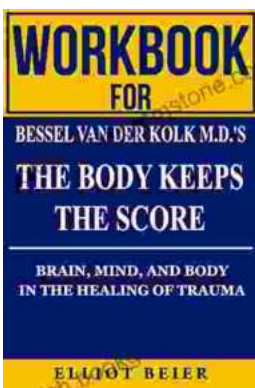**Bloods: Black Veterans of the Vietnam War: An Oral History** by Wallace Terry

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