

# Dodging the Draft: How Military Conscription Targets Disadvantaged Americans

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## Methods

For my research, I have focused most closely on statistics, in particular draft numbers and the amount of people who were able to obtain exemptions or deferments. These statistics have been the most reliable way to draw conclusions about the amount of people being drafted and the type of people being drafted.

Another valuable part of my research has been the previous analysis of the draft and more specifically how the draft worked during each of the U.S. conflicts leading up to Vietnam. These previous examinations have proved very enlightening on how the draft has historically been flawed and target disadvantaged groups in society.

The Evolution of Military  
Conscription in the  
United States

STEPHEN L. PHILLIPS

Conscription before the Civil War  
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ilitary conscription in the United States has a long and complex history. It has been used in various forms throughout the country's history, from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War. The draft has been a controversial issue, with many Americans opposing it on moral and political grounds. This article explores the evolution of military conscription in the United States, from its origins in the Revolutionary War to its use in the Vietnam War.

## Abstract

Military conscription in the United States has been employed during several U.S. conflicts and American political leaders have always urged citizens, and non-citizens, to step up and defend the United States and its values from oppressors. The “draft” as many call it, is intended to be a fair and impartial system to determine who will be called to service in the armed forces, but historically there have been many flaws in the system that have targeted disadvantaged Americans. As a result of these faults, many groups of Americans have been disproportionately drafted into American conflicts.

## Findings

The different conscription systems put in place throughout American history have consistently favored white men of high social and economic status, and as a result those who are more privileged in American society were able to evade the draft and escape conscription completely. The faults in the draft system culminated into the Vietnam War drafting larger amounts of the working class and people of color, and ultimately brought the previous draft process to a stop.



## Discussion

Authors such as Christian Appy, Charley Trujillo and Wallace Terry look at the different groups targeted by the draft, and how the draft in Vietnam was a culmination of a system that was created to target certain groups in society.

Christian Appy discusses how the war was fought by the working class on behalf of the rich, Charley Trujillo focuses on how there were disproportionate numbers of Hispanics being drafted and Wallace Terry looks at how Black Americans were targeted in the draft.

### Draft Lottery Called Statistically Unfair

Small text block containing a snippet of an article or document, likely related to the draft lottery.