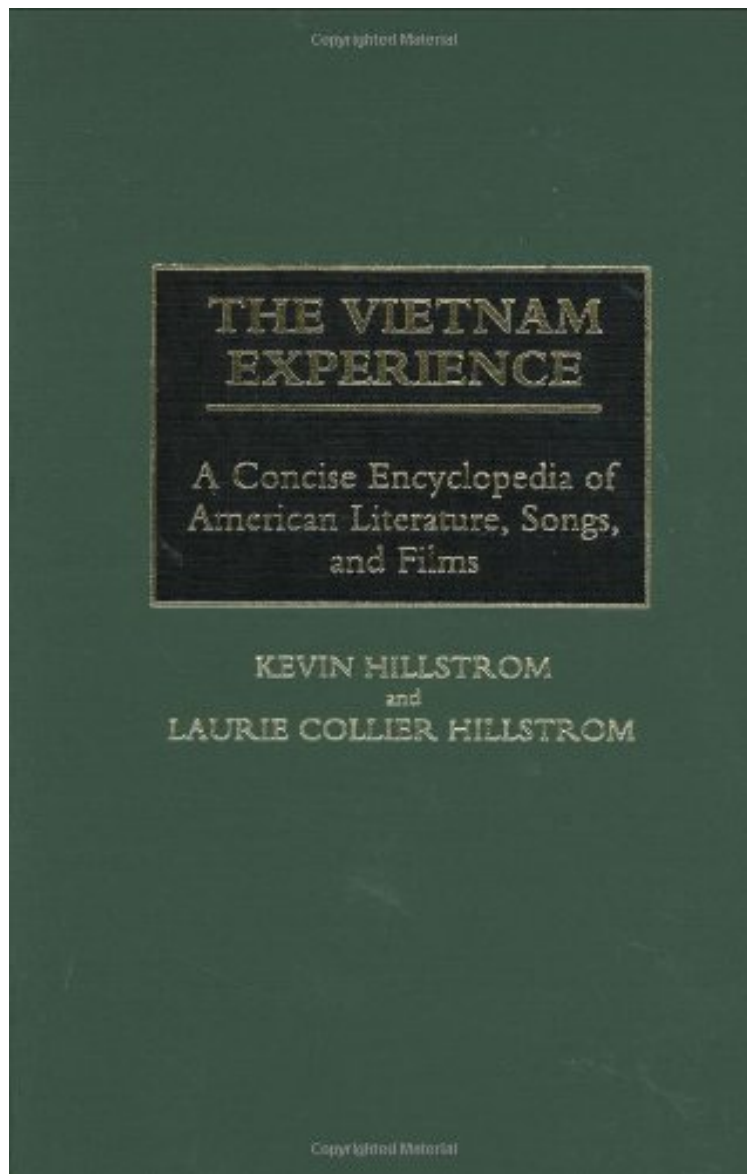


(Ebook pdf) The Vietnam Experience: A Concise Encyclopedia of American Literature, Songs, and Films

# The Vietnam Experience: A Concise Encyclopedia of American Literature, Songs, and Films

*Kevin Hillstrom, Laurie Collier Hillstrom*  
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**Kevin Hillstrom, Laurie Collier Hillstrom : The Vietnam Experience: A Concise Encyclopedia of American Literature, Songs, and Films** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vietnam Experience: A Concise Encyclopedia of American Literature, Songs, and Films:

The Vietnam War was one of the most painful and divisive events in American history. The conflict, which ultimately took the lives of 58,000 Americans and more than three million Vietnamese, became a subject of bitter and impassioned debate. The most dramatic and frequently the most enduring efforts to define and articulate America's ill-fated involvement in Vietnam emerged from popular culture. American journalists, novelists, playwrights, poets, songwriters, and filmmakers many of them eyewitnesses have created powerful, heartfelt works documenting their thoughts and beliefs about the war. By examining those works, this book provides readers with a fascinating resource that explores America's ongoing struggle to assess the war and its legacies. This encyclopedia includes 44 essays, each providing detailed information on an important film, song, or literary work about Vietnam. Each essay provides insights into the Vietnam-era experiences and views of the work's primary creative force, historical background on issues or events addressed in the work, discussion of the circumstances surrounding the creation of the work, and sources for further information. This book also includes an appendix listing of more than 275 films, songs, and literary works dealing with the war.

From Booklist Nearly a quarter of a century and an entire generation have passed since the end of the Vietnam conflict. But the war continues to inspire works of literature, music, and film. The goal of this volume is "to provide readers with a comprehensive guide to the most notable of these . . . creative works." Forty-four essays on Vietnam-related works--which include movies such as *Apocalypse Now*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, and *Platoon*; songs such as *Born in the USA* and *We Gotta Get out of this Place*; and literature, including *Armies of the Night*, *Going after Cacciato*, and *Dispatches*--provide plot summary, views of the primary creative force of the work, why the work was created, critical reaction, and some sources for further study or reading. Each essay also includes a historical background section that is intended to familiarize the reader with underlying themes of the work. For example, the essay on Bobbie Ann Mason's novel *In Country* describes the controversy surrounding the creation of the Vietnam Memorial. The historical background provides real reference value; in one volume a student of the war can see how each of the creative works of the era treated a wide variety of issues and events. An advisory board of English and political science professors and a journal editor helped determine what works should be included, and their choices seem appropriate and reasonable. An appendix lists 275 additional films, songs, and works of literature. There have been a number of reference books in the past several years that have covered cultural parts of the war. *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War* [RBB My 1 96] and *Vietnam War Films* [RBB S 1 94] are just two titles that provide excellent coverage of the same ground. The scope of these other well-reviewed sources (540 entries for *Encyclopedia*, and 600 entries for *Vietnam War Films*) dwarfs the 44 entries of *Vietnam Experience* and makes the purchase of this source recommended only for larger academic and public libraries that want more in-depth, if less broad, treatment. "The Vietnam War has had a profound effect on all facets of American cultural life. In 45 essays, the Hillstroms examine works of literature, film, and music that comment on the war. Each entry represents both a work of literature, film, or song and a significant theme bearing on America's Vietnam experience.... This unique book will be a valuable addition to any library."-Choice "Especially helpful are the background data and assessments of impact, all situated within evolving popular and critical reception."-American Literary Scholarship "The Vietnam Experience is a triumph of qualitative, artistic, cultural reflection.... No student or historian of American popular culture should skip this terrific volume."-Popular Music and Society "This is an excellent reference work and should be included in every public library of significant size and any school or academic library addressing the needs of people studying modern U.S. history and society."-ARBA "The historical background provides real reference value; in one volume a student of the war can see how each of the creative works of the era treated a wide variety of issues and events."-Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin "American journalists, novelists, playwrights, poets, songwriters, and filmmakers- many of them eyewitnesses- have created powerful, heartfelt works documenting their thoughts and beliefs about the war. By examining those works, this book provides readers with a fascinating resource that explores America's ongoing struggle to assess the war and its legacies."-Veteran's Voice "Especially helpful are the background data and assessments of impact, all situated within evolving popular and critical reception."-American Literary Scholarship "The Vietnam Experience is a triumph of qualitative, artistic, cultural reflection.... No student or historian of American popular culture should skip this terrific volume."-Popular Music and Society "This is an excellent reference work and should be included in every public library of significant size and any school or academic library addressing the needs of people studying modern U.S. history and society."-ARBA "The historical background provides real reference value; in one volume a student of the war can see how each of the creative works of the era treated a wide variety of issues and events."-Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin "American journalists, novelists, playwrights, poets, songwriters, and filmmakers- many of them eyewitnesses- have created powerful, heartfelt works documenting their thoughts and beliefs about the war. 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encyclopedia chronicles the efforts of American authors, filmmakers, and musicians to portray the diversity of opinion about the Vietnam War. The Hillstroms are masterful in respect to aesthetic critiques and historical setting. They avoid ideological landmines through skillful narrative balance. However, the work is far from bland. No student or historian of American popular culture should skip this terrific volume."-B. Lee Cooper University of Great Falls  
About the Author KEVIN HILLSTROM and LAURIE COLLIER HILLSTROM are partners in Northern Lights Writers Group. Their other books include International Dictionary of Films and Filmmakers: Directors, Biography Today: Environmental Leaders, and Small Business Encyclopedia.