



Unfit For Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry

John E. O'Neill , Jerome R. Corsi

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"What sort of combination of hypocrite and paradox is John Kerry?" ask the authors in this heated critique of the Democratic presidential candidate's Vietnam-era military service and antiwar activism. O'Neill, a lawyer and swift boat veteran, and Corsi, an expert on Vietnam antiwar movements, argue that Kerry misrepresented his wartime exploits and is therefore incompetent to serve as commander in chief. Buttressed by interviews with Navy veterans who patrolled Vietnam's waters, some along with Kerry, the book claims he exaggerated minor injuries, self-inflicted others, wrote fictitious diary entries and filed "phony" reports of his heroism under fire—all in a calculated quest to secure career-enhancing combat medals. They also maintain that Kerry, whom they call a "moral coward," committed atrocities that alarmed his peers and superior officers during his four-month tour of duty. Yet his activities on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War clearly raises the authors' hackles the most, and they present Kerry's post-war actions as additional, damning evidence of his "total unfitness," claiming that his testimony against the war "caused more deaths and prolonged the war in Vietnam by undermining support at home and contributing directly to a Vietnamese Communist victory." The battle that lies at the heart of this book is the decades-old feud between antiwar veterans and their my-country-right-or-wrong counterparts. The authors' conservative take on the war is palpable: the U.S. military failed to unleash "massive, indiscriminate bombing" to force North Vietnam's capitulation; the conflict was a struggle against communism, not a civil war; and the dissenting soldiers undermined homefront morale. Consequently, this overwrought and repetitive polemic seethes with a resentment that compromises the otherwise eyebrow-raising testimonies. Further, without access to Kerry's full military and medical records, the authors rely heavily on 35-year-old recollections and recent Kerry biographies by Douglas Brinkley and a Boston Globe reporting team. Those looking for a thorough, unbiased investigation into Kerry's wartime record would do best to wait for more objective, methodical chroniclers who have access to the relevant documents.

Unfit For Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry Details

Date : Published August 15th 2004 by Regnery Publishing (first published October 1st 1995)

ISBN : 9780895260178

Author : John E. O'Neill , Jerome R. Corsi

Format : Hardcover 216 pages

Genre : Politics, History, Nonfiction, War, Military Fiction, Biography, North American Hi..., American History, Political Science

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From Reader Review Unfit For Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry for online ebook

Mdp411 says

No wonder why Kerry lost. This book revealed quite a bit about this self proclaimed war hero. These veterans knew this guy up close and personal and did the right thing for coming forward and exposing him for what he really is. He never was able to recover from this, nor did he ever take any serious legal action against the Swift Boat Veterans. How could he? They told the truth.

Hilmi Isa says

Ini adalah ulasan buku dwi-bahasa/This is a bilingual book review

Saya masih ingat,pada tahun 2004,kehangatan pilihan raya presiden Amerika Syarikat yang menyaksikan pertembungan antara George W. Bush (yang bertanding untuk mengekalkan kerusi presiden untuk penggal kedua) dan John F. Kerry (calon presiden Parti Demokrat). Pada masa itu,walaupun saya bukanlah seorang rakyat Amerika Syarikat,tetapi,saya secara senyap-senyap menyokong John Kerry kerana saya memikirkan beliau adalah calon yang sesuai untuk menyandang jawatan presiden Amerika Syarikat ketika itu. Tambahan pula,reputasinya sebagai seorang veteran perang di Vietnam dan perasaan benci saya kepada terhadap Bush kerana dasar luar negara pentadbirannya,membuatkan saya lebih memihak kepada beliau untuk memenangi kerusi presiden negara kuasa besar itu. Namun,jika saya membaca buku ini pada tahun 2004,mungkin saya akan bertindak sebaliknya. Melalui buku ini,saya mengetahui siapakah John Kerry yang sebenarnya! Mungkin ada yang berpendapat,agak kurang adil saya menghukum beliau,tanpa membaca terlebih dahulu buku biografi beliau yang bertajuk Tour of Duty: John Kerry and the Vietnam War. Namun,kajian yang boleh dianggap teliti oleh dua orang penulis buku ini,iaitu John E. O'Neill dan Jerome R. Corsi,berjaya menyakinkan saya betapa buruknya keperibadian manusia yang bernama John Kerry ini. Tambah menarik,kedua-dua penulis turut menggunakan buku biografi mengenai John Kerry di atas,untuk membidas kembali kepalsuan maklumat yang terkandung di dalamnya.

Buku ini dibahagikan kepada 2 bahagian utama,dengan hanya 216 muka surat. Bahagian pertama mengenai perkhidmatan John Kerry di Vietnam dari tahun 1967 sehingga 1969. Bahagian kedua pula mengisahkan apa yang berlaku kepada John Kerry sejurus kembalinya dari Vietnam,1970-1972,dengan fokus peranan beliau sebagai seorang aktivis anti-Perang Vietnam melalui organisasi *Vietnam Veteran Against the War* (VVAW). Terdapat beberapa objektif kenapa buku ini diterbitkan. Antaranya,adalah untuk memberikan kesedaran kepada rakyat Amerika betapa memalukan dan tidak bertanggungjawabnya John Kerry,melalui tindakannya yang mementingkan diri ketika berkhidmat di Vietnam (begitu ghairah memburu pingat keberanian,walaupun sebenarnya beliau tidak layak menerimanya) dan kenyataan palsunya mengenai jenayah-jenayah perang yang dilakukan tentera Amerika Syarikat dan membantu Vietnam Utara menyuburkan sentimen anti-Perang Vietnam di Amerika sendiri selepas kembali ke Amerika Syarikat. Kesemua ini dilakukan untuk kepentingan peribadi dan politik John Kerry sendiri. Kebolehpercayaan buku ini boleh dipercayai dan agak sukar dipertikaikan. Selain menggunakan sumber-sumber sekunder,sumber-sumber primer juga digunakan seperti melalui temuramah dengan anggota-anggota tentera yang pernah berkhidmat dengan John Kerry dan dokumen-dokumen sulit.

Even though I'm not an American,back in 2004,during 2004 Presidential Election which pitted George W.

Bush against John Kerry,I had a high hope that the latter would win the election. But now,after reading this book,I felt relieved and glad John Kerry didn't win. In fact,I'm developing a disgusting feeling of him!
This book is published in 2004. No,it's not a coincidence. This book is published in the same year as the mentioned above election to convince voters that John Kerry is unfit for command,to lead United States of America as president. This book is divided into two sections. First section discussed Kerry's brief career as an junior officer (lieutenant) in Vietnam (1967-1969). Meanwhile,in the second section,discussed Kerry's involvement in a notorious anti-Vietnam War,*Vietnam Veteran Against the War* (VVAG). In both sections,we can see how irresponsible man is John Kerry. For example,various frauds made by John Kerry to receive war medals to advance his ambitious political career in the future.
The reliability of this book is acceptable. Aside from secondary sources,primary sources are also been used through interviews and confidential documents. Interestingly,biography book of John Kerry,*Tour of Duty: John Kerry and the Vietnam War* is also used to refute false accounts contained in the book.

Brandi (Rambles of a SAHM) says

This is the Swift Boat Veterans account of John Kerry's service. I'm a Republican so I found it interesting, but not surprising because most of the information has been so heavily covered by the media.

Alexandra says

This book just shows how long ago Kerry wanted to be President. It was all a big set up and the media fell for it.

After reading this book I don't feel that he is fit to be dog catcher, however with the right PR I am sure he will become an ambassador.

Mark Marion says

Best used for rubber feet or a coaster

Walter says

About a Man that wants to be President, August 24, 2004

By Walter H. Pierce

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This review is from: *Unfit For Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry*
The thesis of the book is that John F. Kerry is unfit to be commander and chief of the United States.

The book is comprised two sections, the first concerned with John F. Kerry in Viet Nam and the second concerned with John F. Kerry and his involvement with the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Two

appendices include an open letter to John F. Kerry dated 4 May 2004 which is signed by 194 Swift Boat Veterans or their representatives. The second Appendix is a Chronology of Kerry's naval Career and Involvement with the Vietnam Veteran's Against the War.

The first section of the book is essentially a refutation John F. Kerry's using his Viet Nam service as support for his candidacy for the Presidency. Kerry is described by his peers and superiors as an individual that came to Viet Nam with an anti-war bias and a reluctance to serve. To his peers he was a griper. He was observed to be an opportunist that made it obvious that he wanted a career in politics. The book makes important allegations about Kerry's fabricating justification for his individual awards. These serious allegations could apparently be dispelled if Kerry asks the Navy through a Form 180 to have the records made public. That Kerry has not done this supports the allegations.

To this reader, the fact that the 4 May 2004 letter by 194 Swift Boat Veterans has had so little Media coverage is a journalistic scandal. Seldom does a country have the opportunity to read more important testimony from peers of a prospective President. What could be more important? Frankly I was shocked when I realized the letter was written in May and that I had not even seen any Media coverage.

The second part of the book dealing with Kerry's actions after returning stateside explains that the motivation for this book stems from deep-seat bitterness resulting from false accusations by Kerry and a group which he supported called the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

The following quotes give some flavor of the importance of the allegations:

"No foreign enemy ever dealt so direct and devastating a blow to the morale of American's armed forces and its veterans than John Kerry did. " Page 110.

" the indictment of an ignorant young man" William F. Buckley speaking of John F. Kerry.

The authors conclude:

"What motivates us is a genuine fear for the consequences to our nation if its safety is placed in the hands of so cynical and shifting a commander in chief." Page 186

"The question is one of fitness and character. The loyalty that is indispensable to successful command cannot simply be restored because a person now wants to be leader. " Page 186

David Simonetti says

This book is poorly written and hard to follow, but I gave it three stars rather than two because it did provide some useful information. I had the misconception that Kerry actually served honorably in Vietnam and had been in Vietnam for an extended tour of duty throughout his career. But this book provided clarity on that issue in that he only served three months in Vietnam and got sent home. Thus, he clearly exaggerated his service in battle as well as his story that he had been sent to Cambodia at the behest of Nixon's secret war plan. Nixon was not even President when Kerry allegedly went to Vietnam. Many of the allegations in this book are impossible to verify, but it is clear to me now that Kerry was no war hero and he dishonored his brothers who served when he came back and accused them of being war criminals who had raped, beheaded and killed children. Thus, this book served the useful purpose of exposing this man as the fraud that he was

and, thus, how unqualified to he was to be President, even when you compare him to Bush's disasterous performance as President.

Neil says

This book went into a lot of interesting details on the life of then Senator Kerry. It was enlightening to see this man who so many call a "hero" as his comrades saw him then and how they see him today. This book is a good read for anyone interested in the life of this controversial man.

Clara Roberts says

This book was a well documented account of why John Kerry was unfit to be president of the USA. His flaws of both character and conduct made him unfit for any public office.

Chip Hunter says

A clear look into the character of John Kerry.

I doubt that anyone who actually reads this book could bring themselves to vote for John Kerry, no matter how much they might dislike Bush. This book was written by Kerry's own "band of brothers" that he loves to talk about. Every single commanding officer and over 200 other Vietnam Vets that served with Kerry have publically come out to stand against him. Only one of Kerry's fellow officers (1/20 of the officers in that picture that airs on Kerry's campaign ad) has shown his support for Kerry. Who are you going to believe about what happened and whether or not John Kerry really is fit for command of the United States? These men who were there and served with Kerry and have let their anger at him go unpublished for thirty years but now have no choice because he is trying to become the President, or John Kerry, the radical anitwar protestor (who met with the leader of the Viet Kong in Paris while his brothers were still over their dying) turned proud war hero?

This book chronicles story after story of Kerry's deceptions, betrayals, and blatant lies. These stories come from a wide variety of sources so that even a sceptic must believe that at least some of them hold the truth.

Senator Kerry will say anything and everything if he believes that it will help him win the public's support. We've seen this in many occasions as Kerry has flip-flopped on issue after issue, strictly depending on what seems to be the popular or proper position of the occasion. He has proved himself a hypocrite time and again even in this '04 presidential race. Trying to make Bush out to be hiding something about his National Guard records while at the same time its Kerry who has refused to sign form 180 which would release his records. (Bush has signed the form).

Kerry won't even answer to most of the allegations in this book. He instead wants to make out the authors, and indeed all 200-something vets involved in this group, to be some kind of anit-patriotic, Republican attack machine. There is no credible link between these Vietnam Vets, who have held in check their resentment of Kerry for so long but who no longer can because of the threat they believe Kerry presents to the nation, and the Republicans. These people are the true war heros and they simply want America to know

the real John Kerry.

If you have questions about who you are going to vote for this November or if you'd just like a closer look at the character of John Kerry, I strongly recommend this book.

Jimmy says

If John Kerry wants to throw his Vietnam medals, he has earned his right to do just that. Shame on everyone responsible for this book.

David Vanness says

During his campaign, all the political "Junk" was just junk. However, this volume shows the historical truths of the matter. Maybe I should hone my 'search for truth' skills. Time well invested in this read.

Bob Mullins says

Very tough read for a 10 year veteran who served myself during the Viet Nam war. The war may be over yet there still are all of these lingering stories that will someday help us in not considering war as a solution some how to the problems in the world.

Avis Black says

I didn't read this book until years after Kerry ran for president, and when I did, I was appalled. I voted for Kerry, but when over a hundred of the veterans who served with Kerry said he was a schmuck, I'm inclined to believe them. Nor did I know he made out the paperwork and recommended himself for his own purple heart awards, and his injuries were scarcely more than scratches. Disgusting.

Sky Leach says

Originally reviewed in 2005, I don't remember the exact date I read the actual book. Here is my original review:

"I picked up this book because I wanted to know a little behind the man John Kerry. I'm not very fond of politics, but since Unfit was written by the men who served with John Kerry I was very curious what they would have to say for him. I was shocked at the animosity directed at Kerry. It seems that not only was he unpopular, but he was a self-serving metal-hunting politician even when in the military.

The book certainly has given me a very bad opinion of Mr. Kerry, and I can only hope that our government

will some day be free of men like him seeking the presidency."
