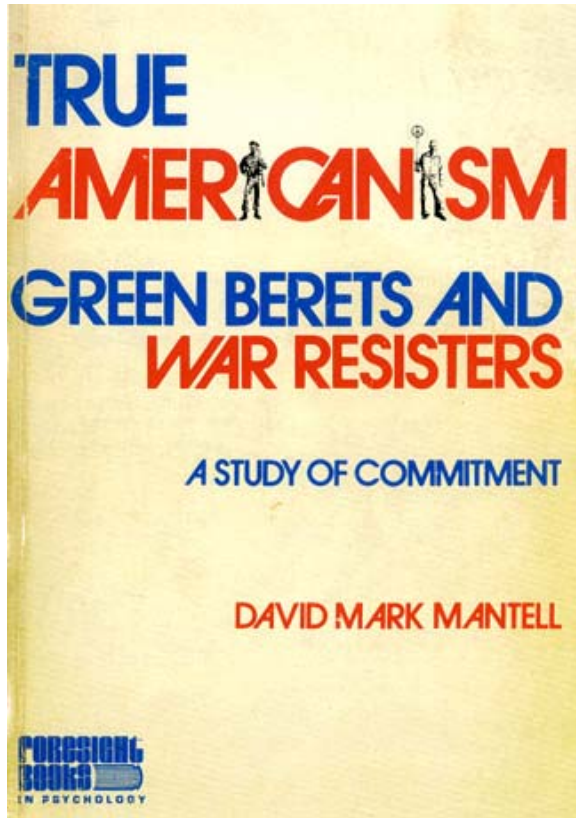


BOOK OF THE CENTURY



David Mark Mantell (1974). *True Americanism. Green Berets and War Resisters: A Study of Commitment.*

Teachers College Press. Columbia University. New York and London

It is rare that a book such as this can capture the heart and soul of America, an America divided by the Vietnam War and the Iraq War. The divisions are so great that the survival of America is threatened. Every citizen-- civilian and military-- should read this book, as it provides a sociological analyses of peace and war that mirrors the neuropsychological findings of the origins of peace and violence presented on this website.

Additional Commentary.

Introduction. "Shortly after the first reports of the My Lai massacre reverberated through the American press, the mother of one of the involved soldiers told a journalist, "I sent the Army a good boy and they made a murderer out of him".

"This is a study of personal violence and nonviolence, their origins and course of development, their later involvement in political events, and their relevance to war and peace."

"The character of a nation, its policies and institutions, reflect its family life. One cannot be separated from the other, but most parents do not fully understand the implications of their own behavior for the immediate or future behavior of their children....It is my view, however, that the reactions of individual Americans to the war in Vietnam were wittingly and unwittingly created within the American family".

Conclusion. "The Green Berets followed traditional authority, went to war, and experienced what they liked best--adventure, excitement, and the performance of professional military skills. The war resisters, represent a minority trend in American life, a very old and honored position of putting an individual conception of honor above all other concerns. They rejected traditional authority, asserted a morality that they considered superior to prevailing morality, and refused to go to war".

"People like the Green Berets may be necessary in potential soldiers if the United States is to survive as a world power. For the United States to survive as an idea, we will need people like the war resisters. We can hope to nurture such men".