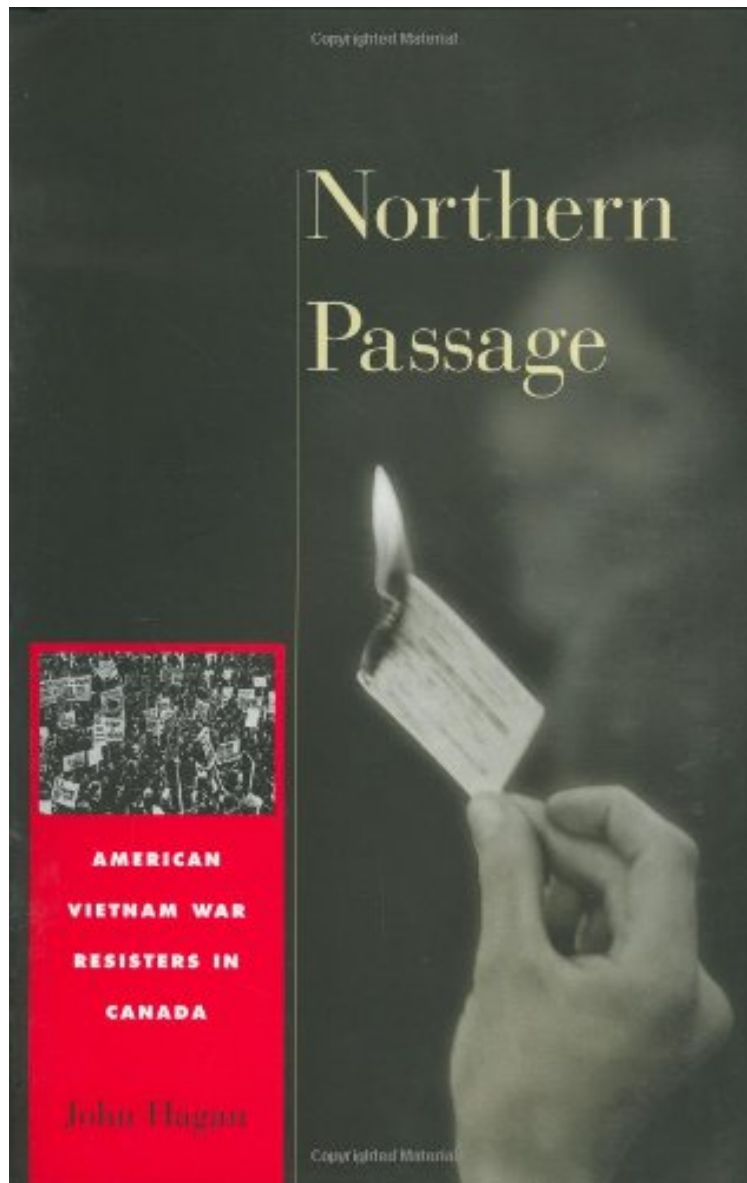


[Free] Northern Passage: American Vietnam War Resisters in Canada

## Northern Passage: American Vietnam War Resisters in Canada

*John Hagan*

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#1243716 in BooksColor: Other Harvard University Press 2001-05-31 2001-06-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.42 x .96 x 6.36l, 1.19 #File Name: 067400471X288 pages | File size: 28.Mb

**John Hagan : Northern Passage: American Vietnam War Resisters in Canada** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Northern Passage: American Vietnam War Resisters in Canada:

13 of 16 people found the following review helpful. More case studies should have been added.By A CustomerThis is a sociological study of the Americans who emigrated to Canada during the late 1960s and early 1970s. I believe that

there is an attempt to draw an analogy with the Americans who chose Peace Corps service during this period of time with those who went to Canada. This is an invalid comparison. American Peace Corps volunteers served in places like Atar, Mauritania; Qandahar, Afghanistan; Bilma, Niger; Kikwit, Zaire; Sarh, Tchad; and Zabol, Iran. Most of the Americans that went to Canada chose to live in southern Ontario, viz. Toronto. How many went to Lac St. Jean, Quebec or Churchill, Manitoba? Few. These sites would have been partially commensurate with the difficulty of the Peace Corps sites.<sup>19</sup> of 19 people found the following review helpful. Terrific Study Of Draft Resisters Fleeing to Canada !By Barron LaycockThis is truly a fascinating book for anyone familiar with the decade-long 'sturm und drang' associated with the anti-war movement of the 1960s, when tens of thousands of young American men fled across the Canadian border in an effort to avoid the military draft and service in Vietnam. In many respects this emigration became a lightning rod for the conflict between the pro-war forces within this country and the wider anti-war movement composed at first of hundreds of thousands and then even millions of Americans willing to aid and abet such young men in their efforts to avoid becoming part of what was referred to as the "war machine". What is most interesting in this scholarly account of the phenomenon, however, is its examination of what happened to the welter of young men so intent on living life on their own terms that they were willing to become expatriates to do so. The author, Professor John Hagan, is a sociologist interested in examining the pilgrim's progress of individual draft-dodgers/emigrants who poured over the border for close to a decade, often with a surprising set of expectations and unresolved internal conflicts associated with the personal experiences that had led them so far from home. His ability to recount the many levels on which the war continued to determine the options and the world view of the individuals so affected is fascinating stuff, and the author does a yeoman's job of breathing life and substance into a work that might otherwise be dry and difficult reading indeed. While his account is earnest and quite well documented, it is also quite revealing and entertaining to read. Hagan often poses questions for the respondents that result in illuminating glimpses into the lingering ways in which the fateful decision to move north continue to affect them in most fateful ways, both for better and for worse. What is most amazing is the degree to which the majority of the individuals rose above the difficulties associated with this move and made successes of their lives. In this sense, the work is a penetrating effort to unmask and explore the consequences of the war in Vietnam for all of us. In this sense it is a resounding affirmation of how each of us was transformed and changed by our participation in the culture of the sixties, whether for better or for worse. The best in sociology is its ability to locate the individual meaningfully in his times and embedded within the context of his or her cultural meanings. Such a book is this, an effort to locate and recognize the ways in which our times help to determine how we live and under what specific set of existential circumstances we strive to realize our most important goals and most personal dreams. This is a great book, and one I wish many more people would read. Enjoy!

More than 50,000 draft-age American men and women migrated to Canada during the Vietnam War, the largest political exodus from the United States since the American Revolution. How are we to understand this migration three decades later? Was their action simply a marginal, highly individualized spin-off of the American antiwar movement, or did it have its own lasting collective meaning? John Hagan, himself a member of the exodus, searched declassified government files, consulted previously unopened resistance organization archives and contemporary oral histories, and interviewed American war resisters settled in Toronto to learn how they made the momentous decision. Canadian immigration officials at first blocked the entry of some resisters; then, under pressure from Canadian church and civil liberties groups, they fully opened the border, providing these Americans with the legal opportunity to oppose the Vietnam draft and military mobilization while beginning new lives in Canada. It was a turning point for Canada as well, an assertion of sovereignty in its post-World War II relationship with the United States. Hagan describes the resisters' absorption through Toronto's emerging American ghetto in the late 1960s. For these Americans, the move was an intense and transformative experience. While some struggled for a comprehensive amnesty in the United States, others dedicated their lives to engagement with social and political issues in Canada. More than half of the draft and military resisters who fled to Canada thirty years ago remain there today. Most lead successful lives, have lost their sense of Americanness, and overwhelmingly identify themselves as Canadians.

From Publishers WeeklyFrom the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1964 to the fall of Saigon in 1975, the Vietnam War was at the molten center of American politics and dominated the American psyche. To historians, political scientists and sociologists, the war was a transformative event both culturally and politically. For thousands of draft-age Americans, including both men and women whose political convictions were engaged, the war's effect was immediate and profound. Writing for two audiences, Hagan, a professor of sociology and law at both Northwestern University and the University of Toronto, presents an earnest, thoughtful and respectful examination of American draft resisters who emigrated to Canada as he did himself rather than serve in the U.S. armed forces. Fellow academicians will welcome the parts of the book that are steeped in arcane and esoteric political process theory. General readers, particularly those of a certain age who were keenly conscious of America's involvement in Vietnam, will be interested in better understanding the new lives the emigrants made. To that end, Hagan poses questions whose answers

illuminate the consequences, good and bad, of self-imposed exile. Moreover, informed by the Canadian perspective, the end result is far more than a mere reflection of the much-studied America of the Vietnam era. This is a very well-researched, scrupulously honest and generous book that gets facts right and seeks to set aside the divisive judgments of the time. Illus. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal During the Vietnam War, 50,000 Americans (slightly more women than men) left to seek new lives in Canada. Hagan, who currently holds faculty appointments in both law and sociology at Northwestern University and the University of Toronto, was one of them. Here he presents narrative profiles and a thorough empirical investigation, based on 100 interviews, of these expatriates and how they fared in their adopted city of Toronto. They have mostly enjoyed successful, fulfilling lives and have remained activists for a variety of political and environmental causes. Prime Minister Trudeau headed a government that welcomed draft resisters in 1967 and, unlike the United States, accepted military deserters two years later. Much attention is devoted to the efforts of the Toronto Anti-Draft Program and Amex, organizations that helped expatriates adapt to their new country and provided a political forum for protesting the war in Canada and America. Amnesty was finally given to draft resisters, but not deserters, by President Carter in 1977. This is a more detailed study of the war resisters than James Dickerson offers in *North to Canada* (LJ 3/15/99) and is strongly recommended for larger public and academic collections. Karl Helicher, Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist More than 50,000 draft-age men and women fled the U.S. for Canada to avoid serving in the Vietnam War. In the beginning, Canada was less than eager to have them, but pressure from church groups and others changed that. Unlike James Dickerson's *North to Canada* (1999), which looked primarily at the individuals who fled there, Hagan offers a sociological perspective of the resisters, their effects on Canada, and their decision to return or not return to the U.S. after amnesty was offered. What is most interesting here are Canadians' opinions of this American invasion, which ranged from "Why should we as Canadians keep these bums in our country, when they have no loyalty to their own?" to "Since when is it a function of the Canadian government to enforce U.S. laws respecting the draft?" Marlene Chamberlain Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved