

# Essays On Conscientious Objection From The Radical Reformation To The Second

Conscientious objection has always been a topic of great debate and controversy. From the Radical Reformation to the Second World War, individuals have faced the moral dilemma of whether to comply with laws and regulations they deem unjust or to stand up for their own beliefs and principles.

The Radical Reformation, which took place during the 16th century, saw the emergence of religious groups who challenged the authority of the Catholic Church. These groups, such as the Anabaptists, believed in the separation of church and state and the autonomy of the individual conscience. As a result, many members of these communities faced persecution and even death for refusing to conform to state-imposed religious practices and beliefs.

During the Reformation period, writings and essays discussing the concept of conscientious objection began to emerge. One significant example is the "Schleitheim Confession" written by Swiss Anabaptists in 1527. This document outlined the principles by which they would live, including the refusal to take up arms and participate in war. Their stance on nonviolence and refusal to serve in the military due to religious reasons set the stage for later discussions on conscientious objection.

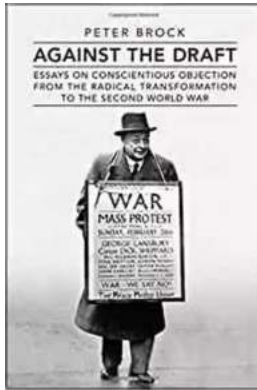
## **Against the Draft: Essays on Conscientious Objection from the Radical Reformation to the Second World War (Heritage)** by Peter Brock(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 481 pages



Fast forward to the 20th century and the rise of totalitarian regimes, including Nazi Germany, brought the issue of conscientious objection to the forefront once again. Many individuals found themselves grappling with the moral implications of following orders to participate in acts they considered immoral or inhumane.

One notable figure during this period is Franz Jägerstätter, an Austrian conscientious objector who was executed for refusing to serve in the German army during World War II. Jägerstätter's story gained significant attention and prompted discussions about the role of conscience in times of war and the responsibility of individuals to uphold their own moral values.

The essays on conscientious objection from the Radical Reformation to the Second World War shed light on the various perspectives and experiences of individuals who chose to follow their conscience, often at great personal cost.

These essays analyze the historical, religious, and philosophical justifications for conscientious objection, examining its impact on society and challenging the prevailing notion that one should always obey the law, regardless of personal beliefs.

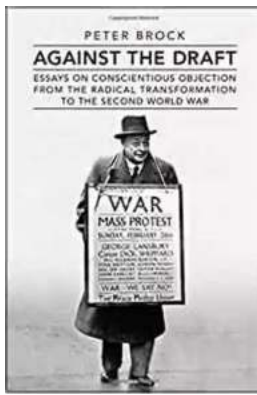
One key argument put forth in these essays is that conscientious objection is not just an act of defiance but an assertion of individual autonomy and human rights. By refusing to participate in actions that go against their moral compass, conscientious objectors highlight the importance of personal integrity and the pursuit of justice.

Moreover, these essays explore the complexities surrounding conscientious objection, including the tensions between individual rights and social obligations. They delve into the ethical dilemmas faced by those who object and the potential consequences of their choices.

The essays also examine the legal frameworks surrounding conscientious objection, discussing the challenges faced by individuals seeking recognition and protection for their beliefs. They analyze historical court cases and the evolution of laws regarding conscientious objection, providing insights into the struggles faced by conscientious objectors throughout history.

Furthermore, these essays consider the broader societal impact of conscientious objection. They explore how the actions of individuals questioning authority and standing up for their beliefs can influence social change and challenge the status quo.

, the essays on conscientious objection from the Radical Reformation to the Second World War offer a glimpse into the rich history of individuals who have chosen to follow their conscience against oppressive regimes and unjust laws. They highlight the significance of personal autonomy and moral integrity, sparking crucial discussions on the role of conscientious objection in shaping societal norms and values.



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Around the world and for hundreds of years, men and women have refused to be drafted into bearing arms for their nations' wars. These conscientious objectors to the draft are the subject of Peter Brock's latest collection, *Against the Draft*. Brock, the world's leading historian on pacifism, has assembled twenty-five of his essays on conscientious objection to the draft from the beginning of the Radical Reformation in 1525 to the end of the Second World War.

Included in the collection are essays on little known facets of the anti-draft movement including the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition of military exemption that started with the outset of the Radical Reformation in 1525 and has continued, with variations, until the present. Further articles deal with the Quakers in a number of countries, Civil-war America, Leo Tolstoy (who became a convinced pacifist in the later part of his life), British conscientious objectors in the Non-Combatant Corps, the emergence of conscientious objection in Japan, and the fate of conscientious objectors in the psychiatric clinics of Germany and in interwar Poland. Essays on the Central European Nazerenes and on Jehovah's Witnesses in Nazi Germany highlight the exceptionally harsh treatment meted out

to conscientious objectors belonging to these two sects, and their steadfast resistance to the state's demand to bear arms. Against the Draft makes an important contribution to the growing study of pacifism and conscientious objection, and represents a key work in the career of the field's foremost scholar.



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