



May 1994

The Politics of Readjustment: Vietnam Veterans Since the War. Wilbur J. Scott.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw>

 Part of the [Social Work Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(1994) "*The Politics of Readjustment: Vietnam Veterans Since the War.* Wilbur J. Scott.," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 21 : Iss. 2 , Article 27.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol21/iss2/27>

This Book Note is brought to you for free and open access by the Social Work at ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact maira.bundza@wmich.edu.



a major determinant of independence as was culture. While Hispanic-Americans and Asian Americans seldom left home before marriage, this was not the case among white or African-Americans. Similarly, while fundamentalist protestants were unlikely to leave home, the vast majority of Jewish-American young people left home before marriage.

The study investigated many other aspects of young peoples' decisions such as the consequences of leaving home at an early age, the reactions of parents, the economic costs of independent living and the role of education in facilitating home leaving. As the authors suggest, the study offers useful insights which can help parents and their children cope more effectively with separation. It also offers useful insights into contemporary family dynamics and will be of interest to all sociologists studying the family today.

Wilbur J. Scott. *The Politics of Readjustment: Vietnam Veterans Since the War*. Hawthorne, NY: Aldine de Gruyter, 1993. \$47.95 hardcover, \$23.95 papercover.

Wilbur Scott is a sociologist at the University of Oklahoma who, as a Vietnam veteran himself, has a special interest in tracing the emergence of the Vietnam veteran's movement since the 1970s. Using sociological insights derived from the theory of social movements and the constructivist perspective, he shows how Veterans emerged from the demoralization of defeat to create an effective social movement which succeeded in having post-traumatic stress disorder included in the American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic manual, built the National Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, and began successfully to litigate on the damage caused through the use of Agent Orange by the military during the war.

Scott's book makes fascinating reading not only from a sociological perspective but from the way he tells his story. His own involvement in his subject matter informs the book and offers an incisive commentary on the lives of those who were once pushed to the margins of American society. For the social scientist, his narrative elucidates theory and demonstrates how theoretical perspectives enhance descriptive accounts.