

A. J. Muste Memorial Institute **ESSAY SERIES**

ABRAHAM JOHANNES MUSTE

A. J. Muste (1885-1967), a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church, was the preeminent nonviolent social activist of his time. Independently and through his affiliation with a wide range of organizations, from the Brookwood Labor College to the Fellowship of Reconciliation to the Congregational Church to the War Resisters League, he channeled his commitment to peace and social justice into the kind of nonviolent direct action which has now become traditional in the social change movement. Committed to unilateral disarmament, he was a leader of the American peace movement during the IndoChina War period. Shortly before his death he travelled to Vietnam to meet with Ho Chi Minh, and was also in close contact with the leaders of other emerging nations engaged in liberation struggles, encouraging their freedom efforts while remaining firm in his belief in nonviolence. A. J. Muste was a man of God and a man of the people, and in his service to both he led a life that continues to be an inspiration to nonviolent activists everywhere.

A. J. Muste Memorial Institute

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute is a non-profit tax exempt organization. It was founded in 1974 to further the goals of its namesake: to explore and teach how nonviolence can be used to bring about world peace, and social and economic justice.

Through grants, sponsorships, the publication of social change resources, and the development of independent educational programs, the Institute has supported more than fifty projects and has helped people bring the message of peace virtually all over the world.

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