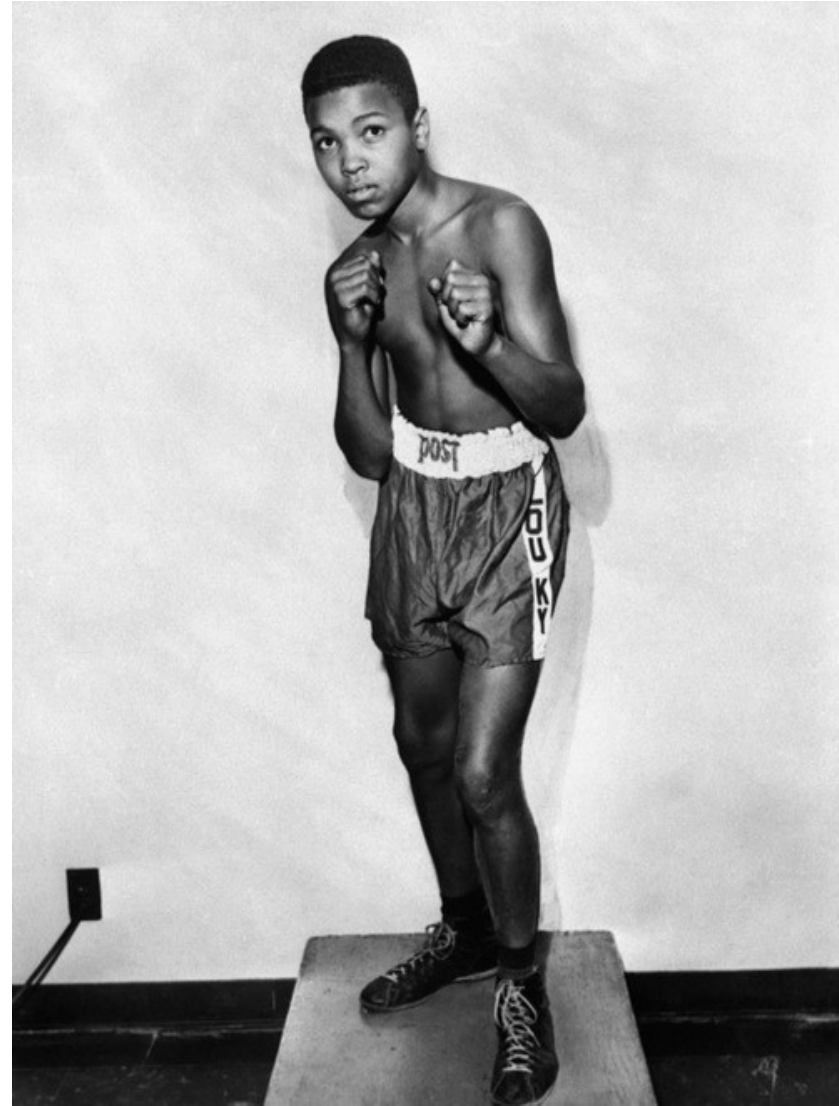


Muhamad Ali

# Muhammad Ali

- Born Cassius Clay in Louisville, Kentucky in 1942.
- Started boxing at 12.
- Got a gold medal in Olympics in Rome in 1960.
- Later said he threw medal into Ohio river in protest at treatment of black people after he and a friend were refused service at a 'whites-only' restaurant



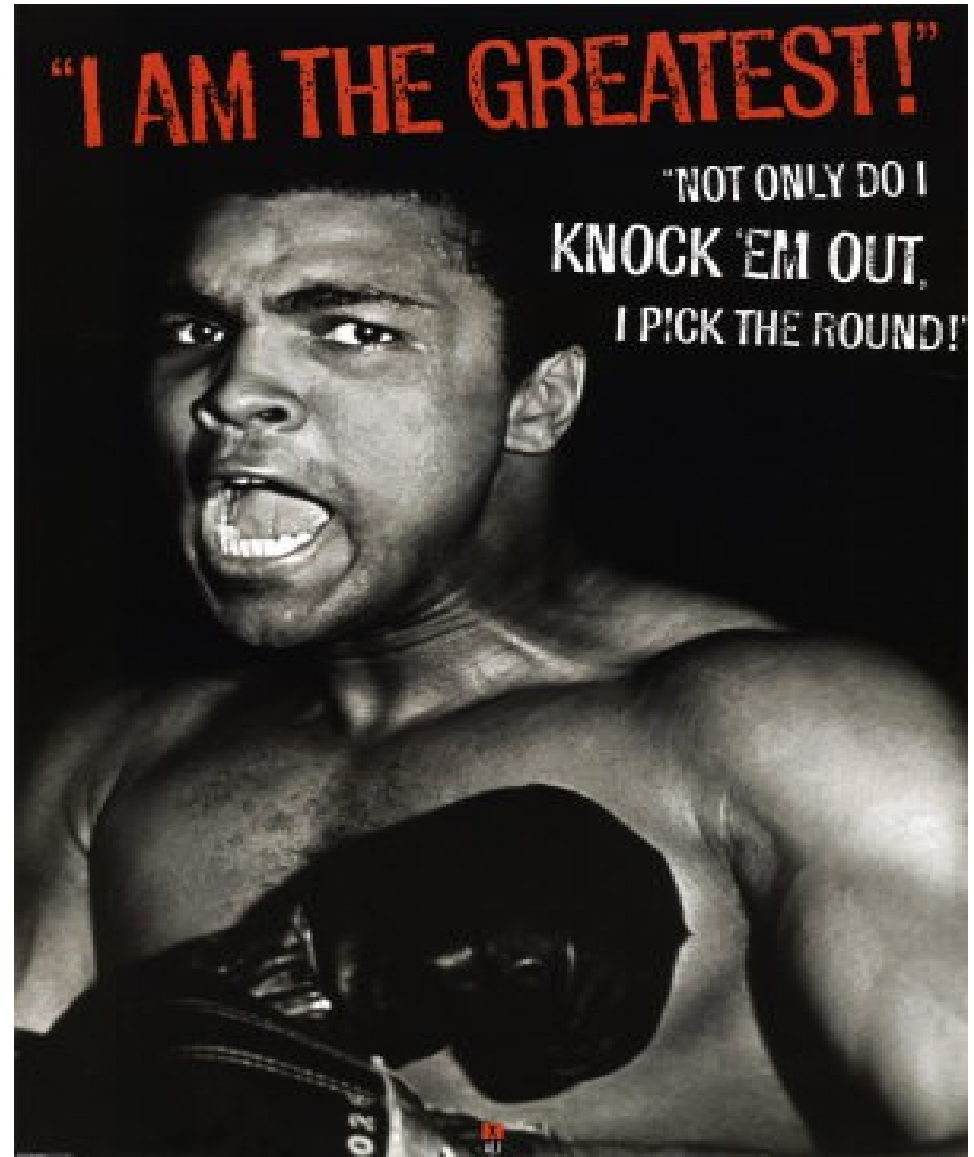
# Heavyweight Champion

- Became a professional heavyweight boxer
- Won world heavyweight title in 1964 by defeating Sonny Liston in Miami.
- Won title again in 1974 and 1978.



# 'Talking Trash'

- Ali was famous for his confidence and his tendency to say things to mock and provoke his opponents.
- Frazier was "too dumb to be champion."
- He would whip Liston "like his Daddy did."

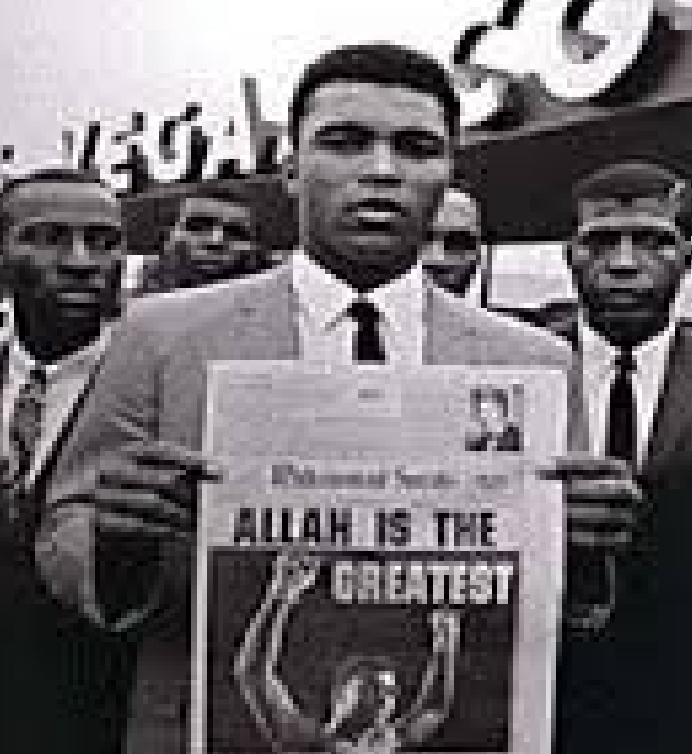


# Nation of Islam

- 2 days after beating Sonny Liston in 1964 he announced that he accepted the teaching of Islam and was going to become a Muslim and join the Nation of Islam.



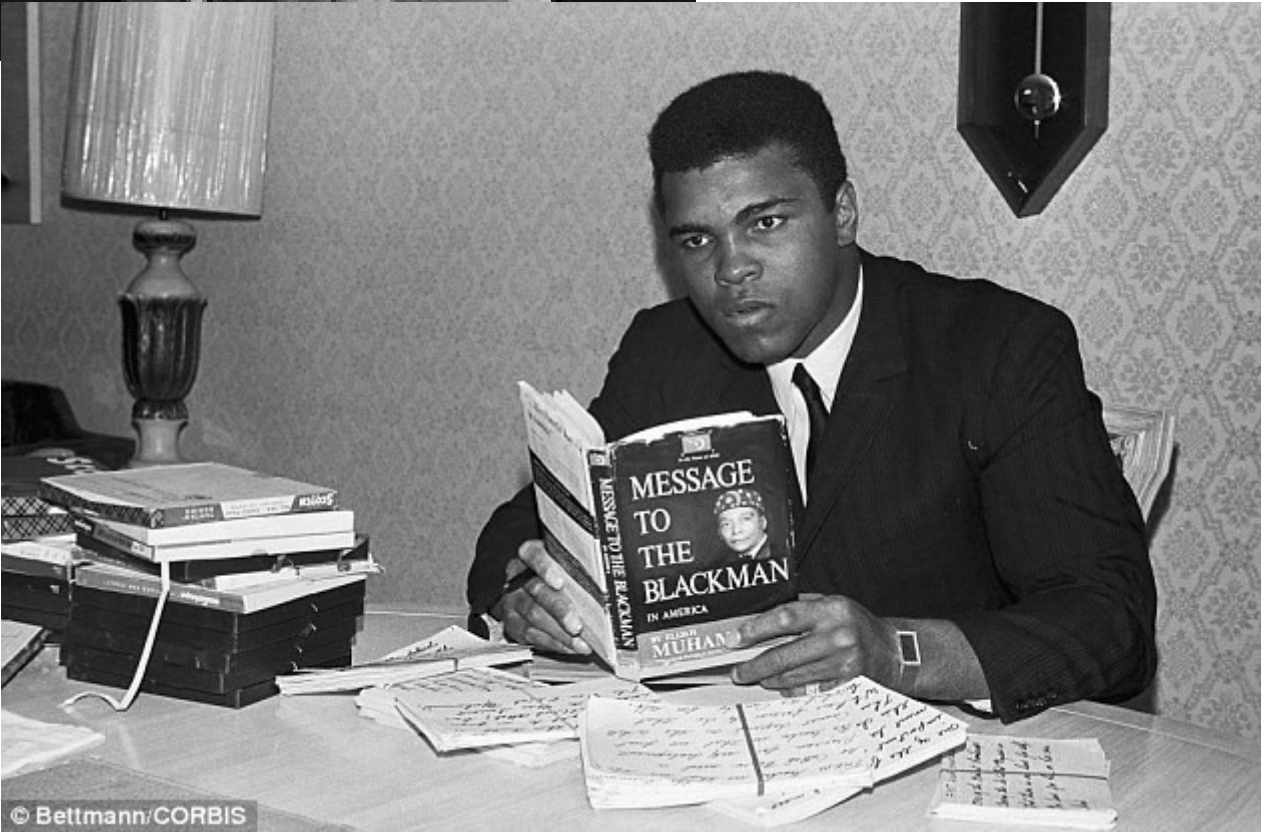




Elijah Muhammad

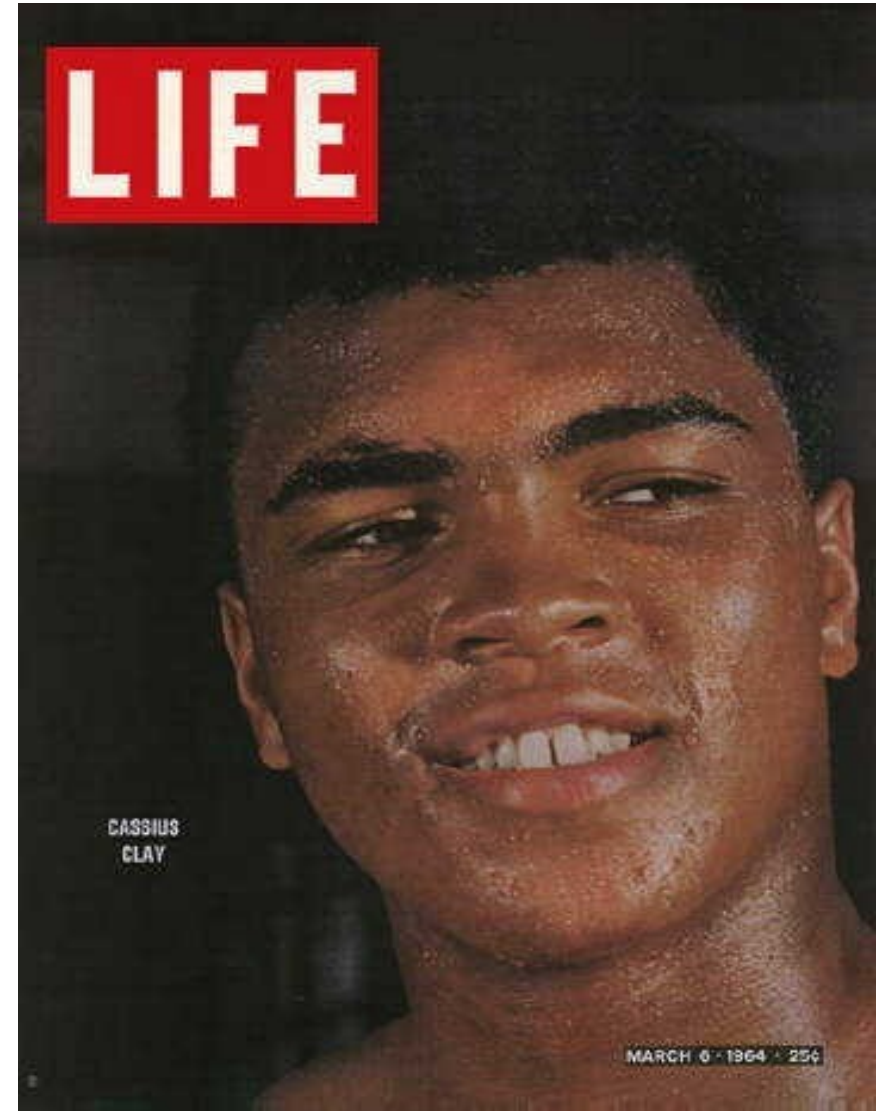


Malcolm X and Cassius Clay, 1964



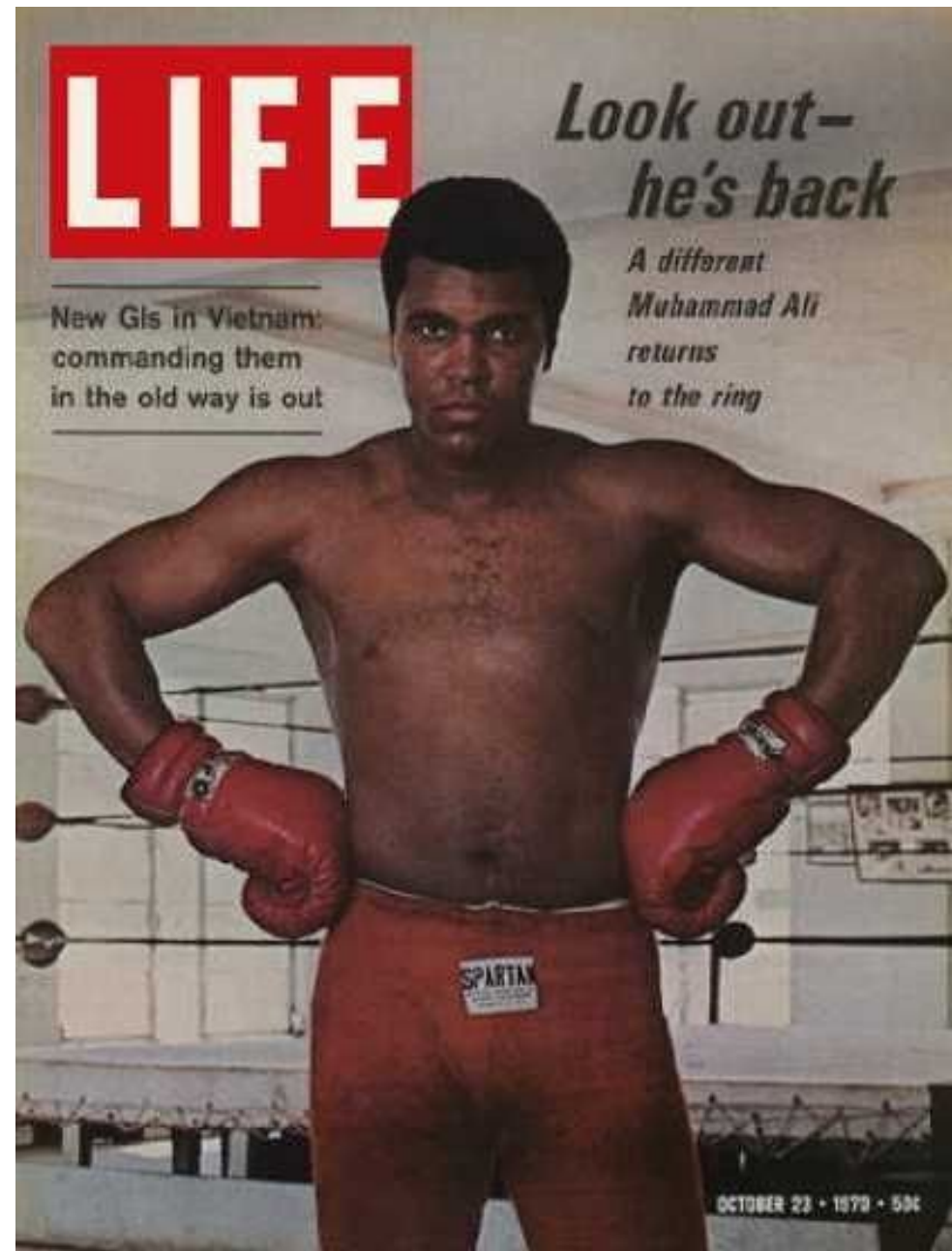
# Cassius X

- He opposed the discrimination and inequality faced by many black Americans and changed his name to Cassius X as he said many slaves had been given the surname of their owners.



# Muhammad Ali

- Later he changed his name to Muhammad Ali.
- Elijah Muhammad said name was Muhammad (one who is worthy of praise) Ali (fourth rightly guided caliph).





# Ali and the 'draft'

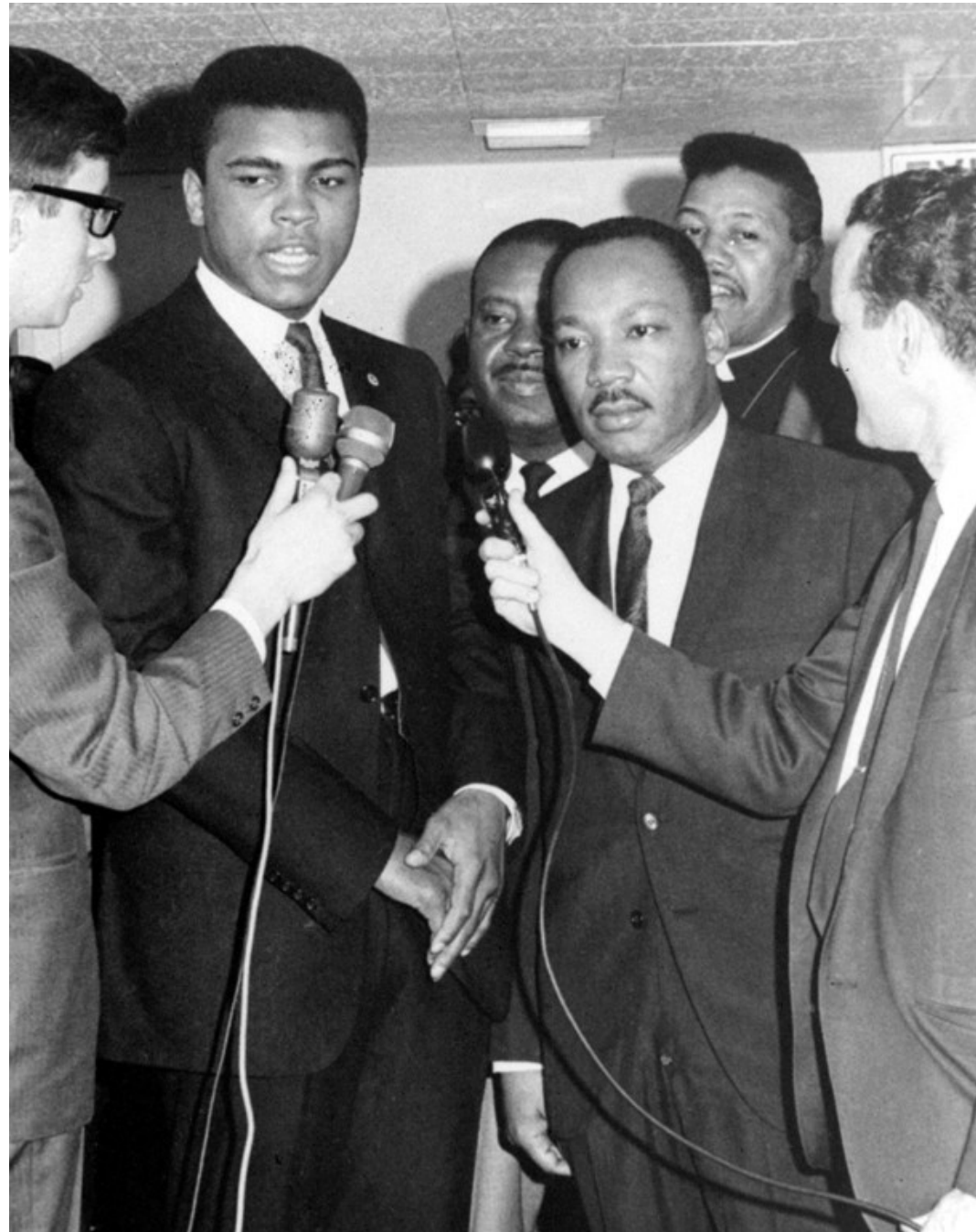
- In 1967 he received notification that he was to be drafted to fight in Vietnam.
- He declared himself as a 'conscientious objector' but this was rejected by the authorities as he had earlier said he would take part in 'jihad' or holy war.



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# Ali and Vietnam

- He said 'My enemy is the White, not the people of Vietnam' and 'I ain't got no quarrel with the people of Vietnam'.



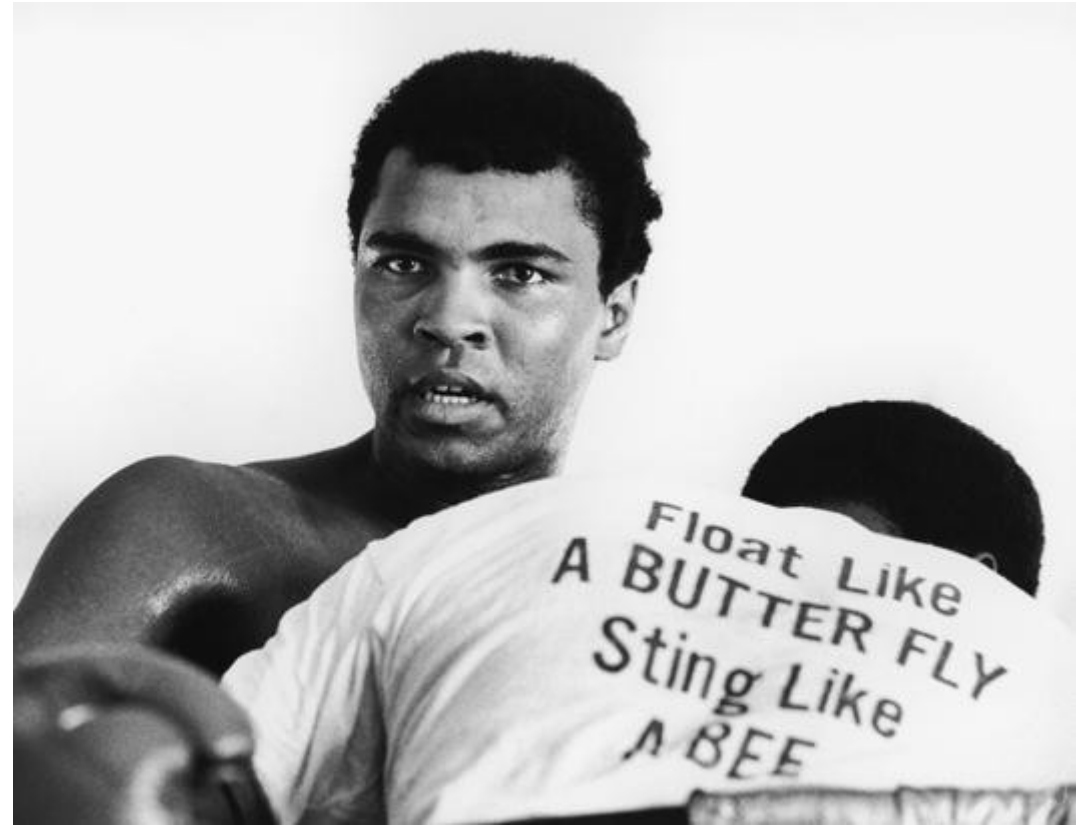
# Arrest and Prison

- He was sentenced to 5 years in prison, fined \$10,000, stripped of his heavyweight title, had his boxing licence suspended and his passport confiscated.



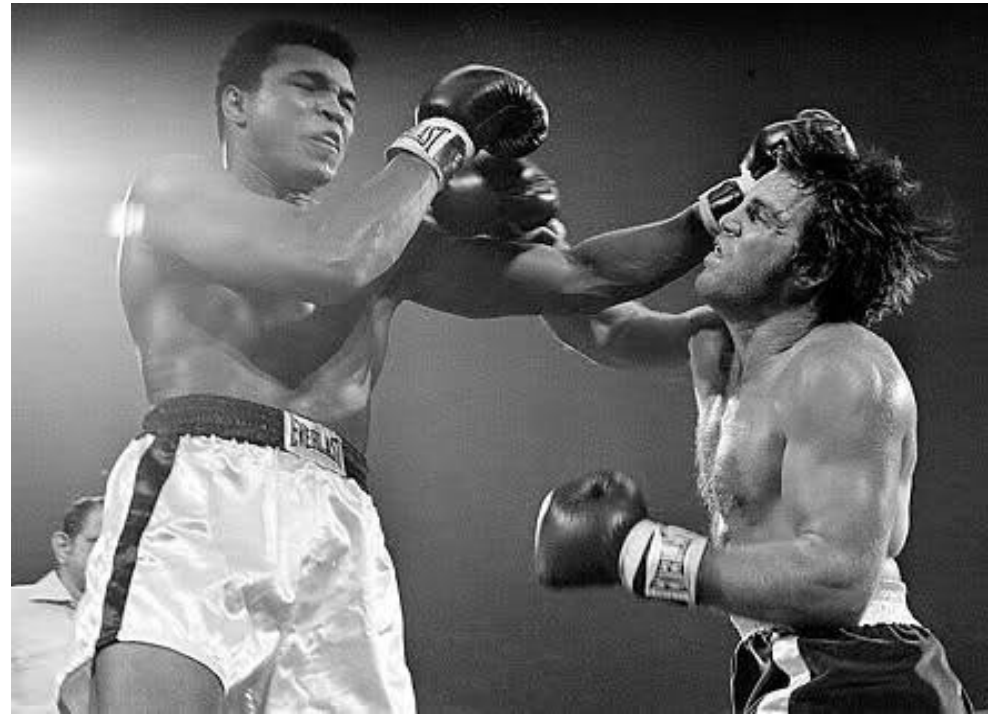
# Ali's return to boxing

- He was released on bail, fought his case through the courts and eventually Supreme Court accepted he was a conscientious objector and he got his boxing license back.



# 1970 Comeback

- In 1970 he defeated the so-called 'Great White Hope' (Jerry Quarry)

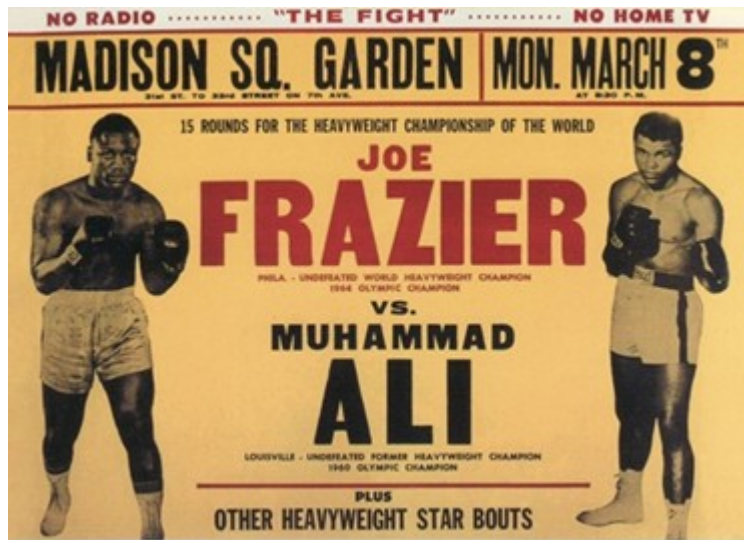
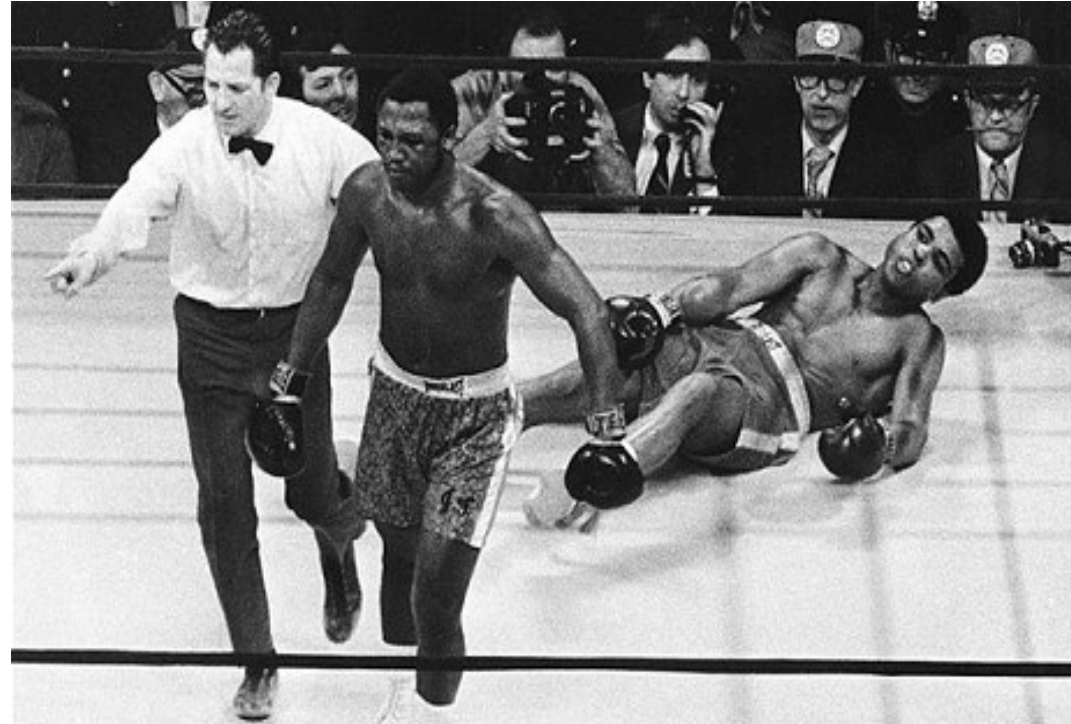




# Heavyweight Title 1971

## 'The Fight of the Century'

- Lost title in fight with Joe Frazier in 1971.
- Ali defeated him in a rematch later in the same year.



# The 'Rumble in the Jungle' 1974

- Boxing promoter, Don King, organised fight in Kinshasa, Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo).
- At the time it was ruled by Mobutu.
- Huge international publicity around the fight where Ali beat George Foreman.







**WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**DIRECT FROM KINSHASA, ZAIRE • TUES. OCT. 29**

**15 ROUNDS**

NO HOME TV NO RADIO



**GEORGE FOREMAN** vs. **MUHAMMAD ALI**  
WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

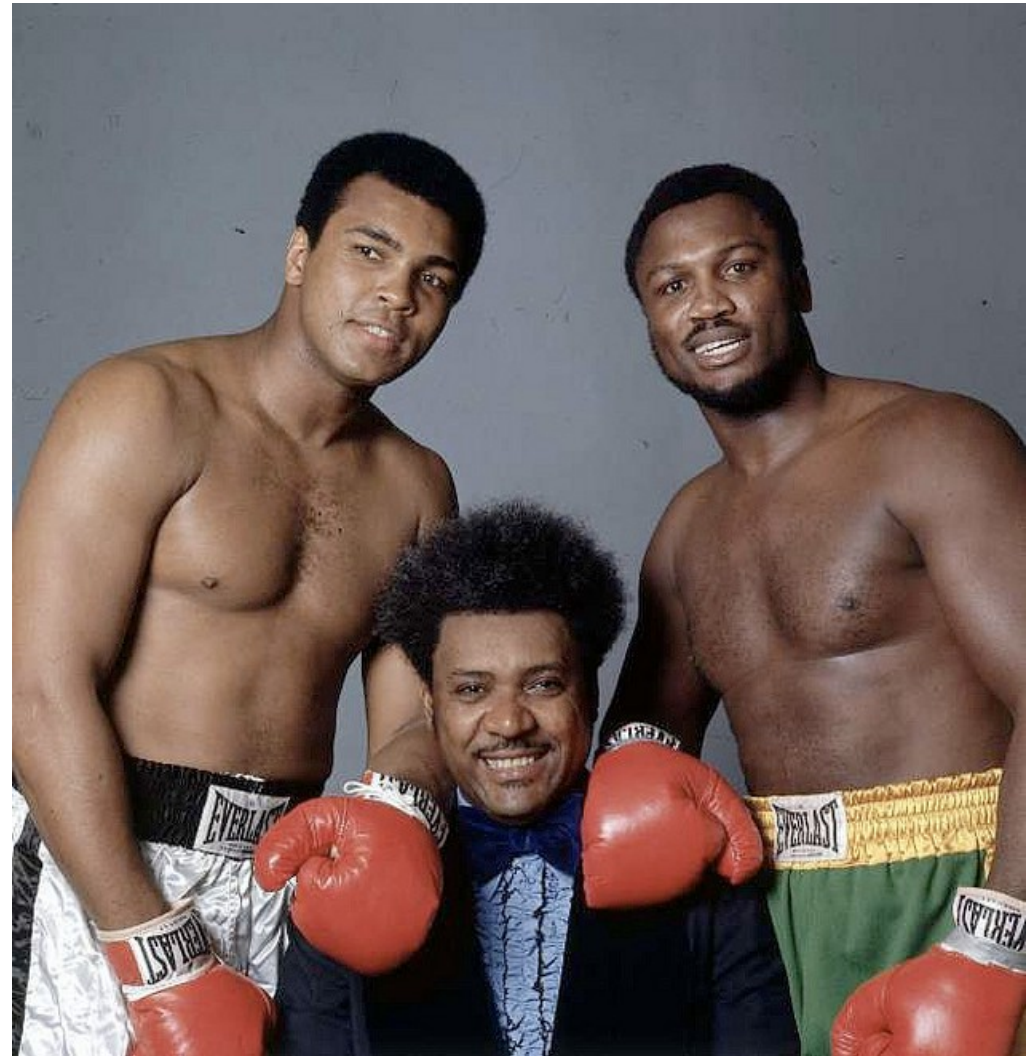
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# The 'Thrilla in Manila'

- October 1975, a fight between Ali and Joe Frazier in Manila in the Philippines.
- Ali was exhausted by 14<sup>th</sup> round but Frazier's eyes were very swollen and his trainer refused to let him fight so Ali was awarded the victory.





- Lost title in fight with Leon Spinks in Las Vegas 1978.
- But won it back again in a rematch later that year.
- Retired from boxing in 1979.

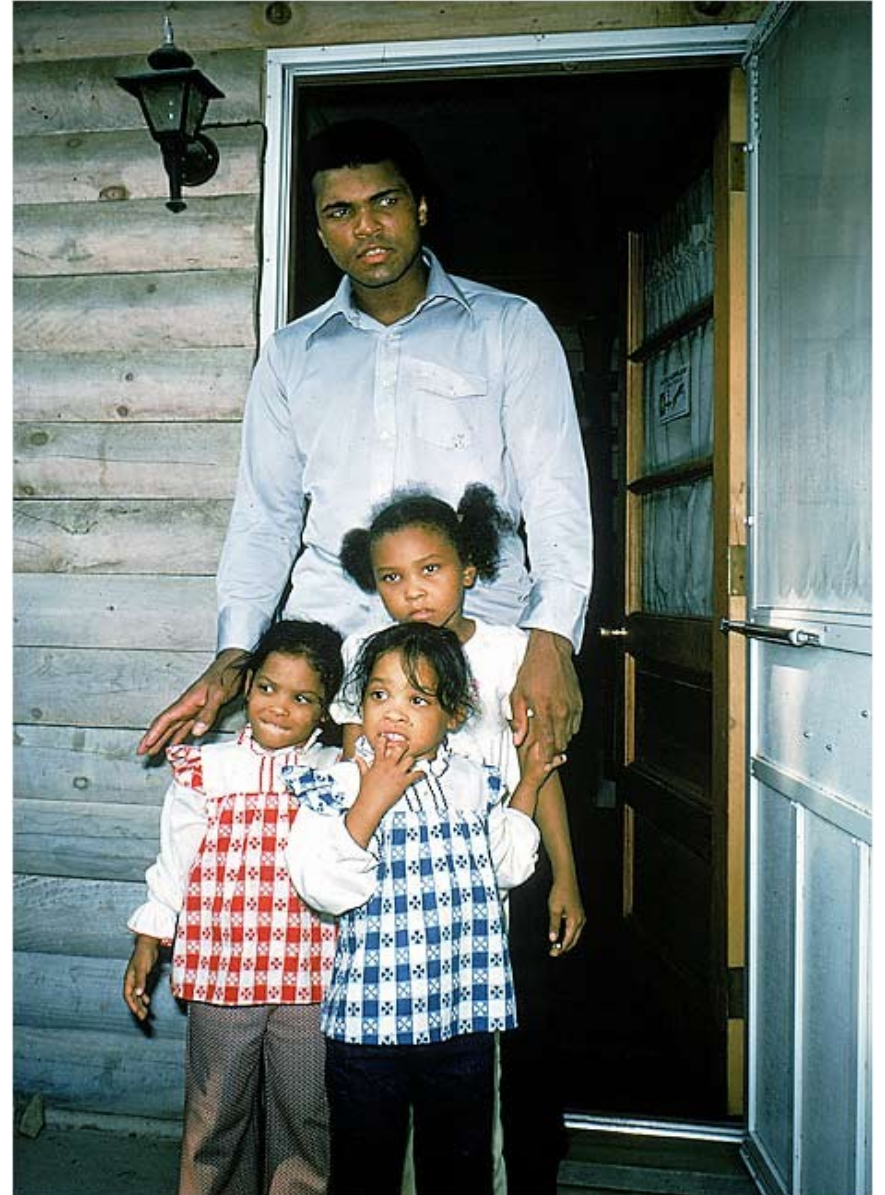


- Involved in Civil Rights and Anti-War movement.
- Supported the Democrats and Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign.



# Personal Life

- Ali has been married 4 times.
- He has 7 daughters and 2 sons.



# Ali and Sonji Roy



# Ali and Belinda Boyd





# Ali and Veronica Porsche



# Ali and Yolanda 'Lonnie' Williams



# Later life

- Diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 1982.
- Lit Olympic Flame in Atlanta 1996.



Ali and President Reagan in 1983.