

BOTWAVE PAPERWORK

# Did Not Step Forward

*The Captain and the  
Champ: A Ledger of  
Resistance, 1960–2016*

Kyle Jimenez

TEASER COPY – FIRST 25 PAGES  
NOT FOR REDISTRIBUTION OR SALE

Full manuscript: <https://zombie760.github.io/books>

---

**DID NOT STEP  
FORWARD ### *The  
Captain and The  
Champ: A Ledger of  
Resistance, 1960–2016 —  
Kyle Jimenez — ## PART  
I: THE CONTRACT > “I  
don’t have to be what  
you want me to be. I’m  
free to be what I want.”  
> > — Cassius Clay  
(Muhammad Ali), Miami  
Beach, February 26,  
1964, as recorded in***

**Robert Lipsyte, *New York Times*, February 27, 1964. > “You catch hell because you are black.” > > — Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), Second Black Youth Conference, Los Angeles, November 23, 1967, as recorded in Harry Edwards, *The Revolt of the Black Athlete*, Free Press, 1969.**  
— ## PART II: THE REFUSAL > ***“I refuse to***

***be inducted into the  
armed forces of the  
United States because I  
claim to be exempt as a  
minister of the religion  
of Islam.” > > —***

**Muhammad Ali,  
handwritten statement  
filed at the Armed  
Forces Examining and  
Entrance Station, San  
Jacinto Street, Houston,  
Texas, April 28, 1967.  
*United States v. Cassius  
Marsellus Clay, Jr., Cr.***

**No. 67-H-94, S.D. Tex. >  
“There’s nothing new to  
say.” > > — Muhammad  
Ali, on the steps of the  
Negro Industrial and  
Economic Union, 10511  
Euclid Avenue,  
Cleveland, June 4, 1967,  
the closing line of the  
press statement issued  
after the meeting now  
known as the Cleveland  
Summit. — ## PART III:  
THE LEDGER > “Turning  
my back on Malcolm**

*was one of the mistakes that I regret most in my life.” > > — Muhammad Ali, *The Soul of a Butterfly*, with Hana Yasmeen Ali, Simon & Schuster, 2004. > “I had had a chance to see what an athlete is when an athlete decides he is also a citizen.” > > — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, *Becoming Kareem*, with Raymond Obstfeld, Little, Brown, 2017, of*

**the Cleveland Summit.**

**— ## COPYRIGHT**

**Copyright © 2026 by Kyle**

**Jimenez. All rights**

**reserved. First edition.**

**Manuscript completed**

**April 2026. This book is a**

**companion volume to**

***Unwarranted Influence:***

***A Primary-Source***

***Investigation, 1095–2026***

**(Kyle Jimenez, 2026).**

**The thesis of**

***Unwarranted Influence***

**— that capital classifies**

**before the state does,  
that the state follows  
what capital files, and  
that the same  
compounding  
instruments operate  
across centuries — is, in  
this volume, applied to  
the specific arc of two  
American athletes who,  
between 1960 and 2016,  
refused the  
classification the  
institutional sponsor  
had filed against them**

**and paid the cost on the public record. Every factual claim in this book is drawn from a primary source: a Federal Register entry, a court filing, a Selective Service System record at the National Archives, an FBI file released through the Vault, a Supreme Court opinion, a contemporary newspaper of record, a contract held by the**

**Muhammad Ali Center  
or the Filson Historical  
Society or the University  
of Louisville, or a peer-  
reviewed work of  
history. Every citation is  
reproducible. The  
reader who follows a  
citation to its source will  
find the document at the  
location specified. — ##  
DEDICATION For the  
seven members of the  
Khaalis family  
murdered at 7700 16th**

**Street NW, Washington, D.C., on January 18, 1973, whose ages totaled less than the years their adult relatives had spent in the Sunni Islamic tradition the Nation of Islam Mosque Number 12 of Philadelphia objected to. For James Powell, age fifteen, killed by Lieutenant Thomas R. Gilligan of the New York City Police Department**

**on the morning of July 16, 1964, on the sidewalk in front of 213 East 76th Street, Manhattan, in the killing the New York County grand jury declined to indict on September 2, 1964. For Maurice Williams, age twenty-four, of WHUR-FM, killed at the District Building, Washington, D.C., on March 9, 1977, in the Hanafi siege. For the Black athletes of the**

**United States who, between 1960 and 1971, refused the institutional sponsor's classification of their bodies and were classified, suspended, or stripped on the public record for the refusal. —**

**## ON SOURCES** Every chapter ends with a list of primary sources. The sources are cited in the form customary to the document type: - Federal Register entries:

**volume, page number, date. - Court filings: caption, court, docket number, date of filing or order, reporter citation if reported. - Federal Bureau of Investigation files: file number, agency division, date of release, archive location. - Selective Service System records: registrant, local board number, classification or filing date, NARA record**

**group. - Newspapers of record: publication, date, page number where confirmable. - Memoir and biographical work: author, title, publisher, year, page numbers where pulled. - Photographic record: photographer, date, holding institution. - Archival manuscript collections: collection name, finding-aid**

**number, holding institution, item or folder reference where confirmable. Source pages confirmed against the original document are cited without qualification. Source pages whose specific pagination requires a microfilm visit or paywalled-archive subscription are cited to the date and publication, with the**

**pagination flagged for verification at copy-edit. The reader who pulls the document at the date and publication will find the article. No cited source has been included that the author has not himself examined either in original, in digital reproduction, or in the verified secondary record on which the book stands. — ## ON**

**METHOD** This book reconstructs, from primary documents and from the memoir record of the two principal subjects and their contemporaries, the operation of the legal, financial, and athletic-administrative classification system as it was applied to two American athletes between 1960 and 2016. The book does not

**reconstruct dialogue that is not in the public record. The book does not place quotations in subjects' mouths that are not in a memoir, transcript, court filing, or contemporary press account. Where the public record names a fact, the book names the source. Where the public record is silent, the book is silent. Where the secondary**

**biographical record is the only source, the book labels it as such. A reader who finds an error of fact in the book is invited to write the author at the address listed in the appendix. Errors of fact identified by readers will be corrected in subsequent editions. — ## ON THE TWO PROTAGONISTS**

**The book has two principal subjects, who**

**in 1960 and 1962 were named Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. and Lewis Ferdinand Alcindor Jr. respectively. By the closing pages of the book they have become Muhammad Ali and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. The names changed because both men chose new names; the men did not change because the names did. The book uses, in each**

**chapter, the name in use  
at the time of the events  
the chapter describes.**

**The reader is asked to  
follow the convention.**

**— ## ON THE**

**CLEVELAND SUMMIT**

**The book is, in its  
structural design,  
written around a single  
photograph: Tony  
Tomsic's photograph of  
June 4, 1967, taken at the  
offices of the Negro  
Industrial and Economic**

**Union at 10511 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, of the men who had assembled to hear Muhammad Ali explain his draft refusal. The photograph is reproduced at Chapter 7 of this book, which is the structural hinge — Chapters 1 through 6 build toward the room, Chapters 8 through 13 read out of it. The reader is asked to look**

**at the photograph  
carefully. The chapter  
and the closing epilogue  
together attempt to  
describe what the  
photograph contains.  
The reader, having read  
both, is asked to decide  
whether the description  
matches. — # OVERTURE  
— THE CONTRACT *The  
Brown Hotel, October  
26, 1960. A six-year  
management  
agreement. Eleven***

*Gentile Louisville businessmen on one side of the page. An eighteen-year-old Black Olympic gold medalist on the other side. The reader is asked to look at the page. — ## 0.1 The page*

**The signing happened on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 26, 1960, at the Brown Hotel, 335 West Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky. The document**

— a multi-page typed agreement on letterhead bearing the heading *Louisville Sponsoring Group, a Limited Partnership* — bears thirteen signatures on its execution page. The page is, as of the year 2026, held in the Greatest of All Time Collection of the Muhammad Ali Center, Louisville, Kentucky, accession number

**subject to research  
credentialing, digitized  
through the museum's  
HistoryIT digital-  
collection vendor at the  
URL  
*muhammadali.historyit.com.*  
The collection's public-  
museum entries on the  
agreement include item  
7502, the LSG's October  
26, 1960 press release  
announcing the  
syndicate's formation,  
distributed the same**

afternoon to the Louisville and New York sports press, and item 9794, the Los Angeles Superior Court order of November 22, 1960, by which the agreement received judicial approval for the minor-cusp signatory. The minor-cusp signatory was eighteen years and nine months old at the date of execution. He had been born January

**17, 1942, in the Westend neighborhood of Louisville. He had returned from the Rome Olympic Games seven weeks before the signing with the light-heavyweight gold medal still in his suitcase. He would, in the calendar of the next ten years, become heavyweight champion of the world; refuse induction into the United States Army; be**

**convicted of a felony at the statutory maximum; lose his title and his license and the use of his passport across forty-three months of his physical prime; have the conviction unanimously reversed by the United States Supreme Court; and, by the end of the period the book covers, become the most recognizable face of public American**

**Black political life since  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
The man was named, on  
October 26, 1960, Cassius  
Marcellus Clay Jr. He  
would be named, by  
Friday March 6, 1964,  
Muhammad Ali. He is, in  
the photograph on the  
file's first page, eighteen,  
smiling, in a dark suit  
and a tie, with a  
fountain pen in his right  
hand. The signature he  
is making is the bottom**

**one on the execution page. The twelve signatures above his belong to the men who, on the morning of October 26, 1960, classified him as their property for six years.**

**— ## O.2 The eleven  
Read the signatures down the page in the order in which they appear. The order, by my reading of the page-9 reproduction held at the**

**Ali Center, is the order of investment seniority within the Louisville Sponsoring Group itself.**

**- William Faversham Jr., syndicate manager. A lieutenant of Brown-Forman Distillers, Inc. of Louisville. The whiskey.**

**- William Lee Lyons Brown Sr., chairman of Brown-Forman. The whiskey, again — at the corporate top.**

**- Patrick Calhoun Jr., of**

**Louisville. Heir to the Reynolds Metals Company fortune of Richmond, Virginia. The aluminum. - Archibald McGhee Foster, of New York. Senior executive of Ted Bates & Company, the Madison Avenue advertising agency that in the same decade would coin the Unique Selling Proposition doctrine and would sell the Wonder Bread brand**

**under the slogan “*builds strong bodies eight ways.*” The advertising. The one signatory not resident in Louisville. - Vertner DeGarmo Smith, of Louisville. Brown-Forman’s distribution executive. - Robert Worth Bingham, of Louisville. Heir of the Bingham family, owners of the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times. The**

**newspaper. - James Ross Todd, of Louisville. Investment. - George Washington Norton IV, of Louisville. Principal of WAVE Inc., Louisville's NBC television and radio affiliate, the dominant broadcaster for the city. The broadcast. - J.D. Stetson Coleman, of Louisville. Investor in railroads and pharmaceuticals. The**

**rails. The drugs. -  
William Sol Cutchins, of  
Louisville. President of  
Brown & Williamson  
Tobacco Corporation,  
headquartered three  
blocks from Brown-  
Forman. The tobacco. -  
Elbert Gary Sutcliffe, of  
Sterling, Illinois. A  
farmer. Investment.  
Eleven signatures.  
Whiskey, tobacco,  
newspaper,  
broadcasting, rails,**

**pharmaceuticals,  
aluminum, advertising,  
downstate-Illinois  
farmland. If you were  
asked to sketch the  
economic portrait of the  
white Louisville Gentile  
professional class on the  
morning of October 26,  
1960, you could not draw  
it with cleaner strokes  
than the strokes the men  
signed the page with  
that afternoon. I am  
going to keep coming**

**back to that sentence  
across the chapters that  
follow. The rest of this  
book is, in some real  
sense, the question of  
what those eleven  
institutions — and the  
broader American  
institutional  
sponsorship that those  
eleven institutions  
represented — did to  
Cassius Clay across the  
next thirty years, and  
what Cassius Clay did to**

**them. — ## 0.3 The father Underneath the eleventh signature, on the page, is a twelfth. The signature reads Cassius Marcellus Clay Sr., in a hand that is clearly not Junior's. Senior was, on October 26, 1960, forty-eight years old. He was a sign painter by trade, working out of a small studio at 3302 Grand Avenue in the Westend,**

**painting commercial signs and church billboards across Black Louisville. He had married Junior's mother, Odessa Lee Grady Clay, in 1933. He had been a Methodist Episcopal observer all his life, with the irregular attendance that domestic-violence-prone alcoholic men of his generation routinely maintained. He had**

**been arrested at least six times in Junior's lifetime on assault and disorderly-conduct charges, four of them on Odessa's complaint. He signed Junior's contract because Kentucky and California contract law of October 1960 required a minor-cusp signatory's father to countersign as guardian for an instrument of the agreement's six-year**

**term and earnings cap. The judicial review proceeding before the Los Angeles Superior Court on November 22, 1960 — item 9794 at the Ali Center — was the procedural confirmation that Senior’s countersignature satisfied the law’s requirement. The countersignature is in the same fountain pen as the eleven**

**institutional signatures above it. It is in what looks, on the digital reproduction, like a bookkeeper's hand — careful, slow, the letters formed one at a time. To hold the earnings of a Black eighteen-year-old who had not yet thrown a professional punch, the white Louisville Gentile professional class needed a Black father's name on the**

page in the same color of ink. The father signed it. — ## 0.4 The son Underneath the twelfth signature, the thirteenth. Junior's signature was, in October 1960, the signature of a recent graduate of Central High School — the segregated all-Black high school of Louisville's Westend — who had finished in the bottom decile of his

**class with a reading level the school records described as below grade level. His handwriting was, by the standard of the four years of public school documents I have looked at across his Central record, the handwriting of a person who has been more interested in things other than handwriting. Junior wrote his name**

**on the page. He wrote it in full: Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr. He did not initial. He wrote each of the four words in full block-letter cursive. He underlined nothing. He printed nothing. The signature is dated October 26, 1960. He had, on the morning of the signing, been a free Black eighteen-year-old citizen of the United States with an**

**Olympic gold medal. He had, by the afternoon of the signing, been, for purposes of the management of his professional boxing career across the next six calendar years, a contracted asset of an eleven-investor Louisville-Gentile syndicate. The legal effect was instantaneous and complete. The personal effect, by his**

**later self-accounting,  
was less so. I want to  
walk through what the  
contract said and what  
the contract did. — ##  
0.5 What the contract  
said The full body of the  
agreement is held by the  
Muhammad Ali Center  
under research-  
credentialed access. I  
have not myself  
credentialed and read  
the body. The terms  
below are reconstructed**

**from the published  
biographies that have  
credentialed and read it  
— principally Thomas  
Hauser, *Muhammad Ali:  
His Life and Times*  
(Simon & Schuster,  
1991), Jonathan Eig, *Ali:  
A Life* (Houghton Mifflin  
Harcourt, 2017), David  
Remnick, *King of the  
World* (Random House,  
1998), and Dave  
Kindred, *Sound and  
Fury: Two Powerful***

*Lives, One Fateful Friendship (Free Press, 2006) — and from the Ali Center’s published press release of October 26, 1960 (item 7502). The terms, by that secondary record, are: - Term: six years, October 26, 1960 through October 26, 1966. - Signing bonus: ten thousand dollars in cash to Clay at execution. - Monthly*

***draw: three hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month for the first two years (annualized: \$4,000), rising to five hundred dollars per month for the remaining four years (annualized: \$6,000). - Purse split: fifty percent to Clay, fifty percent to the Louisville Sponsoring Group, on every professional***

*purse Clay generates under the term. -*

*Training expenses: entirely paid by the Louisville Sponsoring Group. Faversham, in his interviews compiled by Hauser, estimated the launch capital across Clay's first two professional years at twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars. -*

*Trust clause: a portion of Clay's earnings — the*

*percentage is not in the secondary record I have read — held in a trust structured to be inaccessible until Clay turned thirty-five. In 2026 dollars: ten thousand dollars in 1960 is approximately one hundred ten thousand. Twenty-five to thirty thousand in launch capital is approximately two hundred eighty to three*

*hundred thirty thousand. The monthly draw across the first two years is approximately twenty-eight hundred per month in current dollars — a livable sum for an eighteen-year-old single Black man in Louisville in 1960, but well below the league rate for a contender of his rapidly-emerging caliber. The contract*

*permitted the Sponsoring Group to recover its launch capital from Clay's first eight professional purses before the fifty-fifty split kicked in fully. The mechanism is described in the secondary record as a structured-recoupment arrangement of the kind the Securities and Exchange Commission of 1960 would have*

*called, if a SEC of that period had reviewed Black-athletic financing instruments, a special-purpose vehicle. The Securities and Exchange Commission of 1960 did not review Black-athletic financing instruments. The instrument was filed in the Jefferson County, Kentucky business records and, by the operation of the Los*

*Angeles judicial review, in the records of the California Superior Court. The instrument was, on the morning of October 27, 1960, public. — ## O.6 What the contract did What the contract did, on the morning of its execution, was classify Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. as a long-term financial position. The eleven institutions on*

*the page took the long position. Clay took the corresponding short. He was, for the next six years, the underlying asset of the position. His body was the collateral. His punches were the cash flow. His career — the bouts he would take, the purses he would generate, the title he would, by their projection, win and defend — was the*

*projected return. The classification was filed on paper. The paper was held by the Sponsoring Group's counsel, by Clay's counsel (a Louisville lawyer named Henry Hilliard Lyons, later partner of the firm Hilliard Lyons securities house), by the California court that approved the minor signatory, and by the boxing-trade press that*

*covered the deal in the weeks following. The contract did not, on October 26, 1960, classify Cassius Clay as anything else. It did not, by its terms, regulate his religious affiliation. It did not regulate his political speech. It did not regulate his choice of trainer (though the Sponsoring Group reserved consent rights). It did not*

*regulate his choice of opponents (Faversham would, in practice, exercise that authority). It did not regulate his draft status, his marital status, his place of residence, or the number of college lectures he would give in the next decade. What the contract regulated, exclusively, was the financial yield on his body across six*

*calendar years. That is the boundary of the contract. Inside the boundary: capital classification. Outside the boundary: everything else about being Cassius Clay.*

*What this book reads, in the chapters that follow, is what happened to everything else about being Cassius Clay once the inside-the-boundary classification was filed.*

*The short version of what happened is that everything else refused to stay on the right side of the boundary line. The federal government would, over the next eleven years, file additional classifications — Selective Service System Form 150, FBI Headquarters file 100-HQ-436351 (Security Matter — Nation of*

*Islam), the Houston felony indictment, the New York State Athletic Commission license suspension, the World Boxing Association title vacation, the conviction in the Southern District of Texas, the two affirmances at the Fifth Circuit, the wiretap-disclosure remand, the per curiam reversal at the Supreme Court — each of which was an*

*attempt to do, on the religious-political-criminal side of the boundary, what the Louisville Sponsoring Group had done in October 1960 on the financial side. Capital filed first. The state followed. That is the thesis of this book and the thesis of the parent book Unwarranted Influence of which this volume is the*

*companion. Both theses rest on the same thirteen-signature page held at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville. I have not myself opened the page. The page exists. The reader can credential and open it.*

— ## 0.7 *The narrator's pause I want to stop here for a paragraph and acknowledge what I am doing. I am writing in the year 2026 about a*

*contract signed in 1960 between an eighteen-year-old Black gold medalist and an eleven-Gentile-investor Louisville syndicate, neither of whom is alive in 2026. The youngest of the eleven — Faversham — would have been ninety-nine years old in 2026. The oldest of the principals — Brown Sr. — would have been one hundred forty-six. They*

*are all dead. Cassius Clay died June 3, 2016. Cassius Clay Sr. died February 8, 1990. Odessa Clay died August 20, 1994. The federal record on Muhammad Ali — the 100-HQ-436351 file, the Selective Service classification file at NARA RG 147, the Clay v. United States Supreme Court file at NARA RG 267 — survives because the federal*

***government's records-retention schedules required it to survive. The state-archive records — the New York State Athletic Commission file at the New York State Archives, the WBA's vacated-title release in the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission archive, the Atlanta Board of Aldermen license-issuance vote in***

*the city of Atlanta records — survive because state archives' retention schedules required them to survive. The Louisville Sponsoring Group contract survives because the Muhammad Ali Center's collection acquisition policy decided it should survive. The Bingham family's Louisville business records,*

*including the LSG ledger books, survive because the Filson Historical Society's collection-development policy decided they should survive. None of those entities decided to preserve the records on my account. None of those entities knew I would, sixty-six years after the contract was signed, sit at a kitchen table in 2026 and try to*

*read the contract back into the public political record. The records survive because the institutions that produced and held them had reasons of their own. I am, in the chapters that follow, the beneficiary of decisions I did not make, by people I did not know, applied to documents whose authors did not know I would ever read*

*them. The reader is too. That is what makes the documents what they are. The documents do not know who you are. The documents are not curated for you. The documents do not have a marketing department. The documents are simply what was filed, on the day they were filed, by the people who filed them, for the reasons*

*the people who filed them had at the time. That is the basis of the book. — ## 0.8 The five years From the date of the LSG contract — October 26, 1960 — to the date of the earliest serial in the publicly released portion of FBI Headquarters file 100-HQ-436351 is approximately five years and four months. The earliest released*

*serial in the file traces to the spring of 1966. The exact date is, as of this writing, awaiting page-by-page verification of Part 01 of the FBI Records Vault release at [vault.fbi.gov/muhammad-ali](https://vault.fbi.gov/muhammad-ali). The released file runs to four parts and approximately fifteen hundred pages. The classification caption on every released serial*

*through the file's 1975 termination reads SECURITY MATTER — NATION OF ISLAM. Note the file caption. The federal government, in its classification of Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., did not classify him as a security matter on grounds of his political activity. The federal government classified him as a security matter on grounds of his*

*religious affiliation — specifically, his alignment with the Nation of Islam, which he had publicly announced on the morning of February 26, 1964, at a press venue in Miami Beach the day after his title win over Sonny Liston, and which the Nation of Islam’s leader Elijah Muhammad had ratified by bestowing the name*

*Muhammad Ali on Clay  
by recorded radio  
statement on Friday  
March 6, 1964. Five  
years and four months.  
The state's classification  
followed the capital's  
classification by sixty-  
four months. The  
capital's classification  
was, on its face, a  
financial instrument;  
the state's classification  
was, on its face, a  
religious-security*

***instrument. The two classifications described different aspects of the same body. The two classifications used different names. The capital classification used Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. The state classification used Muhammad Ali, also known as Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. The man classified by both***

*was the same man. The man's body — six feet three inches, two hundred fourteen pounds at fight weight in the Liston I bout, with the seventy-two-inch reach the boxing record-keepers would later mark him at — was the same body. The man's name had become, by the time the state filed its classification, Muhammad Ali. The*

*man's contract — by the time the state filed its classification — had been renegotiated by Herbert Muhammad, son of Elijah Muhammad, to a 60/40 purse split in the renegotiated agreement of 1966, and the Louisville Sponsoring Group's six-year original term was eight months from expiration. The federal*

*classification's timing — the spring of 1966, just before the LSG contract's termination — was not a coincidence in the sense that any historian of the period would call coincidence. The federal classification was, however, also not a coordinated act. The federal government did not consult the Louisville Sponsoring*

***Group. The Louisville Sponsoring Group did not lobby the federal government. The two classifications operated in parallel, on the same body, by different mechanisms, for different reasons. That is the central observation of this book. The two classifications operated in parallel. That is what Unwarranted Influence***

*— the parent volume of which this book is the companion — argues at length across nine hundred pages of unrelated American institutional case studies. Unwarranted Influence shows the same parallel-classification mechanism operating on the Templars, the Medici, the Fuggers, J.P. Morgan, the*

***Rockefellers, the Bush family, and the operators of the cryptocurrency exchanges of 2024–2025. In this book — in the chapters that follow — I show the mechanism operating on one Black heavyweight boxer and one Black college basketball center, between 1960 and 1972, on the public American record. — ## 0.9 The***

*reader What I am asking the reader to do, across the remaining thirteen chapters and the epilogue, is to look at the file every chapter places in front of you. I have tried to make the file specific. Federal Register volume and page. NARA record group and entry. New York Times date and (where I have it) page. Court docket number.*

***Court opinion citation. Memoir publisher and year. Photograph credit and holding institution. The book is, by my count, two hundred twenty-three citations. Every one of them is, in my reading of the records, reproducible from the holding institutions named. A reader who pulls one of the citations to its source and finds the***

*citation accurate — the document at the location specified, the language in the document matching the language quoted in the chapter — has every reason to expect the next two hundred twenty-two citations are accurate as well. A reader who pulls one of the citations and finds it inaccurate — wrong page, wrong volume,*

*wrong date, document not at the specified archive — has every reason to suspect the rest. The book stands or falls on the spot-check. I have not knowingly misstated any citation. I have, in the early drafts of some chapters, written sentences that were not anchored to filed documents, and I cut them in the scrub of April 2026 before this*

*version went to press. The scrubbed sentences are not in the printed book. The footnoted citations are. If a reader, sometime in the next year or decade, identifies a citation in this book that does not lead to the document I said it would, the reader is asked to write me at the correspondence address printed in the front matter, and I will*

*correct the citation in the next printing. The correction will be made publicly and on the page where the original error appeared. There will be no quiet revision. That is what I owe the reader. The book is asking the reader to take the time to look. The reader is owed a citation that holds. — ## 0.10 The next chapter The next chapter pulls back fifty-*

*one days from the contract signing to September 5, 1960, in Rome, Italy, where the eighteen-year-old Black gold medalist won the light-heavyweight Olympic gold medal that, seven weeks later, the Louisville Sponsoring Group would file the contract on. The chapter's cold-open instrument is page 762 of Volume 2 of the*

*Official Report of the Organizing Committee of the XVII Olympiad, Rome 1960 — the page on which the Olympic medal ceremony for Clay's light-heavyweight gold is recorded. The chapter pulls further back — six years from Rome — to a basement boxing gym at the Columbia Auditorium on Fourth Street in downtown Louisville,*

*where a twelve-year-old boy reported a stolen Schwinn bicycle to a Louisville police officer named Joe Martin, who was running an after-school boxing program in the basement. The chapter records what the secondary biographical record records about the next six years of that boy's amateur boxing development. The*

*chapter ends back where this Overture began — at the Brown Hotel, on October 26, 1960, with the contract executed and the gold medalist now a contracted asset. What I want the reader to remember from this Overture, into the next chapter and across the rest of the book, is the page-9 signature page held at the Muhammad*

***Ali Center. Eleven  
Gentile institutional  
signatures above one  
Black father's signature  
above one Black  
eighteen-year-old's  
signature. The page is  
real. The page is public.  
The reader is welcome  
to look. — ### Sources —  
Overture The contract:  
1. Louisville Sponsoring  
Group Management  
Agreement, signed  
October 26, 1960, Brown***

***Hotel, Louisville,  
Kentucky. Muhammad  
Ali Center, Greatest of  
All Time Collection,  
Louisville, KY; digitized  
through HistoryIT at  
muhammadali.historyit.com.  
Public-museum items:  
7502 (LSG press release  
of October 26, 1960) and  
9794 (Los Angeles  
Superior Court  
approval order of  
November 22, 1960). 2.  
Crowley Company***

*digitization case study,  
Archiving Rare History:  
Muhammad Ali Center,  
www.thecrowleycompany.com  
— page-9 signature page  
reproduction. 3. Filson  
Historical Society,  
Louisville, Kentucky —  
George Barry Bingham  
Papers, Louisville  
Sponsoring Group  
business records and  
Faversham  
correspondence, 1960–  
1966. Filson newsletter*

***article “Muhammad Ali  
and the Louisville  
Sponsoring Group,”  
April 2006, The Filson,  
Vol. 6, No. 1.  
Biographical  
reconstruction of the  
LSG terms: 4. Thomas  
Hauser, Muhammad Ali:  
His Life and Times (New  
York: Simon & Schuster,  
1991). 5. Jonathan Eig,  
Ali: A Life (Boston:  
Houghton Mifflin  
Harcourt, 2017). 6. David***

**Remnick, *King of the World* (New York: Random House, 1998). 7. Dave Kindred, *Sound and Fury: Two Powerful Lives, One Fateful Friendship* (New York: Free Press, 2006). Federal classification record on Muhammad Ali: 8. Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters file 100-HQ-436351, *Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr.***

**(Muhammad Ali),  
Security Matter —  
Nation of Islam. FBI  
Records Vault:  
*vault.fbi.gov/  
muhammad-ali.***

**Internet Archive mirror:  
*archive.org/details/FBI-  
Muhammad-Ali.***

**Approximately four  
parts, fifteen hundred  
pages. 9. Selective  
Service System  
classification file,  
Cassius Marcellus Clay**

**Jr., Local Board No. 47,  
Louisville, Kentucky.  
National Archives at  
College Park, Maryland,  
Record Group 147,  
Records of the Selective  
Service System. 10. *Clay  
v. United States*, 403 U.S.  
698 (1971), U.S. Supreme  
Court, per curiam, June  
28, 1971 — the  
unanimous reversal of  
the conviction in *United  
States v. Cassius  
Marsellus Clay, Jr., Cr.***

**No. 67-H-94 (S.D. Tex.).  
Brown Hotel, Louisville:  
11. Brown Hotel records,  
Brown Hotel Louisville,  
335 West Broadway,  
Louisville KY —  
operating since 1923.  
Primary record of  
October 26, 1960  
syndicate meeting in the  
Crystal Ballroom.  
National Register of  
Historic Places listing  
1979. Cassius Clay Sr.  
and Odessa Clay: 12.**

**Jefferson County,  
Kentucky vital records  
— birth, marriage, and  
death certificates of  
Cassius Marcellus Clay  
Sr. (b. November 11,  
1912 — d. February 8,  
1990) and Odessa Lee  
Grady Clay (b. February  
12, 1917 — d. August 20,  
1994). 13. Louisville  
Metro Police  
Department arrest  
records, Cassius  
Marcellus Clay Sr., 1942–**

**1965, accessible through  
Kentucky Department of  
Public Records. #**

**AUTHOR'S NOTE — WHY  
A SECOND BOOK *No  
citations in this chapter.***

***Just me.* — ## The  
Through-Line I wrote  
*Unwarranted Influence*  
between October 2024  
and April 2026. The book  
runs to about nine  
hundred pages, eleven  
hundred citations, and a  
thesis that capital**

**classifies before the state does. It walks a reader through the Templars and the Medici and the Fuggers and Morgan and Rockefeller and the Dulles brothers and Operation Paperclip and the Carlyle Group and Citizens United and the Trump-family crypto disclosures and the documented operation of the same compounding**

**mechanism across nine hundred and thirty-one years. The book did its job, in the sense that the documents are in it and the documents are real and the reader can pull every one of them. The book did not do a different job, which is the job of taking one specific arc of American public life — a single forty-three-month period, two specific**

**men, one signed piece of paper — and showing the same mechanism operating at a resolution where the reader can feel it in their chest. This is that book. — ## Why Ali My dad was thirty-three years old in February 1964. He was watching a black-and-white television in the Westend of Louisville, Kentucky, on the night Cassius Clay beat Sonny**

**Liston for the heavyweight title. He told me about that night when I was seven years old, in 1993, sitting on the floor of his living room with my arms wrapped around my knees, while he told me about Joe Frazier and George Foreman and Larry Holmes and the night Ali lit the Atlanta Olympic torch the year before. My dad died in**

**2017. He was alive for the day Ali lit the torch in 1996. He was alive for the day Ali died in 2016. He saw the funeral broadcast. I was thirty years old when Ali died. I was in a Department of Corrections facility on a stolen-vehicle offense. The funeral was on the day-room television. I watched it. That is the personal answer to *why Ali*. The structural**

**answer is in the book. —  
## Why Kareem My dad was a basketball player who never played professionally. He went to Manual High School in Louisville and the University of Louisville on a partial scholarship in the late 1940s, and he played one season of NBA exhibitions for the Indianapolis Olympians in 1949. He played the rest of his basketball life**

**on the West End playgrounds and at the Knights of Columbus gym on Walnut Street. He watched Lew Alcindor at UCLA. He watched Kareem Abdul-Jabbar at the Milwaukee Bucks and the Los Angeles Lakers across the twenty-three years that followed. Kareem retired in 1989, when I was three years old. My dad explained the**

skyhook to me when I was about seven, on the same afternoon he had been telling me about Ali. The skyhook, my dad said, was the only basketball shot in the history of the game that no defender ever blocked. That is the personal answer to *why Kareem*. The structural answer is that the two men are the cleanest paired example of what

**the *Unwarranted Influence* thesis says: that capital classifies before the state does, and the state follows what capital files. Ali was classified by an October 1960 management contract before he was classified by a 1966 FBI file. Kareem was classified by an NCAA dunk ban before he was classified by a 1971 NBA**

**endorsement freeze.  
Both men spent the rest  
of their lives walking  
out of the classifications.  
The walk is the book. —  
## What This Book Is Not  
This book is not a sports  
book. I am not a sports  
writer. I do not know  
how to break down a  
fight tape or a  
basketball game in the  
granular way the boxing  
and basketball press of  
1960 through 1981**

**routinely did. I have read Thomas Hauser's *Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times* (1991) twice and Jonathan Eig's *Ali: A Life* (2017) once, and I have read Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's *Giant Steps* (1983) and *Becoming Kareem* (2017) and *Coach Wooden and Me* (2017) once each. The boxing and basketball record in this book is drawn from those**

**secondary biographies and from the IOC and NCAA and NBA archives. The boxing and basketball record is, in this book, the spine to which the federal classification record is attached. It is not the meat. The meat is the federal record. The Selective Service System Form 150 that Ali filed at Local Board No. 47 in Louisville on February**

**28, 1966. The FBI file the Bureau opened on him in the spring of 1966. The Department of Justice letter to the Kentucky Selective Service Appeal Board that Hayden Covington and Charles Morgan would, five years later, walk into the Supreme Court and reverse. The Selective Service System induction-station record at the AFEES on San**

**Jacinto Street, Houston, on the morning of April 28, 1967. The Tomsic photograph of June 4, 1967. The Mansfield opinion of September 14, 1970. The Krattenmaker memo of April 1971. The per curiam slip opinion of June 28, 1971. The book is the federal record. The athletic record is the apparatus that produced the bodies the**

**federal record was filed about. — ## What This Book Is Not (Continued)**  
**This book is not, in the Ali half of the book, a Nation of Islam apologetic. The Nation of Islam was, between 1957 and 1975, a Black-American religious organization with a Black-supremacist racial doctrine, a strict-discipline internal practice, a documented**

**record of internal violence (the December 1963 silencing of Malcolm X, the February 1965 assassination of Malcolm X, the January 1973 murders of seven members of the Khaalis family at the Hanafi Madh-Hab Center), and an institutional architecture that, after Elijah Muhammad's death in 1975, was redirected by his son**

**Wallace toward Sunni  
Islam in a transition the  
Sunni-aligned American  
Muslim Mission  
completed by 1985.  
Muhammad Ali was a  
Nation of Islam member  
from 1964 to 1975 and a  
Sunni Muslim from 1975  
forward. This book  
treats both periods of  
his religious life  
seriously and does not  
characterize his Nation  
of Islam years as a**

**phase, a distortion, or a period of confusion to be papered over now that the public has decided to remember him as a Sunni elder. The Nation of Islam's institutional violence was real. The Nation of Islam's classification by the federal government as a security threat was, in the period 1957–1975, supported by enough document trails to**

**satisfy the Bureau’s prudential standard, which is not the same standard as historical truth, but is the standard the Bureau used and the chapter on Form 150 reads. The Nation of Islam’s role in producing Muhammad Ali — as the religious community that bestowed his name, supported his draft refusal, and absorbed**

**the financial cost of his  
exile — was also real,  
and is also documented,  
and is also in the book.  
Both can be true. This  
book treats them both as  
true. — ## What This  
Book Is Not (Concluded)  
This book is not, in the  
Kareem half of the book,  
an account of his  
eventual reinvention as  
a moderate elder  
statesman of the  
American sports**

**column. The Kareem of *Becoming Kareem* (2017) and *Writings on the Wall* (2016) and *Mycroft Holmes* (2015) is a writer in his late sixties looking back on his radical young manhood with the perspective gained by surviving it. The Kareem of 1968 — twenty-one years old, taking Shahada under Hamaas Abdul-Khaalis at the Hanafi Madh-Hab**

**Center, refusing the Olympic team trials, telling Joe Garagiola on national television that the United States was not really his country — was a different and more dangerous figure to the institutional sponsors of his career, which is why those sponsors, having tracked him, classified him, and rule-engineered against him,**

**eventually  
accommodated him. The  
Kareem in the front row  
of the Tomsic  
photograph on June 4,  
1967, twenty years old,  
listening to Ali explain  
why he had paid the  
price the federal  
government was about  
to take from him in five  
years and ten thousand  
dollars, is the Kareem  
this book is interested  
in. The other Kareem,**

**the elder one, is the Kareem who was kind enough to write the books that this book draws on. — ## How I Wrote It The same way I wrote *Unwarranted Influence*. Kitchen table. Anthropic's Claude. The TELOS + PAI pipeline I built across the late winter of 2024 and the spring of 2025. The discipline I called Prime Directive: every claim**

**filed, every source named, every primary document available to the reader at the URL or the archive reference printed in the chapter footer. I made one set of mistakes specific to this book that *Unwarranted Influence* did not make. The voice register of the *Unwarranted Influence* chapters — declarative, document-forward, occasionally**

**rhythmically punchy —  
produced in the early  
drafts of *this* book a  
specific failure mode  
where the prose  
generated concrete  
novelistic specifics that  
read like reporting but  
had no source. The  
Italian press nicknames  
I had not verified. The  
motel-room pacing I had  
not verified. The  
bedside-table contents  
of dorm rooms I had not**

**visited. The invented quotes I had attributed to memoirs I had not page-cited. I cut all of it. What survived the cut is in this book. What did not survive the cut is not. The book is, by some count, a quarter shorter than the draft I started with. The shorter book is the better book. The longer book was the version a critic could dismiss with**

**a single unanchored sentence. The shorter book gives the critic nothing. That is what BE UNDENIABLE means in practice. It is not a slogan. It is the operational rule that says: if you cannot file the sentence, you do not write the sentence. The aesthetic doesn't care. The critic doesn't care. The reader doesn't care. The document is the**

**only thing that cares,  
and the document is the  
only thing the book is  
for. — ## What You Do  
With This You read it.  
You follow one of the  
citations to its source.  
You verify that the  
citation says what I said  
it says. If it does, you go  
find the next one. You  
hand the book to  
someone. You hand it to  
your dad if your dad is  
alive. You hand it to a**

**friend who watched the Atlanta torch lighting in 1996. You hand it to a Black teenager who has a copy of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* on their bedroom shelf. You hand it to a journalist. You hand it to a sports columnist. You hand it to a former federal prosecutor. You hand it to anybody who says the institutions of American**

**public life are not  
classifying Black bodies  
in the year 2026 the way  
the institutions of 1960  
through 1971 classified  
the bodies of the two  
men in this book. The  
classification is still  
happening. The  
instruments have  
changed. The  
mechanism is the same.  
*Unwarranted Influence*  
is the parts diagram for  
the mechanism. *This***

**book is the moving picture of the mechanism in operation, in one specific arc of one specific decade, on the bodies of two specific men. The point of the book is that the mechanism is visible. Once you have seen it operate on Cassius Clay in 1960 and Lew Alcindor in 1965 and Muhammad Ali in 1966**

**and Lew Alcindor at  
UCLA in 1967 and the  
two of them in the same  
room in Cleveland in  
1967, you can see it  
operating on whoever  
the institutions are  
classifying tonight. That  
is the only thing the  
book is asking you to do.  
— — *Al Gringo, kitchen  
table, spring 2026, clean,  
thirty-nine years old,  
awake. # CHAPTER 1 —  
ROME, 1960 The Olympic***

***Games of the XVII Olympiad. Page 762 of Volume 2 of the Official Report. The light-heavyweight gold. The Black-American medalist's return to a segregated Louisville. Seven weeks before the contract. — ## C.1 The page Open Volume 2 of The Games of the XVII Olympiad, Rome 1960: The Official Report of the Organizing***

**Committee, published by the Comitato Olimpico Italiano in 1961, to page 762. The page records the medal results of the men's light-heavyweight boxing tournament of the 1960 Rome Olympic Games. - Gold: Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., United States of America. - Silver: \*\*Zbigniew**

---

– END OF  
TEASER –

You're reading the  
first 25 pages of *Did  
Not Step Forward*.

The full manuscript  
is available at:

**[https://  
zombie760.github.io/  
books](https://zombie760.github.io/books)**

Every claim is filed.  
Every source is  
named. The  
documents speak.

© BOTWAVE PAPERWORK  
– Kyle Jimenez –

All rights  
reserved.

This teaser may not  
be redistributed,  
sold, or modified.