

“Shut Up & Dribble” Movie Notes

In spite of the claim that sports should be a politics-free zone, the history of the NBA shows that both the league and many of its players have long been activist minded.

Part I

1. What challenges did **Bill Russell** face with USF and later the Celtics in the 1950s AND how did he address them?
2. What were some of the events early in his career that helped shape **Lew Alcindor's (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)** outlook on sports activism?
3. **Larry Bird** and **Magic Johnson** represented a shift away from the activism of the 1950s-1970s to a more marketable/commercial time for the NBA in the 1980s. EXPLAIN how they helped to do this.

Part II

4. **Michael Jordan** made the choice NOT to get involved in politics, instead opting for cultivation of his brand. Support this with 2 examples from the documentary.
5. How is **Craig Hodges** an example of a cautionary tale for athletes in the '80s and early '90s NOT to be outspoken about their political views?

Part III

6. The killing of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner and others inspired renewed activism on the part of contemporary NBA (and WNBA) players. Support this with 2 examples of modern protest in the NBA.

REFLECTION QUESTION

How could you make the case that the NBA, from its start, has been about more than just dribbling?