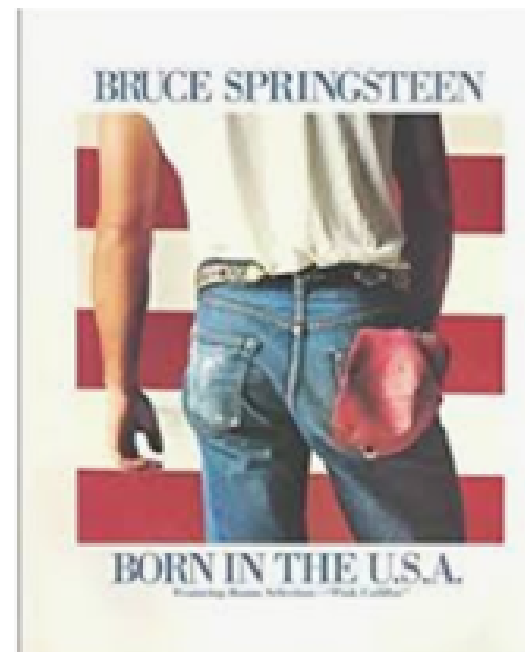


# ***BORN IN THE U.S.A.***

(1984)

by **Bruce Springsteen**



**LISTEN TO *BORN IN THE U.S.A.*: DO  
YOU THINK IT'S A PATRIOTIC SONG?**

Born down in a dead man's town

The first kick I took was when I hit the ground

You end up like a dog that's been beat too much

Till you spend half your life just covering up

*refrain*



Born in the U.S.A.

I was born in the U.S.A.

I was born in the U.S.A.

Born in the U.S.A.

Got in a little hometown jam  
So they put a rifle in my hand  
Sent me off to a foreign land  
To go and kill the yellow man

Come back home to the refinery  
Hiring man said "Son if it was up to me"  
Went down to see my V.A. man  
He said "Son, don't you understand"

I had a brother at Khe Sahn  
Fighting off the Viet Cong  
They're still there, he's all gone  
He had a woman he loved in Saigon  
I got a picture of him in her arms now

Down in the shadow of the penitentiary  
Out by the gas fires of the refinery  
I'm ten years burning down the road  
Nowhere to run ain't got nowhere to go



Born in the U.S.A.

I was born in the U.S.A.

Born in the U.S.A.

I'm a long gone Daddy in the U.S.A.

Born in the U.S.A.

Born in the U.S.A.

Born in the U.S.A.

I'm a cool rocking Daddy in the U.S.A.

When it was published (in 1984), *Born in the U.S.A.* was **mistaken** for a patriotic song: it was exploited for the presidential elections of Ronald Reagan. Springsteen, however, immediately refused such an exploitation of his image (the American rock star did not particularly like Ronald's political positions...).

*Born in the U.S.A.* is **NOT** a patriotic song!

**What is the subject of the song?**

**Of course, if you listen only to the refrain you could mistake *Born in the U.S.A.* for a celebration of patriotism.**

"Born in the U.S.A.  
I was born in the U.S.A.  
I was born in the U.S.A.  
Born in the U.S.A."

**But if you're listening closely, the lyrics of the song make its subject pretty clear: the 1984 hit describes a Vietnam War veteran who returns home to desperate circumstances and few options.**

**" Nowhere to run ain't got nowhere to go"**

In conclusion, we can say that *Born in the U.S.A.* was both a tribute to Springsteen's friends who had experienced the Vietnam War (some of them didn't come back) and a **protest** against the hard conditions the Vietnam veterans had to face when they returned from the war.

**VIETNAM VETERANS WERE REFUSED BY SOCIETY. IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR A LOT OF THEM TO FIND A JOB (AND TO FORGET THE HORRIBLE THINGS THEY HAD SEEN IN VIETNAM).**

