

The Vietnam War and American Society (1960-1975)

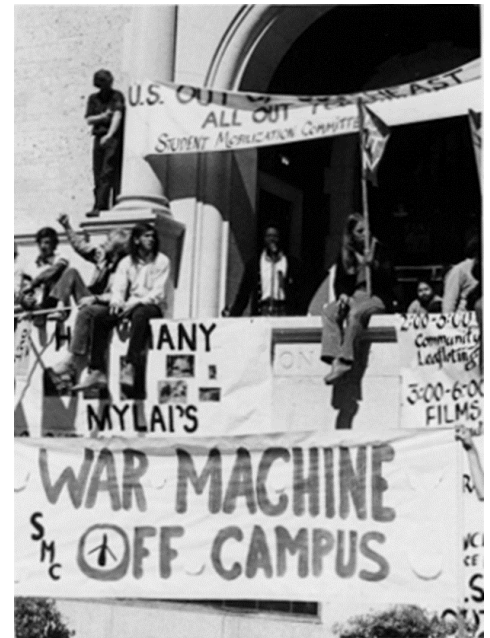
The Anti-War Movement & The U.S. Military Draft

OBJECTIVES

- Describe the role students played in the anti-war protest movements of the 1960's.
- Explain the U.S. military draft and evaluate the reaction some groups had to this draft.

The Anti-War Movement

- Popular support for the Vietnam War began to drop in the mid- to late-1960s
 - Many loyal and patriotic Americans defended U.S. involvement in Vietnam, however.
 - This issue created deep divisions in the United States
- People against the war:
 - Thought it was morally wrong
 - Didn't understand why we got involved
 - Wanted immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops
- Baby Boomers from the 1950s began graduating from High School and College
 - The popular culture of the 1950s and 1960s showed that many young Americans were not satisfied with the values of their parents.



"We are people of this generation, bred in at least modest comfort, housed now in universities, looking uncomfortably at the world we inherit. When we were kids the United States was the wealthiest and strongest country in the world... As we grew, however, our comfort was penetrated by events too troubling to dismiss... We would replace power rooted in possession, privilege, or circumstance by power and uniqueness rooted in love, reflectiveness, reason, and creativity. As a social system we seek the establishment of a democracy with individual participation."

- anti-war feelings of an American student



- Students were among the first to protest the Vietnam War
 - They called the war “an example of American imperialism”
 - Others viewed the conflict as a civil war that should be resolved by the Vietnamese alone
- Many of these students were influenced by heavily liberal professors at the colleges or universities they attended.
 - *Teach-Ins* - Began March 1965 at the University of Michigan.
 - Faculty members made a public statement against the war and professors taught a night session where issues about the war were addressed.
 - Several thousand people showed up. Teach-ins became present at colleges and universities around the country.



- College students began exercising their right to free speech, which often times led to confrontation.
- Students at UC Berkeley were not allowed to pass out flyers about civil rights.
 - They took over the admin building and about 700 students were arrested.
- *Kent State* - Students were unhappy with President Nixon's decision to invade Cambodia
 - They reacted violently:
 - Breaking windows of businesses.
 - Burned the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).
 - The U.S. National Guard was called in
 - Students threw rocks at them
 - National Guard sprayed the crowd with tear gas and began shooting at the crowd
 - 4 students died, 9 students were wounded



“A feeling is widely and strongly held that...we are trying to impose some U.S. image on distant peoples we cannot understand, and that we are carrying the thing to absurd lengths. Related to this feeling is the increased polarization that is taking place in the United States, with seeds of the worst split in our people in more than a century.”

- John McNaughton

The U.S. Military Draft

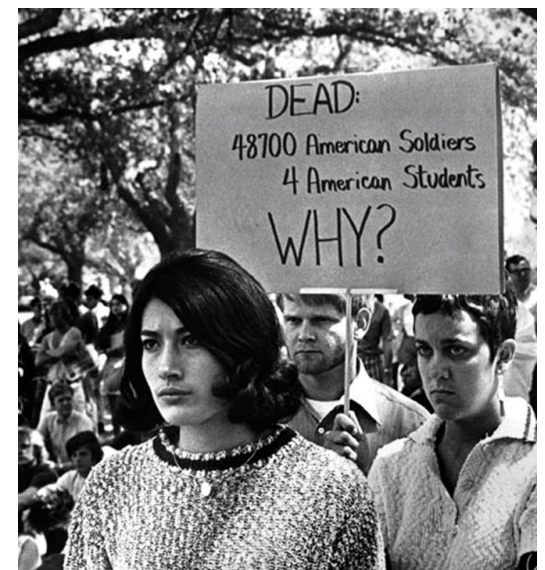
- *Selective Service Act* had been in place since 1951
 - Allowed the government to draft men between the ages of 18 and 26
 - Very few draftees refused service
 - Most who refused to serve were *conscientious objectors*...opposing to fight on moral or religious grounds
 - In July, 1965 Pres. Johnson doubled the number of men who could be drafted into the armed forces
 - This led to a rise of a draft-resistance movement that urged young men not to cooperate with their local draft board
 - Many protestors questioned the morality and fairness of the draft
- 1966...college students who scored low academically could be eligible for the draft
 - Before, they could receive a *deferment*...or official postponement of their call to serve
- 1967...the anti-draft movement grew to massive levels
 - As many as 100,000 young men left for Canada, many more claimed physical injury

“Hey, Hey, LBJ. How many kids did you kill today?”

- Many more students were appalled by the lawlessness of the anti-war student protests
 - They supported the United States and showed their patriotism proudly
 - These students did not receive the same coverage from the media as their classmates

What is “The Draft?”

- Compulsory military service is used when there is a shortage of soldiers.
- When have we used “conscriptioin” in American history?
 - (1860-1865) U.S. Civil War – Those drafted could pay their way out
 - (1914-1918) World War I
 - (1940-1945) World War II – President FDR signed peacetime draft 1940
- Selective Training and Service Act
 - All men age 21-35 must register
 - Changed to 18-45
 - Lottery chose men by birth date
 - Service = 12 months



9. OCCUPATION student		10. NATURE OF BUSINESS, SERVICE RENDERED, OR CHIEF PRODUCT	
11. FIRM OR INDIVIDUAL BY WHOM EMPLOYED Fordham University			
12. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Bronx, N. Y.			
13. Active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States or a cobelligerent nation since Sept. 16, 1940:			
ARMED FORCE OR COUNTRY NONE	SERVICE NO.	DATE OF ENTRY	DATE OF REPARATION
14. Present membership in a reserve component of the Armed Forces:			
ARMED FORCE NONE	SERVICE NO.	DATE OF ENTRY	GRADE
ORGANIZATION	I affirm that I have verified the foregoing answers and that they are true: <i>X Donald John Trump</i> <small>(Signature of registrant)</small>		
I certify that the person registered has read or has had read to him his answers and that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:			
<i>C. Hartleben</i> <small>(Signature of registrar)</small>			
JAMAICA LOCAL BOARD GROUP QUEENS, NY <small>(Number) (City or county) (State) R 476. 100-68797</small>			



- There were 366 blue plastic capsules with dates
 - Each capsule had a calendar date in it
 - Drew one at a time
 - Men born on 1st date were 1st in line for service
- 2nd lottery of alphabet = name order for the date of birth
 - First draft lottery was held on December 1, 1969
 - Served 1970
 - Born 1944-50
 - About 850,000 men affected
- Draft lotteries continue 1970 - 1972
 - Men born 1951-1953
- Draft ended in 1973
 - Men called in 1972 did not serve.

- If they wanted to avoid the draft, what were the options?
 - Run away—usually to Canada
 - Go to college (4 years)
 - Fail the physical exam
 - Conscientious Objectors
 - Reject draft card & join anti-war movement



Vietnam Draft Statistics

- 1,728,344 total men drafted (38% actually served in Vietnam)
- It is estimated that between 70,000-100,000 men fled to Canada
- 60% of men escaped the draft for various reasons
- 25% of total forces were draftees
- Draftees accounted for about 30% of combat deaths in Vietnam



The Counterculture



- Many young people experimented with new forms of dress, different attitudes toward sexual relationships, and the recreational use of drugs
 - They rejected the acceptable ways of life in favor of change and individual choice
- They rejected:
 - 1) Traditional authority (government, parents, etc...)
 - 2) War (nuclear warfare, Vietnam, Cold War)
 - 3) Conformity
 - 4) Materialism, Capitalism, and Consumerism (The "American Dream")
 - 5) Racism and Segregation
- They supported:
 - 1) Women's rights
 - 2) Positive race relations
 - 3) Peaceful spirituality



"It [the counterculture] was an attempt to rebel against the values our parents had pushed on us. We were trying to get back to touching and relating and living."

- Lisa Law, 1985

- Counterculture was made up of mainly white, middle class youth. Entitlement.
 - Grew up with prosperity, therefore had the leisure time to devote to social issues.
- *Hippies*...people who were "hip" or aware of the latest styles – wanted to look and act different
 - Women wore their hair long and chose freer fashions, loose dresses, beads
 - Men chose to let their hair grow long, grew beards, and wore bell bottoms and natural clothing

"Don't trust anyone over thirty."

- Charlton Heston



The Drug Scene

- Many psychedelic drugs were used by the counterculture
 - These drugs contained powerful chemicals that caused the brain to behave abnormally
 - Many advocates preached that drugs would “free the mind.”
- This experimentation left a **DANGEROUS AND NEGATIVE LEGACY!**

“The point was to open up a new space, an inner space, so that we could space out, live for the sheer exultant point of living.”

- Todd Gitlin, hippie researcher



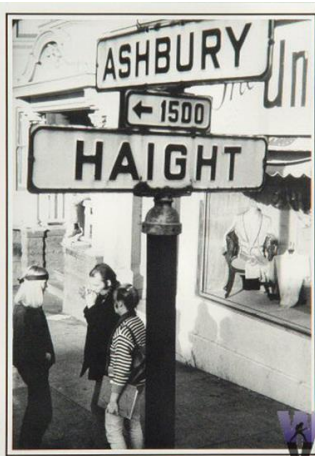
The Sexual Revolution

- Young people demanded freedom to make their own choices
 - Believed that sex should be a separate part of traditional family values
 - Much experimentation among hippies
- Many hippies lived in communal groups or lived as couples without getting married.
- *Did this attitude lead to a deterioration of “family values” and the increase of broken homes (divorce)?*



The “Summer of Love” - 1967

- Young people flocked to the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco – summer of 1967
 - The peak of the counterculture movement
 - Tens of thousands of white, middle class youth migrated to San Francisco
- Unconventional appearance, sexual liberation, heavy drug experimentation, communal living, psychedelic music
- Counterculture spirituality – expand the mind and awareness:
 - Mysticism, astrology, yoga, meditation, peace, love, harmony, music, drugs
- Authorities deemed San Francisco the “*self-indulgent, unpatriotic, and destructively rebellious*” capital of the counterculture movement



Woodstock and the Music Scene

- Rock & roll from 1950s, folk music of the 1960s, and psychedelic drugs combined to form the music of the counterculture
 - New genre of rock: psychedelic rock
- Popular music lyrics, which described the beliefs of the counterculture era:

“turn on, tune in, drop out”
“sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll!”
“do your own thing”
“whatever turns you on”
“eight miles high”
“light my fire”

*“There’s battle lines being drawn
Nobody’s right if everybody’s wrong
Young people speakin’ their minds
Getting’ so much resistance from behind”*
- Buffalo Springfield “For What It’s Worth”

- The counterculture movement came together at a festival called *Woodstock*
 - 400,000 people gathered in August, 1969 in a large pasture in Bethel, New York to listen to the major bands of the rock world

“The event was so much bigger than the music. It was a phenomenon. It was absolutely a phenomenon. And it was also the most peaceful, civilized gathering that was probably happening on the planet at the time.”
-Tom Law, hippie

