

Chapter 17 Section 2

USH Honors

Vietnam Divides a Nation

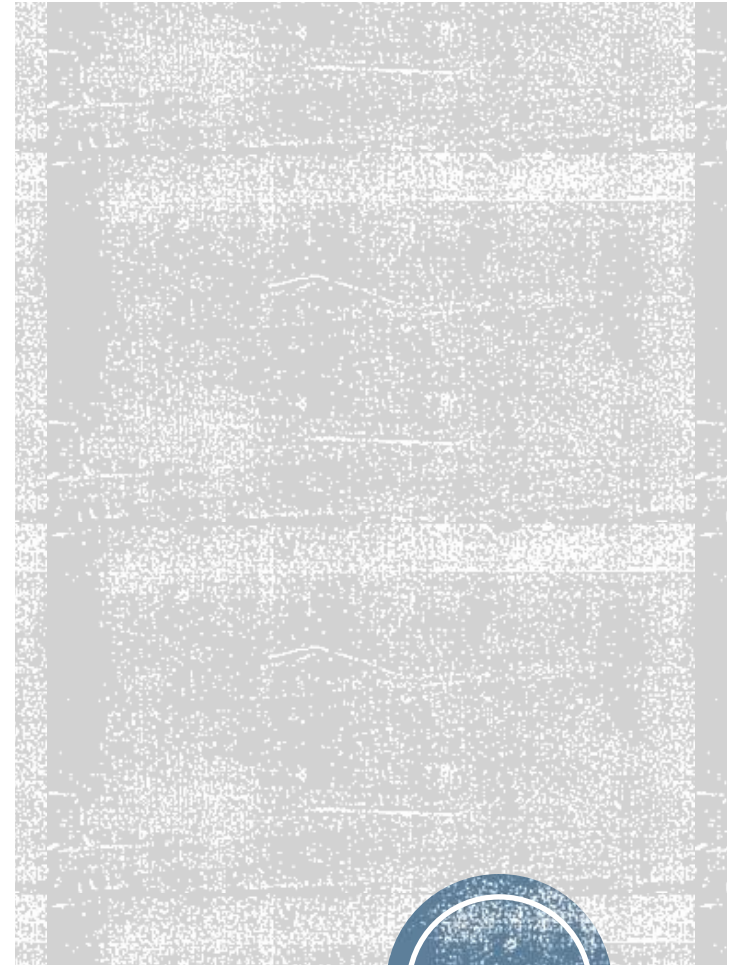
Lesson Objectives:

- **Students will be able to**
 - Explain the problems that the Vietnam War caused at home.
 - Why 1968 was such an important year during this era.

Essential Question:

What were the military and political events of the Vietnam War; and, how did this conflict impact life in the United States?

THE ANTIWAR MOVEMENT EMERGES



VIETNAM TEACH-IN

THERE WILL BE A TEACH-IN AT UCLA ON MARCH 25, WHICH WILL INCLUDE AN EXTRAORDINARY LIST OF DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS, INCLUDING:

- SI CASADY PAST PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC COUNCIL
- FELIX GREENE AUTHOR-LECTURER ON CHINA, PRODUCER OF DOCUMENTARY FILM CHINA, RECENT VISITOR TO NORTH VIETNAM
- FANNY LOU HAMER MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY REPRESENTATIVE
- STANLEY SHEINDAUM FORMER CONSULTANT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM, PRESENT STAFF MEMBER OF THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, SANTA BARBARA
- DAVID MC REYNOLDS NATIONAL FIELD SECRETARY, WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE
- REV. FRITCHMAN FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, LOS ANGELES
- PROF. MARCUSE PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, U.C., SAN DIEGO
- DOROTHY HEALEY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAIRMAN, COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
- DON WHEELDIN PASADENA CORE, FORMER CHAIRMAN
- DEN MARGOLIS CO-AUTHOR OF LAWYER'S BRIEF ON VIETNAM
- RUSSEL JOHNSON AUTHORITY ON S.E. ASIA, PEACE SECRETARY, AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, NEW ENGLAND
- MARSHALL WINDMILLER PROF. OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, S.F. STATE COLLEGE
- RABBI BEERMAN TEMPLE LEO BAECK
- DR. ZIFERSTEIN PSYCHIATRIST, LECTURER AND AUTHOR ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WAR
- WILLIAM WINTER PUBLISHER, RECENT VISITOR TO SOUTH EAST ASIA
- WILLIAM WORTHY NEWS ANALYST, VISITED SOUTH EAST ASIA
- MARY CLARKE WOMENS STRIKE FOR PEACE, LOS ANGELES
- DR. CARLTON GOODLETT CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF CALIF., PUBLISHER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SUN-REPORTER
- FRANK GREENWOOD AUTHOR. AUTHOR OF THE PLAY IF WE MUST DIE
- WILLIAM MACADOO SPOKESMAN FOR THE PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY
- LEONARD LEVY PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES LOCAL, AMAIGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

ALL OF THE DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS CRITICAL OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN VIETNAM WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE TEACH-IN. NEWS MEDIA HAVE OFTEN IGNORED THIS SIDE OF THE ISSUE. THE TEACH-IN WILL BE AN ATTEMPT TO REDRESS THAT BALANCE. THIS STUDENT PLANNED AND STUDENT ORGANIZED EDUCATIONAL EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE FROM NOON TO MIDNIGHT, MARCH 25, ON THE UCLA CAMPUS IN THE GRAND BALLROOM, STUDENT UNION. WORKSHOPS ARE PLANNED FOR SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 26, DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND WAR, CIVIL RIGHTS, THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE COLD WAR, THE POVERTY PROGRAM, AND THE WAR IN VIETNAM.

Teach-Ins Begin

- Spring 1965: 1st American combat troops arrived in Vietnam
 - 66% of America approved!
- What caused America to turn on the Vietnam War?
 - The length of the war
 - The lack of understanding of the war efforts
 - Credibility Gap: lack of trust or believability (especially from the White House)
- March 1965: University of Michigan faculty held a "teach-in"
 - Discussed the issues surrounding the war
 - Explained why they opposed the war
 - By May 1965, 122 colleges joined the protest with a national teach-in via radio



Anger at the Draft

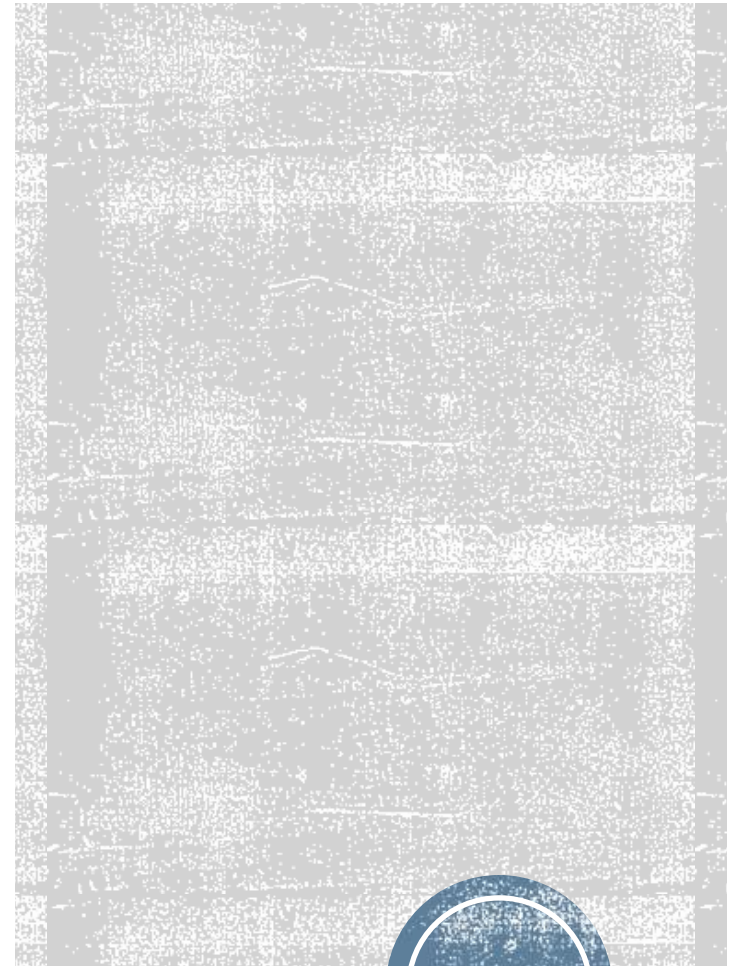
- **What about the draft?**
 - Many protested this event - seeing it as unethical
- **Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)**
 - Organized a March on Washington, DC
 - 20,000 people attended - rallied at the Lincoln Memorial
 - Others protested this group's efforts
- **What was the concern about the draft?**
 - Many saw this as an unfair draft - NOT a declared war... a military conflict
 - Many attempted to evade the draft: attending college (until 1969), deferring military service
 - Most draftees came from working-class families
 - African Americans made up ~10% of military personnel and ~20% of combat deaths



Sound Smart about Vietnam Protests:



1968: THE PIVOTAL YEAR



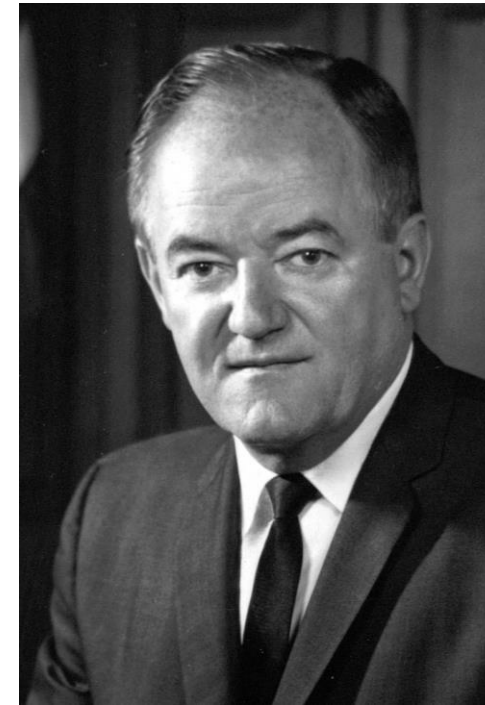
The Tet Offensive

- **What is the Tet Offensive?**
 - Tet is the Vietnamese New Year celebration.
 - In 1968, the Vietcong staged a surprise attack on this date...
- **Why is this event so significant?**
 - A week-long truce had been declared to respect the Vietnamese celebration.
- **What happened in this event?**
 - During the celebration, firecrackers, flutes, and coffins are used.
 - The coffins contained guns and munitions.
 - The Vietcong (among the crowd) attacked over 100 towns, 12 US air bases.
 - This offensive lasted for 1 month before the US and South Vietnamese regained control.
 - Gen. Westmoreland declared the offensive a military defeat for the Vietcong...???



Johnson Leaves the Race

- **1967: Johnson and Vietnam had both become UNPOPULAR**
 - Eugene McCarthy declared that he would challenge President Johnson for the Democratic nomination
 - Senator Robert Kennedy also announced he would seek the Democratic nomination
 - March 1968: McCarthy has a strong following - dividing the Democratic party
 - President Johnson announced he **WOULD NOT** seek re-election
- **What happened at the 1968 Democratic Convention?**
 - Protests and violence outside AND inside the convention - it was **CHAOS!**
 - Vice President Hubert Humphrey was chosen as the candidate - against the will of the party



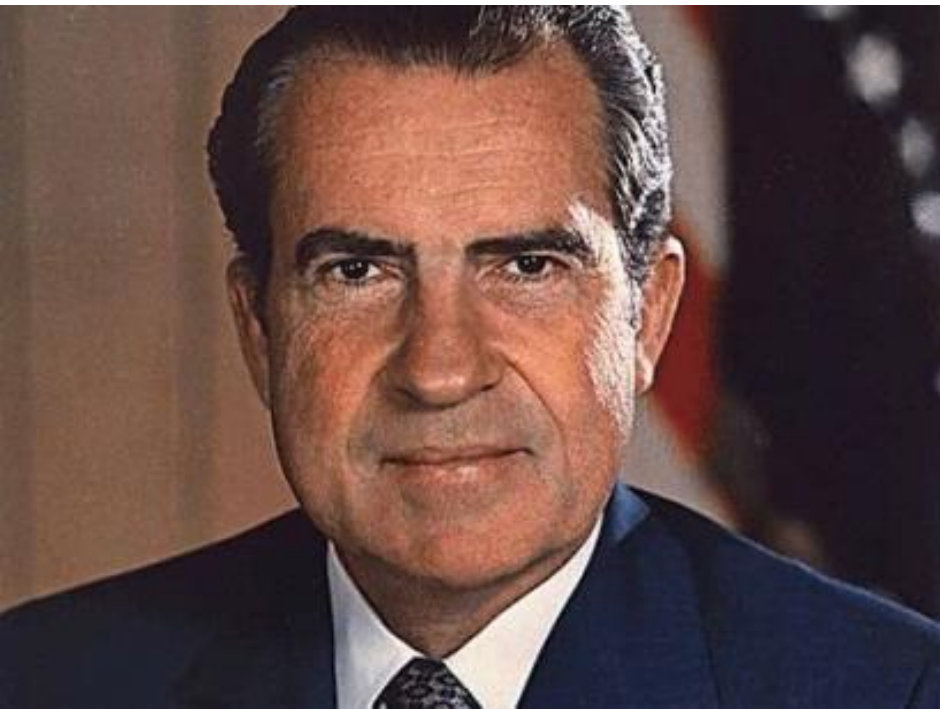
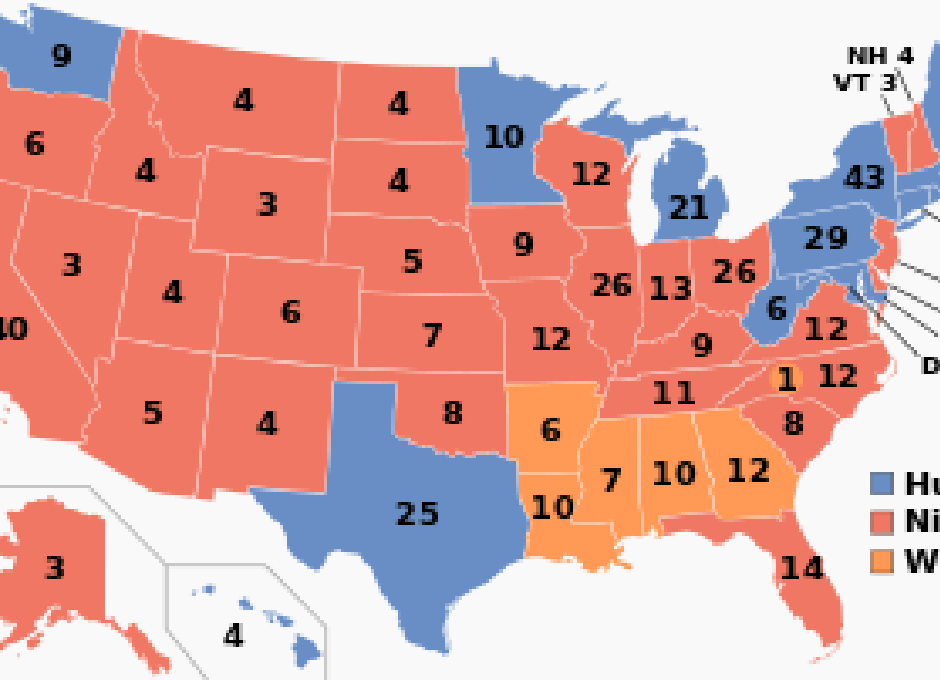


A Season of Violence

- *What happened next SHOCKED the nation!*
 - April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis.
 - June 5, 1968: Robert Kennedy was assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan (an Arab national)
- *American reaction...*
 - 1968 was chaotic!!! Thousands would protest the Democratic Convention
 - Taunted & fought with police
 - Chanted: “The whole world is watching”
 - Demonstrations and violent protests occurred on over 100 college campuses.



Nixon Wins the Presidency



- Nixon's return to the White House was considered one of the greatest political "comebacks"
 - Remember that Nixon lost the presidential election in 1960.
- What promises did Nixon make to America?
 - Restore law and order
 - End the Vietnam War
- Was there a "catch" in this election?
 - Yes...Gov. George Wallace (a democrat) entered the race as a third-party candidate.
 - Remember what we have talked about concerning splitting a political party!!!
 - Wallace championed segregation and states' rights
 - Attracted protest-weary white voters....and disenfranchised many other voters.
 - Vietnam would end under Nixon's term

