

# Chapter 14 Turbulent Times (The 1960s and 1970s)



#4 The New Left & Counter Culture



■ Essential Question:

– What were the effects of the growth in counter-culture in America in the 1960s & 1970s?

■ Warm-Up Question:

– Why did the U.S. fail to win the Vietnam War?



# America in the 1960s

- By the 1960s, the United States had experienced major changes:
  - Economic prosperity, a rapid growth of suburbs, a baby boom, & increased college enrollment
  - Nuclear threats in the Cold War & a controversial war in Vietnam
  - Assassinations of political leaders, a growing poverty gap, & tensions over civil rights for black Americans

# The Youth Revolt in the 1960s

One of the most visible changes was protest among the nation's youth

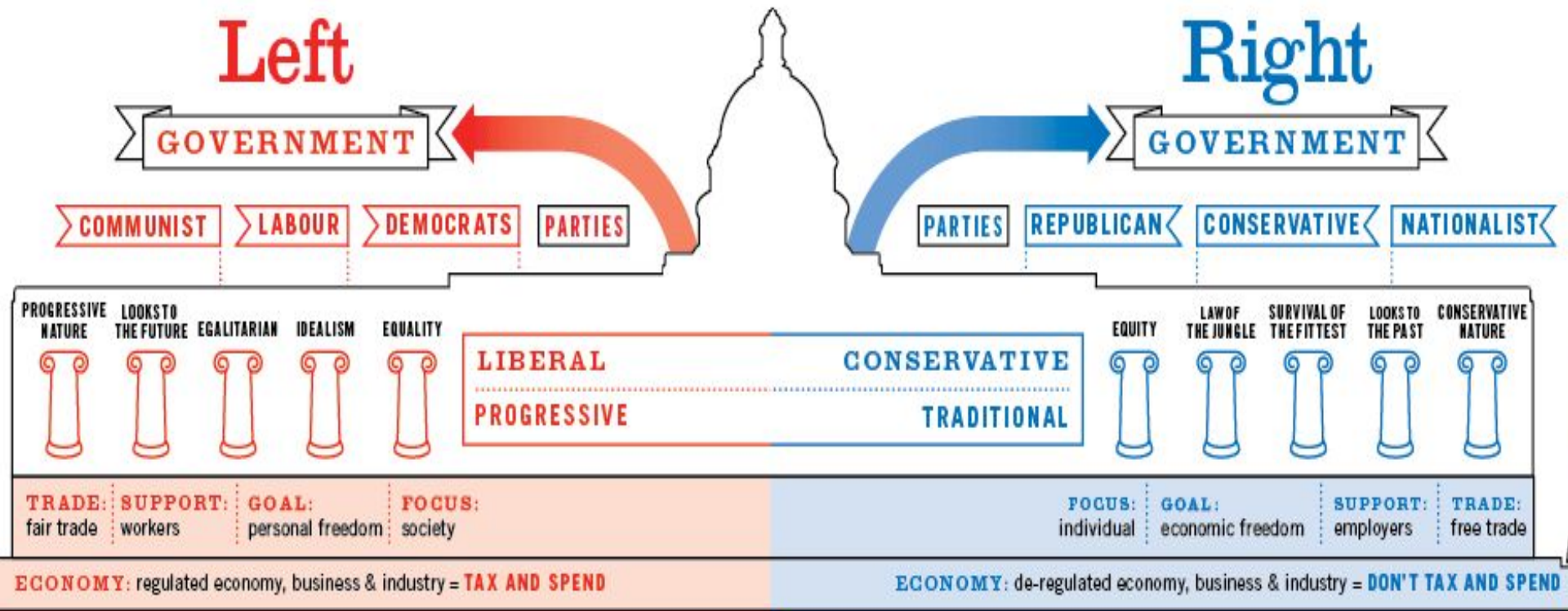
The generation gap between kids & their parents was the widest of any previous era in history

were the most  
...rejected their parents' expectations & looked to find personal fulfillment



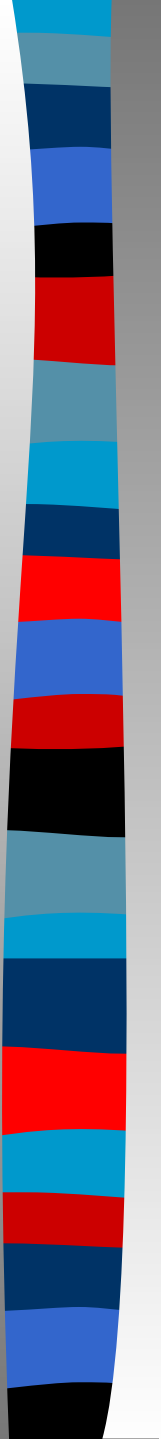
# The New Left

One impact of the 1960s youth movement was the rise of the “New Left”













# The New Left

One impact of the 1960s youth movement was the rise of the New Left

**Demanded more freedom on college campuses**

The student movement was strongest at the Univ of CA at Berkeley

Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) fought to end racism & poverty



# The New Left

One impact of the 1960s youth movement was the rise of the New Left

College students participated in the civil rights movement

Students played a role in SNCC sit-ins

Students helped with voter registration in the 1964 Freedom Summer



# The New Left

One impact of the 1960s youth movement was the rise of the New Left

Ending the Vietnam War was the most important issue of the “New Left”



# Counter C

Another impact of the 1960s youth movement was the emergence of a social **counter-culture**

While the “New Left” tried to improve America through protest, “**hippies**” tried to create their own society based on **love & peace**

**Flower power & hippie fashion**



# Counter Culture

Deaths due to drug overdose included: Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Keith Moon

Hippie culture embraced casual sexual behavior (the “sexual revolution”)

Drugs were acceptable in the counter culture; Especially marijuana & “mind-expanding” hallucinogens like LSD



# Counter

Counter culture  
in the 1960s was  
represented by:

**Sex, Drugs, Rock 'n' roll**



Music in the  
1960s & 70s included:

Folk music      R&B

Electric rock   Acid rock



# Woodstock: August 15 to August 18, 1969

- Woodstock reflected the ideology of the hippies in the 1960s in its excessive use of drugs, its protest of the current American government and culture, and, most importantly, social unity and harmony.



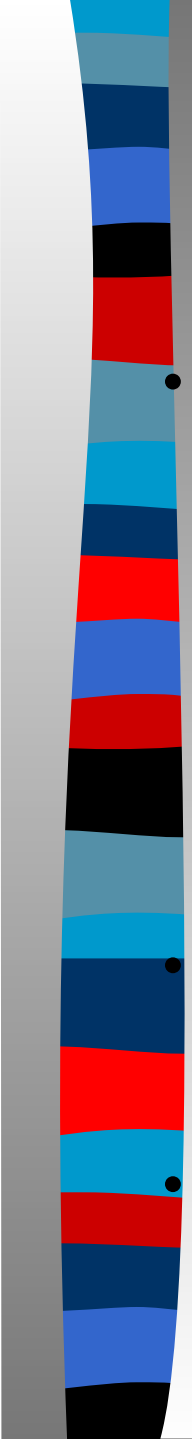




# Woodstock

- Woodstock was a music and art festival between August 15-18, 1969
- There were about 500,000 attendees
- Tents were put up for food, water, drugs, a place to sleep, and to cool down and recover.
- There were three deaths and three births

# Protesting

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- Woodstock reflected the hippie ideology of its protests of the Vietnam War, and equal rights for all during the 1960s.
    - Hippies protested American culture by forming their utopian communities.
    - Woodstock was a peaceful protest of the Vietnam War, its three days of peace and love greatly contrasting with the war.
  - "Festival organizers pointed out that anyone buying a ticket was contributing to a united front against the war." (History They Didn't Teach in School)
  - "If you want to stop the war, you'll have to sing louder than that." - Country Joe (History They Didn't Teach in School)



Counter culture music  
was best represented  
by the Woodstock  
concert in 1969

Stone	Jefferson Airplane	Crosby Stills & Nash
Tim Hardin	Santana	Jimi Hendrix
Nick Benes	The Who	Iron Butterfly
Sweetwater	Jack Harrison	Ten Years After
★	★	★
<b>HUNDREDS OF ACRES TO ROAM ON</b>		
Ticket Prices, One Day \$7.00		
Two Days \$13.00, Three Days \$18.00		

## ★ A PERSONAL VOICE ALEX FORMAN

**“It was like paradise there. Everybody was in love with life and in love with their fellow human beings to the point where they were just sharing in incredible ways with everybody. Taking people in off the street and letting them stay in their homes. . . . You could walk down almost any street in Haight-Ashbury where I was living, and someone would smile at you and just go, ‘Hey, it’s beautiful, isn’t it?’ . . . It was a very special time.”**

—quoted in *From Camelot to Kent State*

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# Counter Culture

Members of  
Hog Farm commune



# Conclusions: America in the 1960s

Both the New Left protest & hippie culture were visible in the 1960s, but neither represented the majority of Americans

Conservative citizens were a “silent majority” that believed the youth movement was destroying traditional American values

Conservatives changed U.S. politics by voting for Richard Nixon in 1968



# America in the 1960s

Both the New Left protest & hippie culture were visible in the 1960s, but neither represented the majority of Americans

But, the success of the civil rights movement & anti-Vietnam protest by the New Left inspired other groups to demand change

**Black Power**      **Red Power**

**Brown Power**      **Pink Power**

**Yellow Power**      **Green Power**

**Rainbow Power**





# Death of Innocence

- Summer of Love (SF, 1967)

- highest peak of flower power

BUT – too many drugs won't do you good

Rolling Stones' Altamont concert 1969

Meredith Hunter and Hell's Angels

Woodstock vs Summer of love

- too hectic, too much un-controlled situation

- Violence started on 3<sup>rd</sup> day and led to an end of festival

Death of Jim Hendrix and Janis Joplin (1970), Jim Morrison (1971)



**POLITICAL**

- protests against Vietnam War
- NOW fuels feminism
- the New Right emerges
- ERA defeated
- *Roe v. Wade*
- more women in the work force
- AIM wins reforms and land rights
- La Raza Unida and MAPA fight for more rights for Latinos
- bilingual education
- Latino farm workers unionize

**SOCIAL**

- hippies reject mainstream society
- more communal living
- new fashion trends reflect freedom of expression
- traditional forms of worship rejected in favor of Eastern religious teachings
- more drug use
- women and minorities seek equality
- more permissive sexual behavior
- books, magazines, and movies show explicit violence

**CHANGES BROUGHT  
ABOUT BY THE  
COUNTERCULTURE****MUSIC**

- music as political expression
- Motown label produces African-American artists
- rock music; the Beatles; Woodstock festival

**ART AND  
FASHION**

- pop art movement
- long hair as rebellion
- hippies popularize bright, colorful clothing, beads, and blue jeans

## PRIMARY SOURCES

# Political Cartoon

The attitudes and lifestyles of the counterculture shocked many Americans. As this cartoon depicts, some Americans believed hippies were defiant youths with no respect for authority.



Many people felt that hippies were hypocrites for criticizing the older generation while relying on their parents' money to support them.

**Skills  
FOCUS**

## READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

**Interpreting Political Cartoons** Do you think the artist viewed hippies sympathetically or critically? Explain.

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H31

"Doubledome" was a slang term for an intellectual who supported silly ideas.

# Closure Activity

- Examine the lyrics to Bob Dylan's "Times they are a-changing"
  - What is this song's message?
  - Which lines from the song are the most powerful?
  - What role did music play in the New Left & counter culture movements?