

American History: Chapter 30

The Crisis of Authority

The Youth Culture

- **New Left:**

- Many whites that championed rights for minorities

- Students for a Democratic Society (SDS):

- Antiwar activists that used terrorism by the end of the 60s

- UC Berkeley:

- Free Speech Movement
- Objected to not being allowed to use school grounds for political debate

- Counterculture:

- “hippies” – focused on sexual revolution, music, and drugs

- Woodstock – 1969

- Music concert in NY – 400,000 attended

The Mobilization of Minorities

- Native Americans:

- Post – WWII, focus on “assimilating” Native Americans
- 1961: Declaration of Indian Purpose:
 - Self-determination for Natives
- 1968 – Indian Civil Rights Act:
 - Recognized tribal laws within reservations

- Latinos:

- **Cesar Chavez:**

- United Farm Workers (UFW) – union of farmworkers, demanded higher wages
- Cesar went on a hunger strike

- Gay Liberation:

- **Stonewall Riots:**

- Police arrested patrons of a gay bar, clashed with patrons
- New activist groups emerged across the nation

The New Feminism

- **Cult of domesticity**

- Women were expected to stay home, raise a family
- “Leave it to Beaver”
 - 2 children, suburban house, stay at home mom

- **Betty Friedan**

- Author, *The Feminine Mystique*, bestselling book that launched modern women’s movement
- Argued that many housewives in suburbs were not happy and lived unfulfilled lives

- **National Organization for Women (NOW):**

- Founded in part by Friedan, influential feminist organization
- Helped bring attention to lack of women in certain professions and politics
- Many women faced discrimination in antiwar and civil rights organizations
- 1971 – affirmative action guidelines included women
- 1972: an important year
 - **Title IX:** No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance
 - **Equal Rights Amendment** – passed Congress, never ratified (more on that later)

Environmentalism In A Turbulent Society

- ***Silent Spring***

- Written by Rachel Carson
- Exposed the impact of insecticides on the environment

- **1970:**

- April 22 – 1st Earth Day
- **Environment Protection Agency (Nixon)**
- **Clean Air Act (Nixon)**

- **Clean Water Act – 1972**

Nixon, Kissinger, and the War

- **Vietnamization:**
 - Gradually withdrawing US troops from Vietnam
 - Transitioning the military burden to the South Vietnamese
 - “Using weapons, training, and advice”
- **April, 1970:**
 - Nixon ordered the US begin attacking Cambodia, a neighboring, neutral country
 - The Cambodia bombings led directly to.....
- **Kent State Protests:**
 - Student protests
 - 4 students died, many more injured
- The Cambodia Bombings made many Americans question the government
- Senate repealed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- *Pentagon Papers:*
 - Revealed mistakes and deception of JFK and LBJ regarding Vietnam
- **My Lai Massacre 1968:**
 - Killing of Vietnamese women and children

Nixon, Kissinger, And The World

- February 21, 1972:
- Nixon visits China
 - Improvement in relations between China and US; led to.....
- **Détente:**
 - Easing of Cold War tensions
 - Anti-ballistic missile treaty
 - Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT):
 - Limited the number of long-range nuclear weapons
- **Nixon Doctrine:**
 - US would honor current commitments, but in the future, Asian countries would defend themselves without American troops
- Syria and Egypt attacked Israel
 - US provided \$2 billion in aid to Israel
- Arab nations responded with an oil embargo
 - Oil and gas prices increase

Politics and Economics Under Nixon

- **“Silent Majority”:**

- Nixon’s belief that most Americans supported the war, but were not vocal
- Believed they also wanted to reduce federal interference

- **Warren Court:**

- Led by Chief Justice Earl Warren (1953 – 1969)
- Decisions affected rights of criminals and the accused, religion, civil rights, and women
 - *Mapp v. Ohio* (search warrants)
 - *Gideon v. Wainwright* (right to lawyer, even if you can’t afford one)
 - *Escobedo v. Illinois* (Right to lawyer from time of arrest)
 - *Miranda v. Arizona* (Right to remain silent)
 - *Engel v. Vitale* (School sanctioned prayer is unconstitutional)
 - *Griswold v. Connecticut* (*Birth control is legal*)
 - *Tinker v. DesMoines* (Free speech is fine in school)

- **Nixon, upset with the court’s decisions, appointed judges he felt would “strictly” interpret the Constitution**

- Appointed Warren Burger as new Chief Justice
- ***Roe v. Wade* (1973) – legalized abortion**
- *Bakke v. Board of Regents* - Giving preferential treatment based solely on race was not allowed...
- However, race could be one of several factors in admitting students

Politics and Economics Under Nixon

- Election of 1972:
 - George McGovern (D) promised to end war in 90 days
 - Nixon wins in a landslide
- Cease-fire in Vietnam on January 23, 1973
 - Nixon claimed he achieved “Peace with Honor”
- Reasons for economic downturn:
 - High cost of Vietnam War
 - Rising oil prices
 - Inflation
 - High funding for Great Society
- Stagflation:
 - Inflation plus economic downturn (unemployment)
- War Powers Act (1973)
 - Essentially overturned “Gulf of Tonkin” Resolution
 - Limited the President’s involvement in wars
 - Must inform Congress within 48 hours of taking war actions

The Watergate Crisis

- June 17, 1972:
 - 5 men broke into Democratic headquarters in Watergate
- CREEP – Committee to Re-Elect the President
- VP Agnew:
 - Resigned over taking bribes
 - Led to the appointment of Gerald Ford
- Nixon secretly recorded most Oval Office Conversations
- “Saturday Night Massacre”
 - Nixon fired a special prosecutor, Attorney General, and deputy Attorney General
- Nixon claimed right of “Executive Privilege”
 - Supreme Court stated he could not withhold evidence and tapes
- House drew up impeachment charges, Nixon resigned
- *US v. Richard Nixon*:
 - Nixon must turn over the tapes, did not have “executive privilege”