1960’s Decade of Discord

The Challenge of The Sixties
Kennedy

- Legacy of the New Deal
- The Other America: Poverty in the United States (1962)
- New Frontier - Energetic and Optimistic
  - Min. Wage
  - Reduce overcrowding in schools
  - Health Care
  - Cut tax/increase spending to pay for programs
  - Space Race
    - Man on the Moon in Decade
  - Peace Corps
• **Liberal Court**
  – Chief Justice Earl Warren (1953-1969)
    • Government had the power and responsibility to protect the minority against the majority.
    • Issues: Schools, politics, the criminal justice system, and cultural norms
    • Liberals endorsed/Conservatives accused court of being activist

- **1954**  
  *Brown v. Board of Education* outlawed racial segregation in public schools.

- **1962**  
  *Baker v. Carr* gave federal courts right to intervene if states created voting districts of unequal size.

- **1962**  
  *Engle v. Vitale* outlawed official school prayer in public schools.

- **1963**  
  *Gideon v. Wainwright* gave accused felons the right to free legal counsel.

- **1965**  
  *Griswold v. Connecticut* established “right to privacy,” overturning state laws banning use of contraception.

- **1966**  
  *Miranda v. Arizona* required that police inform suspect of right to remain silent and have a lawyer present during police questioning.

- **1967**  
  *Loving v. Virginia* prohibited state laws banning interracial marriages.
• 1964 Election
  – Nation mourning JFK’s death “...pretender to the throne.”
  – Forging Deals
    • Civil Rights Act of 1964
    • Tax Cut
    • Federally funded public housing
  – War on Poverty
    • Office of Economic Opportunity-Jobs Corps
  – Election ’64-Different visions of the role of govt.
    • LBJ (D)-New Dealer/Great Society
    • Barry Goldwater (R)- Extreme Conservative
• **Great Society**
  – Elementary & Secondary Act-1965 (1 Billion $)
    • HEAD START: PRESCHOOL FOR DISADVANTAGE CHILDREN
    • UPWARD BOUND: TUTORING, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
  – Social Security Act-1965
    • Medicare-Elderly
    • Medicaid-Poor
  – Immigration Act of 1965-ends quota system
  – Motor Vehicle Air Pollution Control Act-1966
    • Rachel Carson
      – *Silent Spring*
  – Public Broadcasting Act-1967
  – Failures
    • SOME PROGRAMS WORKED BUT MANY FAILED OR FADED DUE TO END OF LIBERAL CONSENSUS IN CONGRESS
    • LBJ SPENT 20X MORE ON THE WAR IN VIETNAM THAN ON TACKLING POVERTY
      – How can you wage a war abroad and at home???
Nonviolence Triumphant: The Civil Rights Movement, 1960-1963

• Kennedy and the Freedom Riders
  – Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.)
  – An interstate bus journey by black and white activists who entered segregated bus facilities together throughout the South.
  – Violence/Federal Marshalls called out
  – Interstate Commerce Commission - integrated all interstate travel facilities

• Birmingham, 1963
  – “Bombingham” & Bull Connor
  – “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
  – Children’s March
  – The city desegregated lunch counters & schools
  – JFK proposed a civil rights act on TV that would outlaw racially segregated public facilities nationwide.

• March on Washington-Aug28, 1963
  – Pressure JFK & Congress to act
  – “I have a dream speech”
- 24th Amendment - eliminated poll tax
- Freedom Summer - 1964
  - Voter registration drive and the creation of Freedom Schools
  - Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Selma and Voting Rights Act of 1965
  - Bloody Sunday
  - LBJ, “We Shall Overcome”
    - Voting Rights Act of 1965

Nonviolence Triumphant: The Civil Rights Movement, 1964-1965
• New Left
  – Left-leaning student-based organizations that attacked racial discrimination, poverty, and the war in Vietnam.
  – The Port Huron Statement

• Counterculture-Hippies
  – Rejected middle-class lifestyle, material acquisition and used drugs to explore their inner self.

• Malcolm X: An Alternative to Nonviolence
  – Leader of Nation of Islam - separatists
  – Militant voice from the North
  – “The Ballot or the Bullet”
  – Assassination-Feb 21, 1965

• Watts Riot in LA for 6 days/34 dead/$35 million damage
  – Changed image of African American protest
  – Long hot summers in major cities 1965-68

• Black Power
  – A call for blacks to unite politically and economically to protect racial identity as they fought for equality

• Black Panthers
  – Militant civil rights group dedicated to armed self-defense, racial pride, and inner-city renewal
Women’s Liberation Movement

- Betty Friedan “Feminine Mystique” (1963)
  - Challenged the role that women found homemaking and child-rearing fulfilling.
- National Organization for Women (1966)-equal rights for women in work, education, and politics
End of an Era

• Faltering Civil Rights Movement
  – Anti-War/Poor People’s Campaign
  – Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. April 4, 1968

• Great Society Unravels
  – White working class 1964- 60% Dem 1968- 35% Dem
  – In 1966 DEMOCRATS LOSE 47 HOUSE SEATS @ MIDTERM ELECTION
  – Vietnam War
  – Election of 1968-Nixon “Law and Order”

• Demise of the Counterculture
  – Summer of Love 1967 Haight-Ashbury district
  – Commercialization of hippies

• Keeping Protest Alive
  – Cesar Chavez
    • United Farm Workers Union
  – American Indian Movement
    • Alcatraz Proclamation
    • Occupation of Bureau of Indian Affairs in DC
    • Wounded Knee 1973
  – Asian American Political Alliance
  – Stonewall Riot: Police provoke gays in Greenwich village
    Gay Power is born

• 60’s are Dead!!!
  – JULY 20: APOLLO 11 LANDS ON THE MOON!!!
  – AUGUST : 400,000 PEOPLE GATHER AT WOODSTOCK, N.
  – MANSON MURDERS IN CALIFORNIA
  – DECEMBER: VIOLENCE MARS FREE CONCERT IN SAN FRANCISCO @Altamont Speedway