

# Unit 7 Section 6

## The 1960s

TYWL: Global interaction may be caused by conflict. / Forces of imperialism, nationalism, militarism and geo-political alliances, taken to the extreme, can lead to international conflicts. / Nationalism and the quest for power are often underlying causes for war. / Conflict occurs when compromise over land, national identity and colonial possessions is no longer an option between those in authority and those they serve. /

# The Tet Offensive

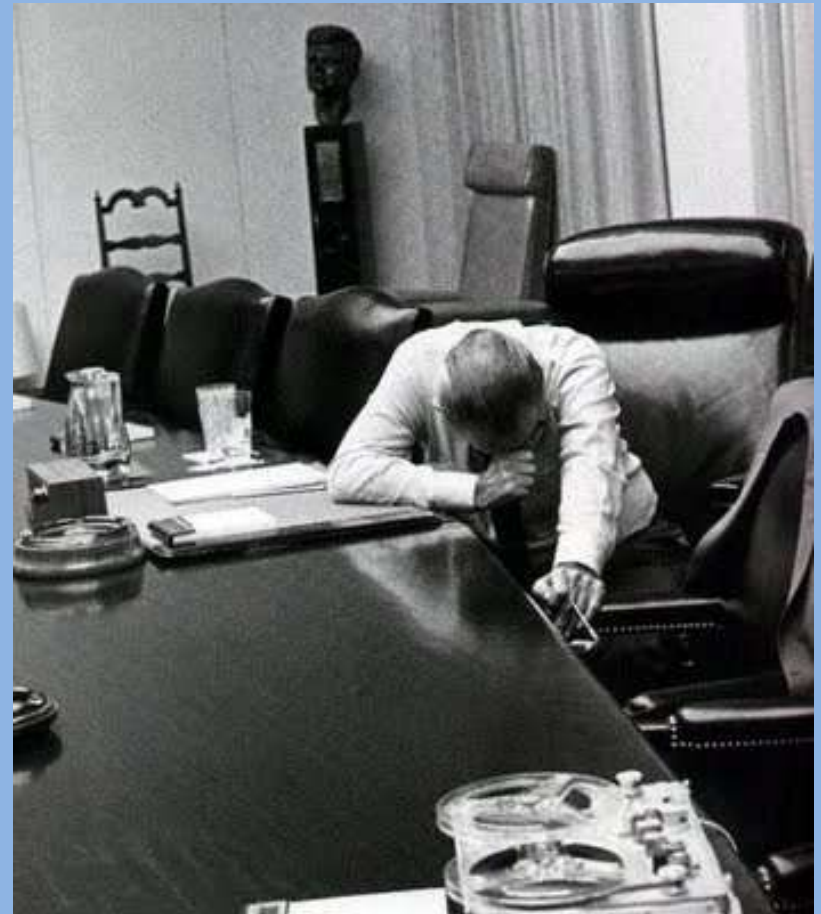
Tet Offensive – January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1968. Surprise North Vietnamese/Vietcong attack on South

- Over 100 towns and cities, 12 US air bases, US Embassy in Saigon, all attacked
- Military victory for ARVN and US, psychological victory for communists

- “If they are so close to defeat, how did they accomplish this attack?”
- Public opinion in the United States turns on LBJ
- Mainstream media begins to criticize the war
- Turning point of war

# Election of 1968

- LBJ's popularity plummets, decides not to seek re-election
- Violence grips the nation:
  - April, 68 – Death of MLK
  - June, 68 – Death of RFK, Democratic candidate
  - Democratic National Convention in Chicago, rioting and violence between anti-war protestors, Chicago Police, and the National Guard



# Nixon Becomes President

- Chaos of '68 benefits “law and order”  
Republican candidate Richard Nixon
- Wins election over Democrat Hubert Humphrey
- Nixon and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger began plan to end the war



AP Photo/File

# Nixon and Vietnam

- Nixon begins slow troop withdrawal
- Process of “Vietnamization” of War
  - Training of South Vietnamese troops to carry out the fighting in place of US troops
- Idea of Peace with Honor
- While negotiating, Nixon increases bombing of the North, begins to illegally bomb Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and Cambodia; invasion of Cambodia

# Controversy on the Home Front

- NY Times breaks story of massacre of civilians by US troops in village of My Lai
- Revealed that over 200 civilians were killed
- Further outrages American public

**1st Photos of Viet Mass Slaying**

WEATHER  
Snow flurries and  
chilly today.  
High in the upper 30s.  
Details on Page 3-C.

**THE PLAIN DEALER**

FINAL  
Stocks & Races  
Dow-Jones off 5.21

OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER  
CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1969

128TH YEAR—NO. 324 \* \* \* \* \* 96 PAGES 10 CENTS



**Exclusive**

This photograph will shock Americans as it shocked the editors and the staff of The Plain Dealer. It was taken by a young Cleveland area man while serving as a photographer with the U.S. Army in South Vietnam.

It was taken during the attack by American soldiers on the South Vietnamese village My Lai, an attack which has made world headlines in recent days with disclosures of mass killings allegedly at the hands of American soldiers.

This photograph and others on two special pages are the first to be published anywhere of the killings.

This particular picture shows a clump of bodies of South Vietnamese civilians which includes women and children. Why they were killed raises one of the most momentous questions of the war in Vietnam.

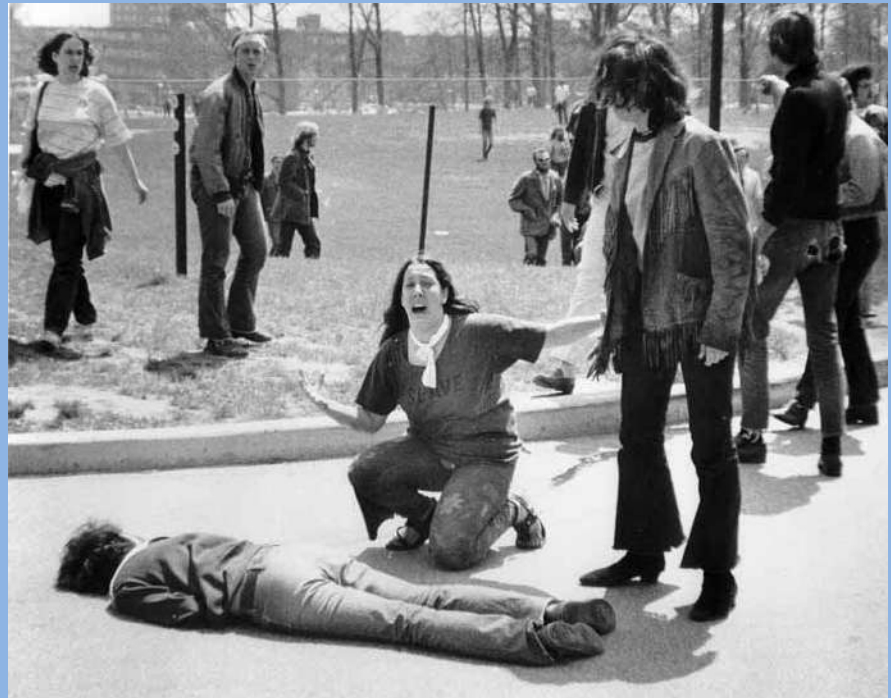
**Cameraman  
Saw GIs Slay  
100 Villagers**

**A clump of bodies on a road in South Vietnam.**

© 1969, Reed L. Aversa  
By JUSUPH SOSPHERAS  
(c) 1969, The Plain Dealer

# Controversy on the Home Front

- Anti-war protest at [Kent State University\\*](#), OH, (1970)
- National Guard fires into crowd, killing four students
- Two more student protestors killed at Jackson State University ten days later



\*click for primary account of event

# Controversy on the Home Front

- Pentagon Papers – Secret documents leaked in 1971 revealing that both Kennedy and LBJ had taken secret actions in Vietnam without the approval of Congress.
- Confirms beliefs of many Americans that government had not been honest about intentions of war
- NY Times vs. US – 1971 – government tries to suppress information from documents – loses case



# War Ends

- Throughout 1971, Nixon bombs and negotiates
- Prior to election of 1972, US wins ceasefire, announces peace – last US troops withdraw in '73 – Paris Peace Accords
- Southern capital of Saigon falls to communist forces in 1975



# Legacy of War

- 58,000 Americans killed, 300,000 wounded
- Difficult return for veterans
- 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment gives 18 year olds right to vote
- Influx of Vietnamese refugees to US
- Huge death toll in Cambodia
- Draft abolished; War Powers Act limits President's ability to wage war without approval of Congress



# Iconic Images from the Vietnam Era\*











Little Girl Today







# An Era of Social Change

# The Counterculture Movement

- Mid to late 1960's, baby boomers entering teen, college years
- Generational division in social values between them and their parents – extension of Beat Movement
- Widespread split in society over issues including:
  - Vietnam War, Civil Rights, Sexuality, Women's Rights, Drug Use, Interpretation of the American Dream
  - Growth of rock music, hippie culture, alternative media, new styles of art, literature, film-making

# Hippie Culture

- Most dramatic example of counterculture movement – Hippies
  - Drop out of normal society
  - Use of mind altering drugs (“tune in, turn on, drop out”) like LSD and marijuana
  - Outrageous clothing, rock music, long hair, sexual freedom, eastern religions, communal lifestyle
  - Centered in Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco



# Hippie Culture

- Hippie culture faded rapidly
- Disillusionment as violence, lack of economic security, drug abuse take toll
- End of Vietnam strips movement of impetus
- Hippie Culture goes mainstream— loses appeal

Violence at Altamont



# Cultural Changes

Counterculture movement is short-lived, but leaves a lasting influence culturally:

- Fashion
- Pop Art
- Rock Music: Beatles, Rolling Stones, Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix, Woodstock (1969)
- Sexual Revolution
- Casual attitudes lead to Conservative backlash

# Women's Movement

- Rise of Feminism in 1960's
  - Belief that women should have economic, political, and social equality
  - Betty Friedan “Feminine Mystique”
  - Growth of women in workforce
  - Creation of National Organization for Women (NOW) to fight for equality in employment, birth control rights
  - Gloria Steinem – “Ms. Magazine”



# Women's Movement

- Legal Gains
  - Ban on gender discrimination in workplace (1972)
  - Roe v. Wade legalizes abortion
  - ERA – Equal Rights Amendment- Proposed Amendment to Constitution
  - Conservatives of the New Right fight the amendment; barely defeated

# Native Americans

- 1960's, Native American struggle for greater autonomy
- Formation of American Indian Movement (AIM)
- Protests of broken treaties, government abuses; violence at Wounded Knee
- Indians regain lands and damages in the hundreds of millions from US government



# Latino Movement

- During 1960's, Latino population in the US tripled
- Growing demand for equality and fair treatment
- Cesar Chavez founds United Farm Workers to protect agricultural laborers rights
- Growth in Latino political power

1. From <http://theragblog.blogspot.com>
2. From <http://thefiscaltimes.com>
3. From <http://plaindealer.com>
4. From <http://www.fanpop.com>
5. From <http://today.uconn.edu>
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\*From IMGUR.com