

## The New Left and Counterculture



# 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

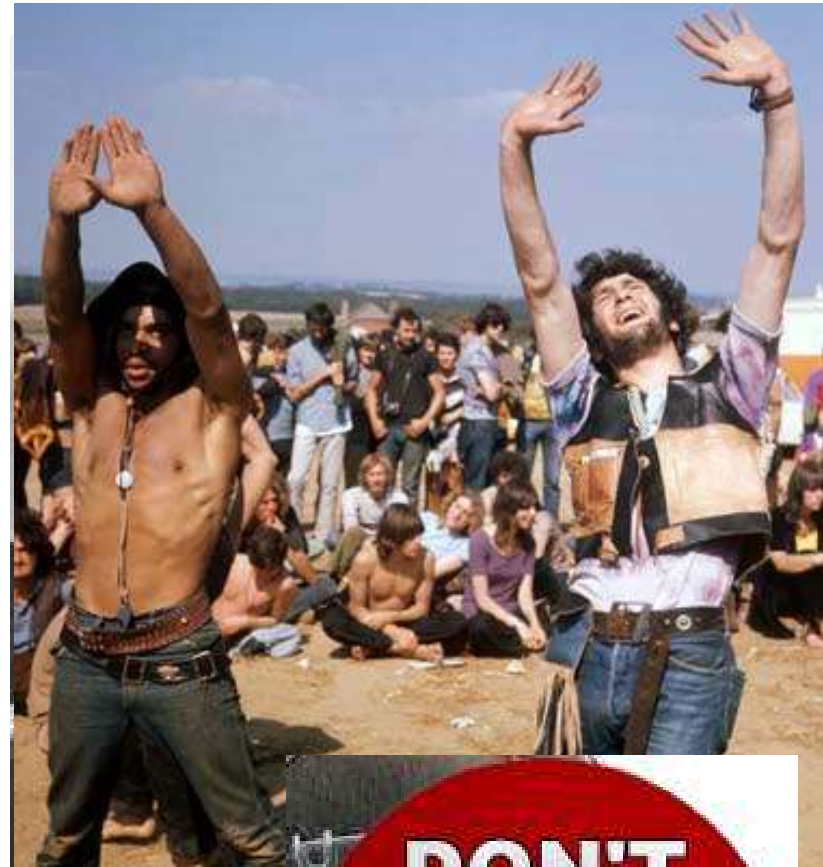


# The Youth Revolt in the 1960s

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

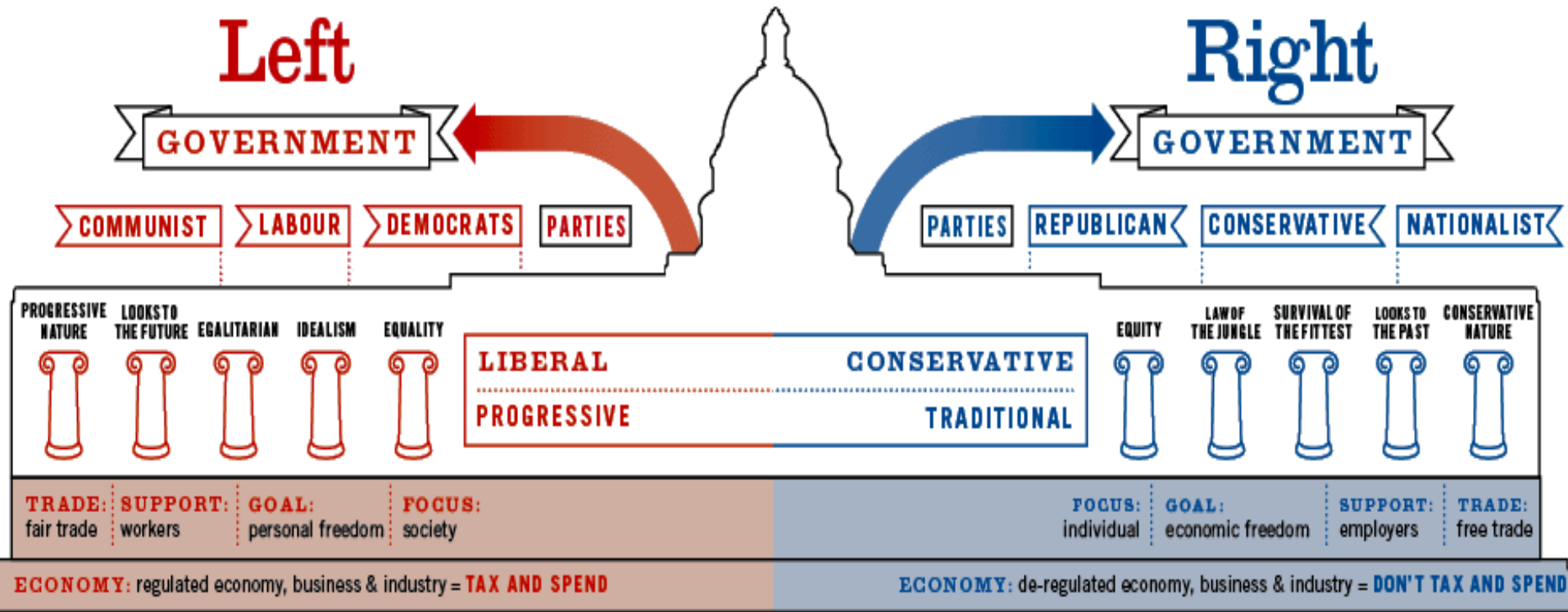
The generation gap between kids & their parents was the widest of any previous era in history

...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”

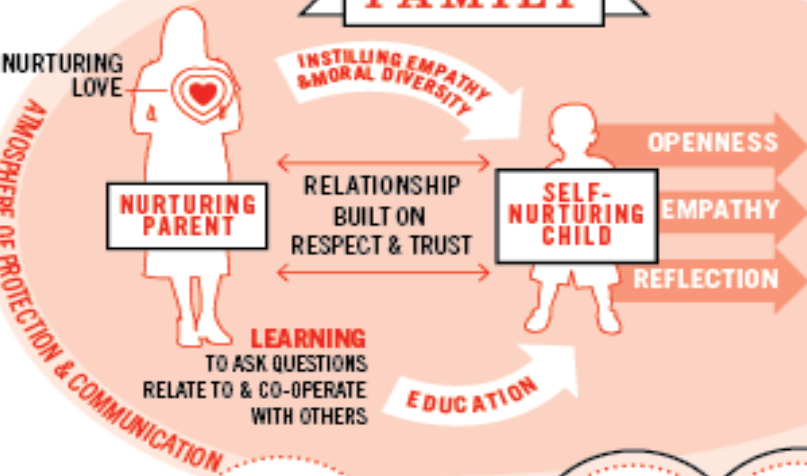


**SOCIETY & CULTURE**

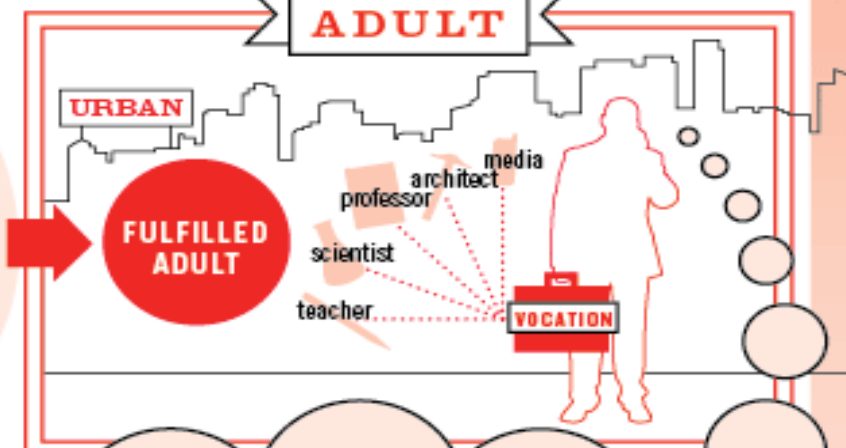


"The world can be improved" (UTOPIANISM)  
**INCLUSIVE MULTICULTURAL EVOLVING**

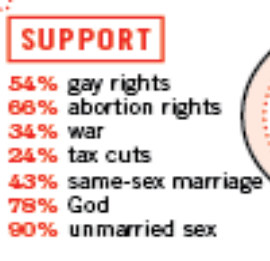
**FAMILY**



**ADULT**



**BELIEFS**



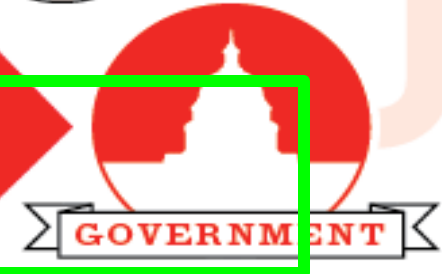
**EQUALITY** is a level playing field  
**FREEDOM** is freedom from power abuse and inequality  
 but which is best?  
**EQUALITY**

**PROTECT MINORITIES**

**RELIGION:** scientific, non-organized, unconventional  
**RIGHTS:** others must observe  
**CRIMINALS:** social and economic victims  
**HOMELESS:** downtrodden, victims of the system  
**SOCIETY:** "ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE"

- VOTES FOR:**
- FAIRNESS .....
  - HELPING THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES .....
  - POSITIVE ROLE MODELS .....
  - CHAMPIONS OF DOWNTRODDEN .....

- DIPLOMACY .....
  - PACIFISM .....
- DOVES**





# 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





# 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  
Flower power & hippie  
& peace  
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

Folk music R&B

Electric  
rock

Acid  
rock







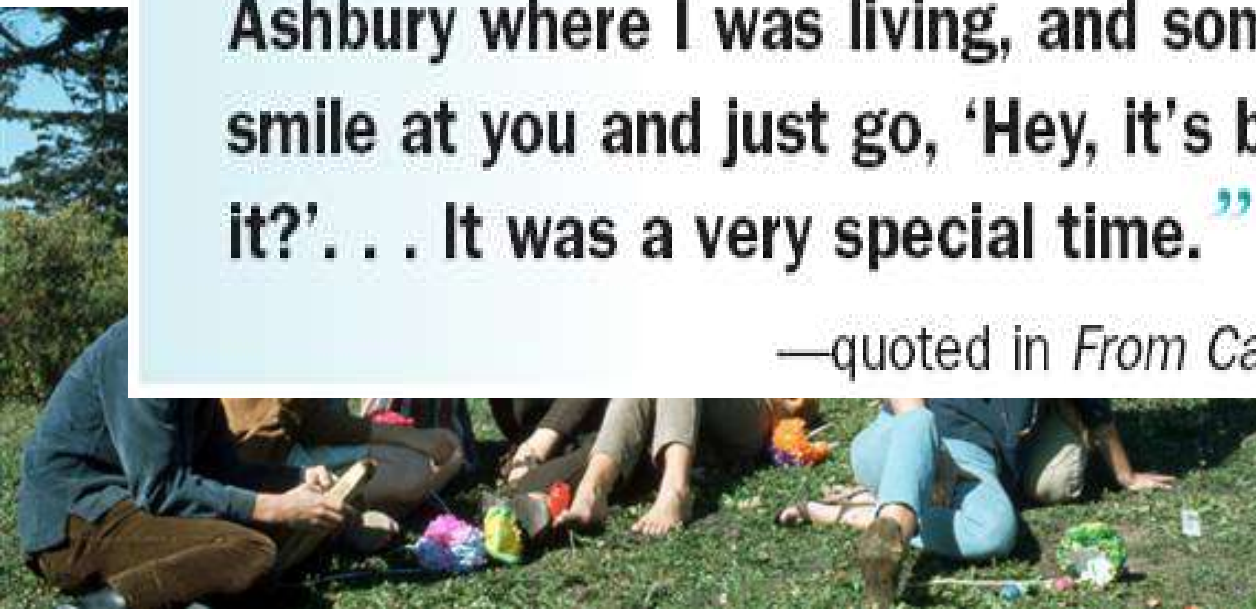
Counter culture music was best represented by the Woodstock concert

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*



# Counter Culture

Members of  
Hog Farm



**HIPPIE HOUSE**  
(DOMICILIUM HIPPO)  
THIS MISERABLE HUT,  
TYPICAL OF THE WRETCHED  
CONDITIONS TO BE FOUND  
UNDER SOCIALISM, ILLUSTRATES  
THE MISERY IN WHICH THESE  
SEEMINGLY HAPPY PEOPLE  
EXIST.



# 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**  
**Brown**

**Red Power**

**Pink Power**

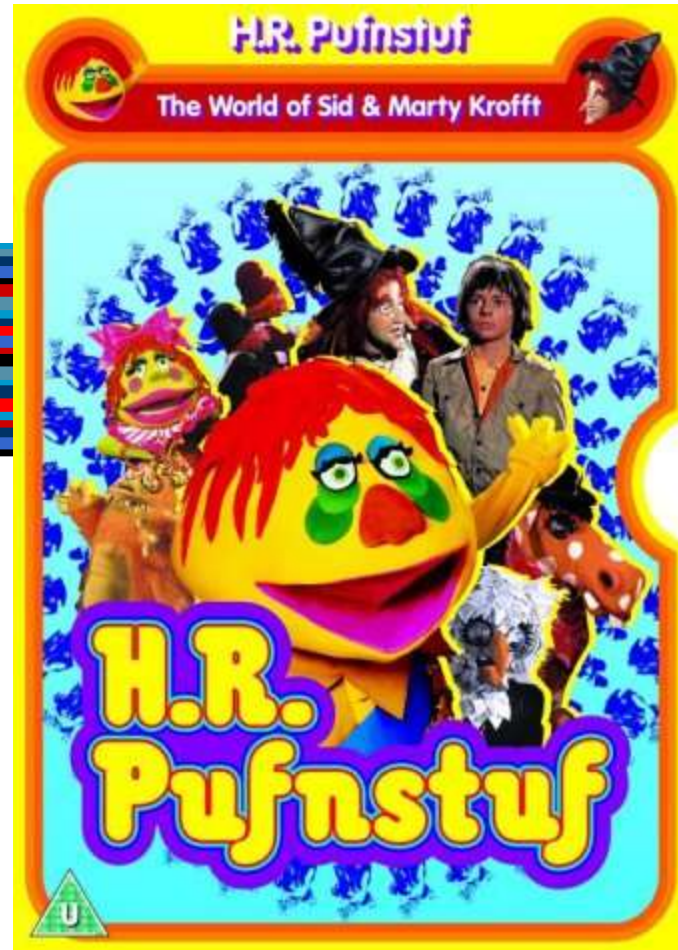
**Yellow**

**Green**

**Rainbow Power**



Meanwhile, Saturday mornings  
were AWESOME!





# Closure Activity

- Examine the lyrics to Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind"
- 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?