**Civil Rights/1960s**

* Watergate Scandal – June 1972 there was a breaking an the Watergate building in Washington D.C. Originally this was not a big deal, but as investigations furthered they found a connection between the burglary and the White House. They were breaking into the offices of the Democratic National Party The burglars were tried and James McCord charged that the White House knew what was going on. As the Senate continued to investigate Nixon’s story was more unreliable. The story was written by two journalists from the Washington Post – Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. They received tips from “deep Throat” who was later to be revealed was an FBI official. He said the men had ties to the reelection committee of Nixon. Americans began to lose faith in the president and by June 1973 less than 1 in 5 Americans believed in his innocence. In the Fall of 1973, his vice president – Spiro Agnew resigned under an unrelated scandal and was replaced by Gerald Ford. It was later found that Nixon had recorded conversations secretly. Many believed that these tapes would reveal the truth. Nixon refused based on executive privilege. The Supreme Court ruled that he had to deliver the tapes. When they were heard, it was discovered that he had erased some of the tapes, but there was enough that the committee investigating him was going to vote to impeach. Instead of waiting to see what would happen – He resigned. Watergate had a lasting impact – how much power does the President have and can the U.S. really trust the president.
* Jackie Robinson – was the first black man to integrate baseball. Showed that black men were just as capable athletically and Robinson showed poise above all else.
* *Hernandez v. Texas* – African Americans were not the only organization that had a difficult time with discrimination. This case extended the protection of the 14th Amendment to the Mexican Americans as well.
* MLK and Birmingham – Birmingham was considered the most segregated of the Southern cities. MLK chose this as the best place to demonstrate. An example of this has to do with the Children’s March. Eugene Bull Conner – was the police chief. When MLK chose children to march, he used all means necessary to stop them including attack dogs and fire hoses.
* *Brown II*  that followed ordered that it be done with all immediate speed because most southern states had no intention of following the directions. A result of this was that in 1956 about 100 Southern members of Congress endorsed the Southern Manifesto that pledged to oppose the Brown ruling through all lawful means on the grounds that the Court had misinterpreted the Constitution.
* *Brown v. Board of Education* – this is the court case that ended separate but equal, but it only applied to schools. It also didn’t set a time line. The first conflict was in Little Rock where the National Guard was called up by the governor to keep them out. Eisenhower who had avoided doing anything about the Civil Rights issue was forced by his actions to send the 101st airborne in to protect them.
* Civil Rights Act of 1964 – was passed in July 1963. It banned segregation in public accommodations and gave the federal government the ability to compel state and local school boards to desegregate. It also banned discrimination based on gender, nation of origin, color, and race. It created the Equal Emmplyment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to enforce the provisions.
* Kerner Commission – this was created by Johnson to understand why so much violence and riots were taking place. The conclusion was that it was from segregation and poverty. Some conservatives were upset and urged that federal spending be limited especially for minorities.
* “black power” – Some African Americans were looking for an alternative to MLK’s nonviolence. They were much more radical. Black power is a term that was used by Stokely Carmicheal of the SNCC in 1966. What he meant was that for them to use their economic and political muscle to gain equality. That they didn’t need white people to do it for them. Many whites felt threatened by the comments and thought they meant violence.
* The Black Panthers were a radical group that formed in the 1960s in Oakland, CA. They were led by Bobby Seales and Huey Newton. They took the concept of black power to a new level. They hard armed patrols of urban neighborhoods to protect people from police abuse, but they also created anti poverty groups, free breakfasts for kids, health clinics. They created the programs to help themselves. They gained national attention when they walked into the state capital carrying shotguns to protest attempt to restrict their right to bear arms. That exchange was peaceful although later ones were not.
* Pentagon Papers – 1971 an article in the New York Times. They were classified government papers regarding involvement in Vietnam. That were released by Daniel Ellsberg. Nixon tried to block the release, but the Supreme Court ruled against him. The papers revealed that American leaders involved in the U.S. in Vietnam without fully informing the American people and occasionally even lied to Congress.

African Americans and Vietnam

* Vietnam Draft – The Selective Service Act of 1948 required all men age 18 had to register for the draft. 1.5 million were drafted based on projected military needs. Local draft boards had a lot of leeway as to who they chose. It also granted deferments for those enrolled in college and men in certain designated careers. As a result most of those who served and were drafted were from working class and poor neighborhoods. African Americans were more likely to serve than others. In fact roughly 20% of the deaths were African American although they represented 10% of the American population. They were also more likely to serve in combat positions and less likely to become officers. A lot of problems arose because of the draft. Eventually men began to burn their draft cards and find ways to become deferred. To combat this, a lottery system was introduced.
* Tet Offensive – this was a turning point in the war in Vietnam. Tet was a Vietnamese holiday. The U.S. had relaxed forces as many villagers flocked to the cities to celebrate. Many of those flocking to the cities were Vietcong. They launched a simultaneous assault on 100 cities. Although this was put down quickly, it showed that the Vietcong were not about to stop and that they could still fight.
* My Lai – In 1968 Americans forces, while searching for enemy troops entered the village of My Lai. Under the direction of Lt. William Calley, the Americans began shooting unarmed civilians. (the Vietcong had often disguised themselves as civilians and killed many American soldiers) 400-500 civilians were executed. Calley said he was following orders, but many of the men did not participate and some even stepped in and tried to stop it. The investigation that followed by the military was weak. In 1971, *Life* magazine published pictures of the attack. He was court martialled. This added fuel to the fire of the anti war movement
* Vietnamization - Nixon’s plan to end the war by slowly removing American troops and putting more responsibility on the South Vietnamese to fight their own battle. With the hopes of just continuing aid behind the lines.

Doves and Hawks – a division of Congress based on their support of the war.

Credibility Gap – difference between what the government was saying and what the press was reporting about the war. It referred to the American publics growing distrust of the government.

Cold War at Home

**Red Scare** – the belief that communism both inside and outside the country was working to destroy American life.

**Federal Employee Loyalty Program** was created as response to American concerns over domestic communism. In March 1947, he ordered the FBI and other agencies to screen federal employees for disloyalty. 3000 were either dismissed or resigned because of the investigation. It also allowed the government to create a list of “totalitarian, fascist, or subversive organization in the U.S. They were signaled out for more intense scrutiny. The Smith Act was also created to limit the Communist Party even more – made it illegal to teach or advocate for the violent overthrow of the U.S. government.

**HUAC –** 1938. Congress joined the hunt and created the House Un-American Activities Committee to investigate possible subversive activities by fascists, Nazi’s, or communists. They looked at government agencies/employees, newspapers, etc. but are most notably known for their investigation of Hollywood. In 1947, they began hearings about communists in the movie industry. One group of people, who became known as the Hollywood Ten refused to answer their questions using the Fifth Amendment against self incrimination. They were cited for Contempt of Congress and were tried, convicted, and sent to prison. Black lists were circulated among the movie executives about people who were suspected communists and they were unable to find work. (this ended in the 1960s)

**Spy Cases** – normal people were also accused of being communists. Two of the most famous cases were the Rosenbergs and Hiss Case. Alger Hiss was a state department worker who was charged by Whitaker Chambers – a known communists who had turned anti-communist and wrote about the evils of communism. Hiss went before HUAC and denied all the accusations. Nixon – a young congressman from California – who was later President – pressed the case and Hiss’ story began to fall apart. He was eventually tried of perjury and sentence to 5 years in prison. Some still believed he was innocent but others were worried that a communist could actually get that high in the government.

**Rosenberg Trial –** another case that brought a lot of attention was the Rosenberg case. Americans were extremely worried about spy and sharing nuclear secrets. A scientist was arrested for sharing atomic secrets. This led the FBI to the Rosenbergs in 1950. This had a lot of attention throughout the world. The case was all based on the testimony of one communist spy. The Rosenbergs thought they were being persecuted because they were Jewish anarchists. They were found guilty and sentenced to death. They were on death row for a little over a year and executed in 1953. In the 60s there was some evidence that Julius had something to do with it, but that Ethel was completely in the clear.

**McCarthyism** – the hunt for communists did not end there. In 1950, Joseph McCarthy, a senator from Wisconsin made a speech saying the state department was infested with communist agents and that he had names. When pressed about the names, he changed his story a little and never revealed any names. He used this as part of his re-election campaign. He had his own brand of anti-communism to the point that McCarthyism became a catchword for extreme reckless charges and irresponsible allegations. Just being accused by him was enough. He continued to take on larger targets. He lost all of his power in 1954 when he went after the U.S. Army. They responded that his accusations were personally motivated. The hearings were televised and Americans saw his bullying tactics. The Senate eventually censured him – or condemned him for his behaviors. He remained in the Senate until the next election but he was effectively done. With the end of the Korean War in 1953 and his fall from grace in 1954, the Red Scare was officially over.

**The Cold War**

* Bay of Pigs – April 1961, Cuban exiles trained by the U.S. attempted to overthrow Castro. It was a disaster. Most were killed or captured. It was put into affect after Castro began to nationalize lands in Cuba, enforce radical reforms, and cultivate a relationship with the Soviet Union.
* Cuban Missile Crisis –1962 – U.S. planes discovered that the Soviets were building nuclear sites in Cuba. The Soviets said it was to protect Cuba from invasion. When completed major U.S. cities on the East coast would be reachable by nuclear weapons. Kennedy demanded they be removed. Kennedy started a naval blockade of Cuba and worked behind the scenes as well. 6 days before it was resolved, and eventually Khrushchev relented first. In exchange for the removal of the basis, the U.S. had to remove its nuclear weapons from Turkey and not to invade Cuba. A “hotline” was installed to improve communication between the two countries leaders.
* Berlin Wall - 1961. Kennedy and Khrushchev met to discuss West Berlin being put under the control of East Germany. This was mostly because there was a mass exodus of people from East Berlin to West. Kennedy wouldn’t hear of it. So Khrushchev responded by building a wall surrounding east and West Berlin.

Vietnam War

* Background– Vietnam was a French colony prior to WWII. After the war was over, the French wanted to regain its territory, but the Vietnamese had a different idea. Led by Ho Chi Minh who had embraced communism and was helped by the Soviet Union. The U.S. was torn, they wanted to help France who was an ally, but at the same time they supported decolonization. They believed if they supported Vietnamese independence that would weaken the French anti-communist movement which he did not want.
* Leader of North Vietnam - When Eisenhower became President he continued Truman’s policies. But in May 1954, the French finally surrendered. They two sides met in Geneva to determine a peace plan. France granted independence to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The Geneva Accords divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel. Ho Chi Minh ruled the north and the south was controlled by an anticommunist government. IN 1956 there were supposed to be a free election to reunite the country. When the Geneva Accords were signed, the U.S. continued to send money to support the South under NgoDinh Diem. When election time came about, Diem who was not very popular would not participate.
* Domino Theory – this was the idea that if Vietnam would fall to communism than its closest neighbors would as well.
* Sending Troops – By 1957 a communist rebel group formed – NLF – National Liberation Front. The fighters called the Vietcong launched a full attack on the South’s government – killing officials and destroying roads and bridges. Diem himself did little to raise his popularity and only the support from the U.S. is what kept him alive in the Civil War. In 1961, Kennedy sent special forces to Vietnam to help the ARVN – Army of the Republic of Vietnam. By 1963, the amount of advisors was 15,000. The U.S. realized that Diem wasn’t any good and helped to plot his overthrow.
* Johnson inherited what was going on in Vietnam and he had a monolithic view of communism – all communist event must be connected to the Soviet Union. On Aug 2, 1942 the U.S.S. Maddox was fired upon (not hit) Johnson responded by ordering an airstrike.
* Gulf of Tonkin Resolution – Congress gave Johnson broad powers when it came to Vietnam. It gave him the ability to take all necessary means to prevent further aggression.
* Operation Rolling Thunder – the first sustained bombing campaign against North Vietnam. The hope was that North Vietnam would stop reinforcing the Vietcong in the South. But it didn’t work. American soldiers were no longer just advisors and took on a more active role in fighting.
* Vietnam Draft – The Selective Service Act of 1948 required all men age 18 had to register for the draft. 1.5 million were drafted based on projected military needs. Local draft boards had a lot of leeway as to who they chose. It also granted deferments for those enrolled in college and men in certain designated careers. As a result most of those who served and were drafted were from working class and poor neighborhoods. African Americans were more likely to serve than others. In fact roughly 20% of the deaths were African American although they represented 10% of the American population. They were also more likely to serve in combat positions and less likely to become officers. A lot of problems arose because of the draft. Eventually men began to burn their draft cards and find ways to become deferred. To combat this, a lottery system was introduced.
* Doves and Hawks – a division of Congress based on their support of the war. Doves believed it was a civil war while Hawks supported Johnson’s policies.
* Tet Offensive – this was a turning point in the war in Vietnam. Tet was a Vietnamese holiday. The U.S. had relaxed forces as many villagers flocked to the cities to celebrate. Many of those flocking to the cities were Vietcong. They launched a simultaneous assault on 100 cities. Although this was put down quickly, it showed that the Vietcong were not about to stop and that they could still fight.
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