

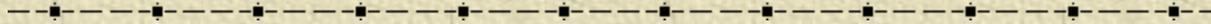


Chapter Twenty-Nine

**War at Home, War Abroad,
1965—1974**



Part One:



Introduction



Chapter Focus Questions

- ✦ How and why was U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam widened?
- ✦ What was the “sixties generation” and what was its role in the antiwar movement?
- ✦ How did poverty contribute to the urban crisis?
- ✦ What characterized the election of 1968?
- ✦ What contributed to the rise of “liberation” movements?
- ✦ What characterized the Nixon presidency and how did the Watergate conspiracy arise?



Part Two:

Uptown, Chicago, Illinois

Chicago

- ✦ In 1964, a small group of college students tried to help residents in a poor Chicago neighborhood.
- ✦ The activists were members of Students for a Democratic Society.
- ✦ Founded by white college students, SDS initially sought reform and grew by 1968 to have 350 chapters and between 60,000 and 100,000 members.
- ✦ Efforts to mobilize the urban poor were unsuccessful, but SDS members helped break down isolation and strengthened community ties.
- ✦ By 1967, SDS energies were being directed into protests against the widening war in Vietnam.



Part Three:

**Vietnam: America's
Longest War**

Johnson's War

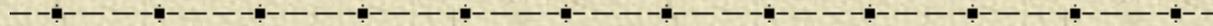
- ✦ Although pledging not to send American soldiers into combat, he manipulated Congress into passing a resolution that was tantamount to a declaration of war. When bombing failed to halt North Vietnamese advances, Johnson sent large numbers of troops into Vietnam to prevent a Communist victory.
- ✦ Search-and-destroy missions combined with chemical warfare wreaked havoc on the people and the land.
- ✦ LBJ was committed to a war of attrition to wear out and destroy Vietnam.

The Credibility Gap

- ✦ Johnson kept his decisions from the American public and distorted accounts of military actions.
- ✦ News media increasingly questioned the official descriptions of the war.
- ✦ As casualties mounted, more Americans questioned LBJ's handling of the war.
- ✦ In Congress, Democratic senators led by J. William Fulbright opposed Johnson's handling of the conflict.



Part Four:



A Generation in Conflict



“The Times They Are A-Changin’”

- ✦ People of all ages protested against the war, but young people stood out.
- ✦ Early campus protests at Berkeley centered on students’ rights to free speech. Many felt that the university had become a faceless bureaucratic machine.
- ✦ In 1967, San Francisco attracted thousands of young people for the “Summer of Love.”
- ✦ Events like the Woodstock festival spoke to many young Americans’ desires to create a new sense of community or counterculture.

Campus Protest in Global Perspective



✚ Map: Antiwar Protests

From Campus Protests to Mass Mobilization

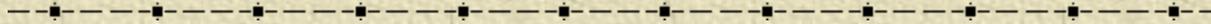
- ✦ College students organized protests that questioned the war effort and universities' roles in war-related research.
- ✦ Student strikes merged opposition to the war and other community issues.
- ✦ Public opinion polarized.
- ✦ Massive anti and prowar rallies occurred.
- ✦ Nonviolent and violent protests erupted at draft boards.

Teenage Soldiers

- ✦ The cultural attitudes of protesters were even found among their equally young GI counterparts.
- ✦ Working-class Latinos and African-American young men made up a disproportionate share of the soldiers.
- ✦ Many soldiers grew increasingly bitter over government lies about their alleged victories and the inability of society to accept them once they returned home.



Part Five:



Wars on Poverty



An American Profile: Life Expectancy



✦ A racial divide existed on life expectancy.

An American Profile: Infant Mortality



✦ Poverty helped create a racial divide on infant mortality

An American Profile: Poverty

- ✦ Spurred by books like Michael Harrington's *The Other America*, American awareness of the problems of poverty greatly increased.
- ✦ LBJ called for “an unconditional war on poverty.”
- ✦ Chart: Percentage of Population Below Poverty Level

The Great Society

- ✦ Johnson established the Office of Economic Opportunity to lead the war on poverty.
- ✦ The Job Corps failed, but agencies focusing on education were more successful.
- ✦ Community Action Agencies threatened to become a new political force that challenged those in power. The Legal Service Program and Head Start made differences in the lives of the poor.
- ✦ The Great Society was opposed to income redistribution.
- ✦ Most social spending went to the nonpoor through Medicare.
- ✦ A 1970 study concluded the war on poverty had barely scratched the surface.

Crisis in the Cities

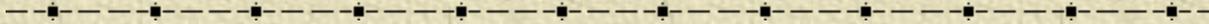
- ✦ Cities became segregated centers of poverty and pollution with large minority populations.
- ✦ Urban black frustrations resulted in over 100 riots in northern cities between 1964 and 1968.

Urban Uprisings

✦ Map: Urban Uprising

- ✦ A presidential commission blamed the rioting on white racism, poverty, and police brutality, and recommended massive social reforms.

Part Six:



1968



The Tet Offensive

✦ Map: The Southeast Asian War

- ✦ On January 30, 1968 the North Vietnamese launched the Tet Offensive, shattering the credibility of American officials who had been predicting a quick victory.
- ✦ Despite the military victory, media reports triggered antiwar protests.
- ✦ LBJ declared a bombing halt and announced he would not seek reelection.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

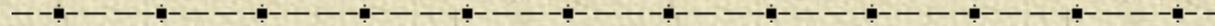
- ✦ By 1968, Martin Luther King had broken with LBJ on Vietnam and had announced a massive Poor People's Campaign.
- ✦ He was assassinated in Memphis. Rioting broke out in over 100 cities.

The Democratic Campaign

- ✦ Polarization split the Democratic Party. Robert Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy both sought the anti-war vote.
- ✦ Kennedy appeared unbeatable, but was assassinated.
- ✦ Hubert Humphrey won the nomination from a bitterly divided party.
- ✦ The Democratic convention was the scene of a major confrontation between protesters and police.



Part Seven:



The Politics of Identity



Black Power

- ✦ Generational divisions marked the civil rights movement as younger African Americans turned to Black Power.
- ✦ Groups like the Black Panthers reflected the growing militancy and the calls for community autonomy.
- ✦ Racial pride grew during the late 1960s, affecting numerous segments of the African-American community.
- ✦ A renewed interest in African heritage and customs arose.

Sisterhood is Powerful

- ✦ During the early 1960s, many women began to demand equal rights.
- ✦ By the late sixties, the influence of civil rights and the New Left appeared as women identified their movement as one of liberation.
- ✦ In thousands of communities, women formed small consciousness-raising groups to examine the power dynamics in their own lives.
- ✦ A diverse and comprehensive women's rights agenda emerged, though the movement remained a bastion of white middle-class women.

Gay Liberation

- ✦ The gay community had gained visibility during WWII and several openly gay organizations had emerged.
- ✦ The Stonewall Riot in New York City in 1968 galvanized a Gay Liberation Front.
- ✦ Gradually, changes in public opinion led to more accepting attitudes and a large minority of homosexuals “came out” of the closet.

The Chicano Rebellion

- ✦ Mexican Americans articulated a sense of Chicano pride and nationalism, initiating a series of protests.
- ✦ Throughout the Southwest, Mexican Americans organized to push for land and social reforms as well as political power.
- ✦ Cesar Chavez successfully organized Chicano agricultural workers into the United Farm Workers.

Red Power

✦ Map: Major Indian Reservations

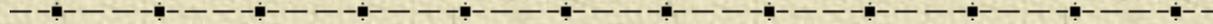
- ✦ Indian activists, led by the American Indian Movement, organized protests such as taking over Wounded Knee.
- ✦ An Indian Renaissance led to many new books about Indian life.

The Asian American Movement

- ✦ Like Black Power and Latino activists, Asian Americans embraced a nationalism that emphasized ethnic pride and cultural survival.



Part Eight:



The Nixon Presidency



The Election of 1968

✦ Map: The Election of 1968, p. 929

✦ In 1968, Richard Nixon's campaign:

- ◆ appealed to voters who were hostile to the protests and counterculture of the young
- ◆ pledged to undercut liberal programs and roll back the Great Society

✦ Nixon narrowly defeated Hubert Humphrey and George Wallace.

Nixon's War

- ✦ Nixon promised to bring “peace with honor” to Vietnam.
- ✦ Nixon and National Security Advisor, Henry Kissinger, believed that a military defeat would destroy U.S. global leadership.
- ✦ Nixon spoke of a phased withdrawal of American troops, but widened the war by invading Cambodia.
- ✦ Massive protests led to four deaths at Kent State and two at Jackson State.
- ✦ Nixon accepted a peace settlement that led to the fall of South Vietnam.
- ✦ [Chart: U.S. Military Forces and Casualties](#)

Foreign Relations

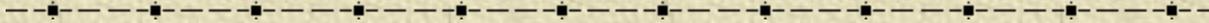
- ✦ Nixon opened relations with the Communist government in China.
- ✦ Relations with the Soviet Union improved as he negotiated a grain deal and signed an arms control agreement.
- ✦ Nixon's last diplomatic effort was to send Kissinger to the Middle East where he negotiated a temporary lull in the ongoing war.

Domestic Policy

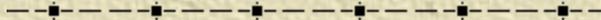
- ✦ Despite his conservatism, Nixon:
 - ◆ supported a guaranteed income to replace welfare
 - ◆ imposed a wage and price freeze to hold down inflation
- ✦ He appealed to conservatives in his opposition to school busing and Supreme Court appointments.



Part Nine:



Watergate



Conspiracy and The Age of Dirty Tricks

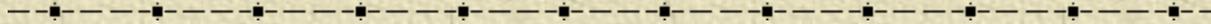
- ✦ Nixon's foreign policy included a wide range of secret interventions that propped up or destabilized regimes in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- ✦ Domestically, Nixon formed an inner circle to keep information from the public and to plug leaks.
- ✦ In 1972, Democrats nominated George McGovern, representing the liberal wing of the party.
- ✦ The Nixon reelection committee ran a dirty-tricks campaign to confuse the Democrats, including a break-in at the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate apartment complex.

The Fall of the Executive

- ✦ The White House tried to cover up its Watergate involvement, but two reporters followed the evidence back to the Oval Office.
- ✦ Nixon fired the special prosecutor who sought secret tapes Nixon had made of White House conversations.
- ✦ After a congressional investigation, Nixon finally resigned to avoid impeachment.



Part Ten:



Conclusion



War Abroad, War at Home



✦ Media: Chronology