

The Draft

- Three ways to **Avoid the Draft** – college enrollment, medical exemption, married/children – all favored?
- Poor Man's War
- MLK called this a "**cruel irony**"

Student Movements

- **Students For a Democratic Society (SDS)** – U. of Michigan, goal?
 - The "New Left", the Weather Underground – radical faction of SDS – bombings
- **Free Speech Movement (FSM)** – on college campuses, Columbia University takeover, the "machine"

Methods of Protest and Resistance Used At Home

- SDS Marches – U.S. should not be world's policeman, loss of young, a Vietnamese Civil War only
- **Vietnam veterans join the protest movements**
- Popularity of protest songs – **counterculture**
- Central Park 1967 – huge march speeches, burning of draft cards
- Thought of selves as patriots – loyal to U.S. because of protests
- Many fled to Canada to avoid the draft – 4000 resisters arrested
- March on Pentagon 1967 – tear gassed by police and National Guard

Hawks vs. Doves

- Hawks – wanted increased forces in Vietnam
- 1967 – 67% of Americans supported the war despite the "**credibility gap**" – living room war
- saw protests as acts of disloyalty
- Doves – protested – called for withdrawal from Vietnam

End of 1967

- President Johnson reacts to critics in Congress and protesters – "nervous nellies"
- Protesters – misguided and misinformed
- Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara resigns
- War was a stalemate, didn't make sense to continue with high body counts
- **1968** will become one of the worst years in the 20th century

Nixon – elected 1968

- Policy of **Vietnamization** 1969
- Peace talks in Paris 1969 – stalemate, "**peace with honor**"
- influence of the **Silent Majority**
- discovery of the **My Lai Massacre** – Lt. William Calley
- Nixon orders the **invasion of Cambodia** – April 1970 – Congress not notified
- **Kent State** and Jackson State students killed – May 1970
- Response of public to student deaths?
- Congress repeals the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution 1971
- **Pentagon Papers** revealed – what did they say?
- Reaction of public to Pentagon Papers

Conclusion of the War

- **Henry Kissinger** – Secretary of State – “**peace is at hand**” – October 1972
- Christmas bombings 1972 on Hanoi (NV)
- Calls worldwide to end war – Beijing/Moscow
- January 27, 1973 – war ends, NV troops remained in SV
- April 1975 – **Saigon falls**, Ho Chi Minh City today

Effects of War on Veterans

- Americans were indifferent and hostile – no celebrations
- Post-traumatic stress syndrome defined – 15%
- Widespread drug and alcohol abuse
- POWs – thousands remained for 1-8 years after war, many still missing
- 1982 – War Memorial Dedicated in Washington D.C.

Effects of the War on the United States

- Divisions continue
- Hawks – war could have been won, blamed protesters for decreasing morale
- Doves – argue that the NV would have never surrendered, that China and the SU could have entered
- New American point of view on foreign policy – consider risks before involvement
- New American point of view on U.S. government – cynicism, doubt, mistrust, suspicion – credibility gap remains

Policy Changes

- **War Powers Act** 1973 – President must inform Congress within 48 hours of sending out troops, troops may only remain 90 days unless war declared
- The draft is abolished