

APUSH Reference Sheet #8.2

Period 8: 1960 – 1980

Civil Rights, Vietnam, Countercultural Revolution

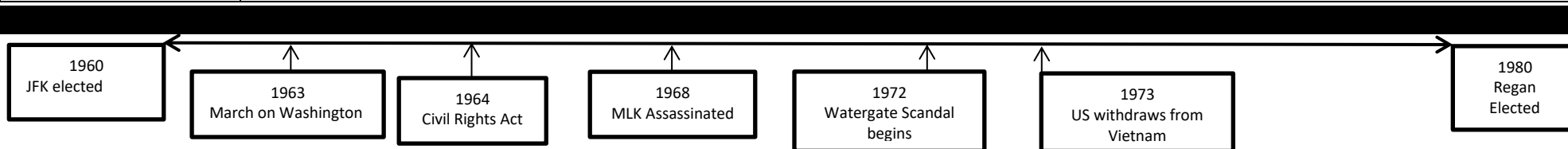
Key Terms

Presidents	
John F. Kennedy (D) 1961 - 1963	Confronted mounting Cold War tensions in Cuba, Vietnam and elsewhere. He also led a renewed drive for public service and eventually provided federal support for the growing civil rights movement. His assassination on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, sent shockwaves around the world.
Lyndon B. Johnson (D) 1963 - 1969	VP to JFK, sworn in after assassination. Aimed at creating a “Great Society” for all Americans and a profound and lasting impact in health, education and civil rights. However, legacy was marred by his failure to lead the nation out of the quagmire of the Vietnam War.
Richard Nixon (R) 1969 - 1974	Only president ever to resign from office, stepped down halfway through his 2nd, rather than face impeachment over his efforts to cover up illegal activities in the Watergate scandal. Achievements included forging diplomatic ties with China and the Soviet Union, and withdrawing U.S. troops from an unpopular war in Vietnam
Gerald Ford (R) 1974 - 1977	Following the resignation of Nixon, Ford became the 1st unelected president in the nation’s history. Ford had been appointed vice president less than a year earlier by President Nixon. He is credited with helping to restore public confidence in government after the disillusionment of the Watergate era.
Jimmy Carter (D) 1977 - 1981	Jimmy Carter struggled to respond to challenges, including a major energy crisis as well as high inflation and unemployment. In the foreign affairs arena, he reopened U.S. relations with China and made headway with efforts to broker peace in the historic Arab-Israeli conflict, but was damaged late in his term by a hostage crisis in Iran.
Civil Rights	
Civil Rights Act - 1964	Ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin
Voting Rights Act - 1965	Aimed to overcome legal barriers at the state & local levels that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote as guaranteed by 15th Amendment
24 th Amendment - 1964	Ended poll tax
Martin Luther King Jr	A social activist and Baptist minister who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968.
Malcolm X	Social activist that urged followers to defend themselves against white aggression “by any means necessary.” Assassinated in 1965.
Montgomery Bus Boycott	Led by MLK, citizens of Montgomery refused to ride public transportation to protest the arrest of Rosa Parks and segregation
Freedom Summer	AKA the Mississippi Summer Project, was sponsored by civil rights organizations aimed at increasing black voter registration in Mississippi
SNCC/CORE	Civil Rights Organizations, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and The Congress of Racial Equality
Black Panther Party	A political organization founded to challenge police brutality against the Black community. Armed citizen patrols in Oakland and other U.S. cities.
Supreme Court Cases	
Roe v. Wade - 1973	A landmark decision issued by Supreme Court on the issue of the constitutionality of laws that criminalized or restricted access to abortions.
Loving v. Virginia - 1967	A landmark decision issued by Supreme Court case that struck down state laws banning interracial marriage
Political Developments	
Bay of Pigs	Under JFK, CIA trains Cubans to invade and overthrow Cuba after Fidel Castro takes over, but the surprise attack is botched and they surrender in less than 24 hrs
Cuban Missile Crisis	U.S. and the Soviet Union engaged in a tense, 13-day political and military standoff in October 1962 over the installation of nuclear-armed Soviet missiles on Cuba
Vietnam War	The Vietnam War was a long, costly and divisive conflict that pitted the communist government of North Vietnam against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. First televised war, unpopular, many working-class Americans resented or attempted to escape the draft. (1964 - 1973)
Watergate Scandal	Burglars were arrested in the office of the DNC, located in the Watergate building complex, of buildings in Washington, connected President Nixon’s reelection campaign, and they had been caught wiretapping phones and stealing documents.
26 th Amendment	In response to criticisms that Americans had to be 21 to vote but only 18 to be drafted to fight in Vietnam, the minimum voting age was lowered to 18
Social Developments	
The Pill - 1960	First hormonal birth control pill is approved of by the FDA, women have new social and economic control over their lives and bodies
Moon Landing - 1969	American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin became the first humans ever to land on the moon, beating the Soviets to the

APUSH Reference Sheet #8.2

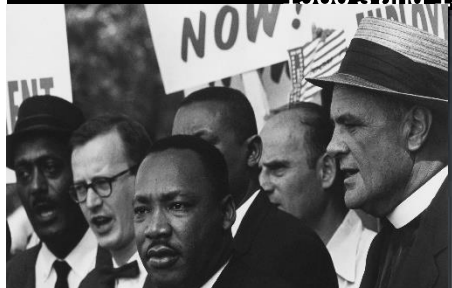
Period 8: 1960 – 1980

	achievement
Kent State	Ohio Army National Guard unit fired at students during an anti-war protest on campus, killing four and wounding nine.
Summer of Love	As many as 100,000 people, mostly young hippies, converged in San Francisco and attended Woodstock music festival in upstate NY
Stonewall Riots	Actress Judy Garland's funeral attracts gay mourners to the Stonewall Tavern in NYC. A melee with police breaks out, launching the Gay Liberation Movement.
N.A. Occupy Alcatraz	Native American activist take over Alcatraz Island in CA, fail to gain title to the island, but inspire a native movement.
“Silent Spring “	An environmental science book by Rachel Carson, it documented the adverse effects on the environment of the indiscriminate use of pesticides
“The Feminine Mystique”	Book Betty Friedan which is widely credited with sparking the beginning of second-wave feminism, was critical of 1950’s housewife conformity
Economic Developments	
Inflation	A decline in agriculture, combined with rising oil prices, create cause unemployment and inflation (10% in '73, 13.5% in 1980)



1960's and 1970's in Pictures

Key Ideas



MLK speaks at the March on Washington and Rosa Parks is arrested for protesting segregated seating on a Montgomery, AL bus



Apollo 11 lands on the moon. Lyndon B Johnson is sworn in on Air Force One immediately after JFK's assassination.



Over 58,000 Americans killed in combat in Vietnam, vast majority of whom did not enlist. Hippie protests Vietnam War and National Guard sent to end protest

Vietnam War: Initially, there was major American support for an anticommunist foreign policy. As the war in Vietnam dragged on, however, mass antiwar protests broke out across the United States. Passionate debates over war in southeast Asia, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the power of the executive branch were all central to the politics of this period.

Civil Rights: Civil rights activists energized a new nationwide movement for racial progress. Martin Luther King Jr. used the strategies of nonviolent protests, direct action, and legal battles. The landmark Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) was a significant achievement for civil rights activists, but progress was slow and resistance was high.

Great Society: In the 1960s, President Johnson's Great Society program attempted to use the power of the federal government to eliminate poverty, end racial discrimination, and promote social justice. Fearing a cultural and moral decline, conservatives challenged such actions and sought to limit the role of the federal government.

Cultural Shift: Spurred by the civil rights movement, other social movements advocated their causes. Debates raged over issues such as sexuality, gender, the environment, and economic equality, and the counterculture of the 1960s emerged.

Government Distrust: In the 1970s, the public grew increasingly distrustful of the government's ability to solve problems. This distrust reached a peak with the Watergate scandal, the stalemate in Vietnam, and President Nixon's resignation from office.

Unit Questions

By the end of these units you should be able to answer the following questions:

- What were the achievements of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s & 60s?
- Why is 1968 considered a pivotal year in US history?
- Why are the 1970s often considered a decade of diminished expectations in America?