



The Vietnam Era

Welcome!

These mini-lectures are an overview of your assigned readings—they should provide better understanding of what you are reading!

Just listen (if audio is provided, it plays automatically), then read the slide, and use the next arrowhead. If you are viewing this in PDF, use the down arrow at the top of the pdf.

Contents:

US support of France in Vietnam

Early US goals in Vietnam

Gulf of Tonkin

Escalation

Public Opinion turns against war

Tet Offensive

Urban Violence

Racial violence

Assassinations

Black Power

Sisterhood

Identity Politics

Conclusions. & A brief post test.



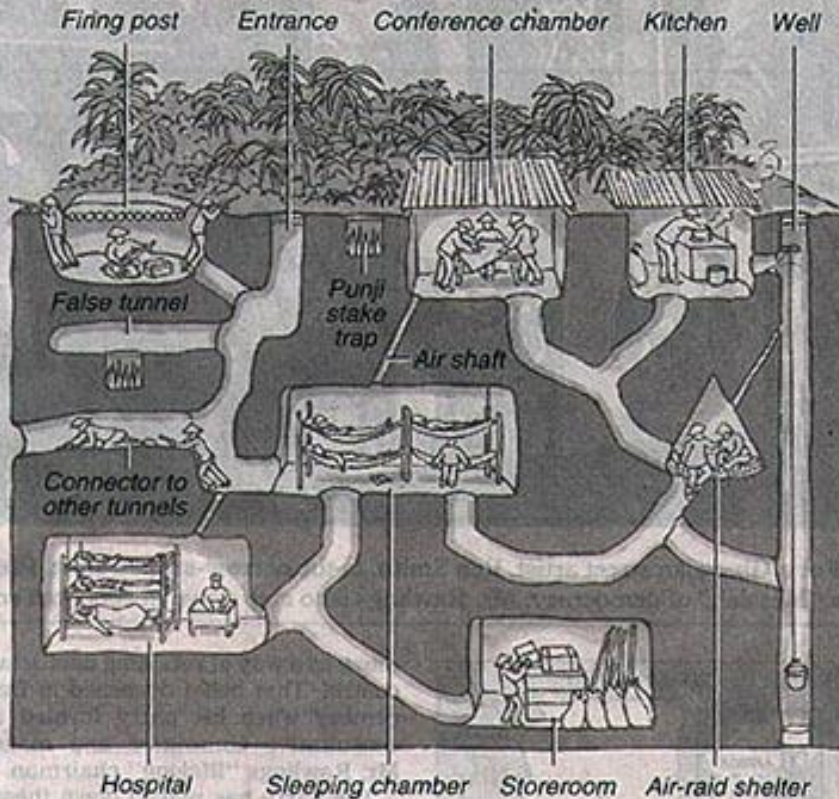
Chu-Chi, Vietnam

GUIDEBOOK

A Day Trip to Wartime

The 75-mile-long Cu Chi tunnels, once a haven for Vietcong fighters and villagers, are now one of many battlegrounds in Vietnam that have been converted to tourist attractions.

A Typical Vietcong Tunnel Complex



Associated Press



Sources: "The Tunnels of Cu Chi," Tom Mangold and John Perrygate, Cornell University

VIETNAM

- **“YOU CAN KILL TEN OF MY MEN FOR EVERY ONE I KILL OF YOURS, EVEN THEN YOU WILL LOSE AND I WILL WIN”**

FRUSTRATION

- **“YOU COULD NEVER EVER LIBERATE A TERRITORY, YOU CLEAN OUT ENTIRE VILLAGES ONE DAY AND THEY RETURN THE NEXT.”**

UNIQUE FACTORS

- CHANGES IN GOALS
- ROTATION OF SOLDIERS
- MASS PROTESTS
- PILOTS//GRUNTS
- NO PLACE SAFE

SIX PHASES

- TRUMAN SUPPORT'S FRENCH
- IKE FEARS DOMINO IMPACT
- KENNEDY ESCALATES

AFTER 1965

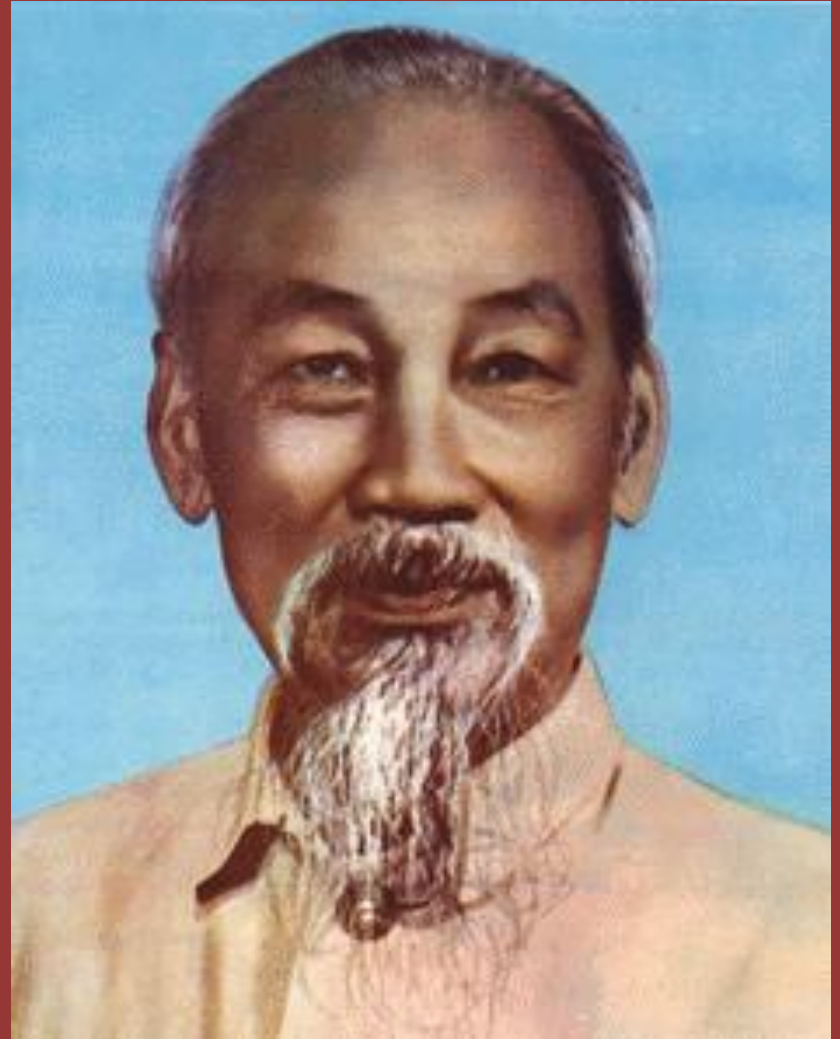
- **LBJ's WAR (TONKIN)**
- **NIXON's REACTION STRIKES**
- **FORD DECLARES IT'S OVER**

SINCE 1948

- **NORTH DECLARES FREEDOM (FROM FRENCH)**
- **SOVIETS AGREE**
- **U.S. SUPPORTS SOUTH**

HO's PHILOSOPHY

- **“THE CONVENTIONAL ARMY LOSES IF IT DOES NOT WIN. THE GUERRILLA ARMY WINS IF IT DOES NOT LOSE”!**



AMERICAN GOALS

- **1954—DIEN BIEN PHU**
- **SUPPORT FOR FREE ELECTIONS
IN SOUTH**
- **BY 1955--\$100,000,000 AND
ABOUT 80 ADVISORS**

GENEVA ACCORDS

- **DIVIDE AT 17TH LAT.**
- **NORTH AND SOUTH REJECT**
- **SOUTH DELAYS FREE ELECTIONS--
IKE OKs IT**

AID INCREASES

- 1956-1960--AID INCREASES
- IKE WARNS JFK OF DANGERS
- BY 1962--U.S. ADVISORS GROW TO 12,000



1961--LBJ AND NGO DINH DIEM

MAJOR ESCALATION

- **WAS TONKIN AN EXCUSE?**
- **WAS IT “ARROGANCE OF POWER”**
- **COULD WE HAVE EVER WON?**

USS MADDOX

- **AUG. 1964**
- **FIRST ATTACK ON ESCORT VESSEL**
- **MADDOX UNHARMED**
- **“IF THEY DO IT AGAIN”**

GULF OF TONKIN RESOLUTION

- **SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT TO
“TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY”**
- **ONLY 2 VOTES AGAINST**

TROOPS

- 1964=23,300
- 1965=184,300
- 1968=536,100
- CIA's PHOENIX--ORDERS TO ASSASSINATE...

“CHARLIES”

- **“SOME JUST KIDS, 14”**
- **“SEARCH AND DESTROY”**
- **MARCH 1968--MY LAI**
- **MORE PROBLEMS**

“rapid deployment” failed



PROBLEMS

- **HUGE NUMBER WOUNDED**
- **DRUG USE**
- **AWOL INCREASED**
- **DRAFT RESISTANCE**



PUBLIC OPINION

- **LBJ APPROVAL**
 - 42% TO 72% AFTER TONKIN
- **NAT'L COMM. TO END WAR**
- **PRES. APPROVAL NOSE-DIVES**

“credibility gap”



PROTESTS

- **TEACH-INS/SIT-INS**
- **PEACE SYMBOL ON HELMUTS**
- **OCT 1967=100,000 MARCH ON WASH DC**



Sen. Wayne Morse



TET 1968

- OFFENSIVE
- CAPTURED CITIES
- EVENTUALLY WON; BUT AT WHAT PRICE
- MARCH 31--LBJ QUILTS



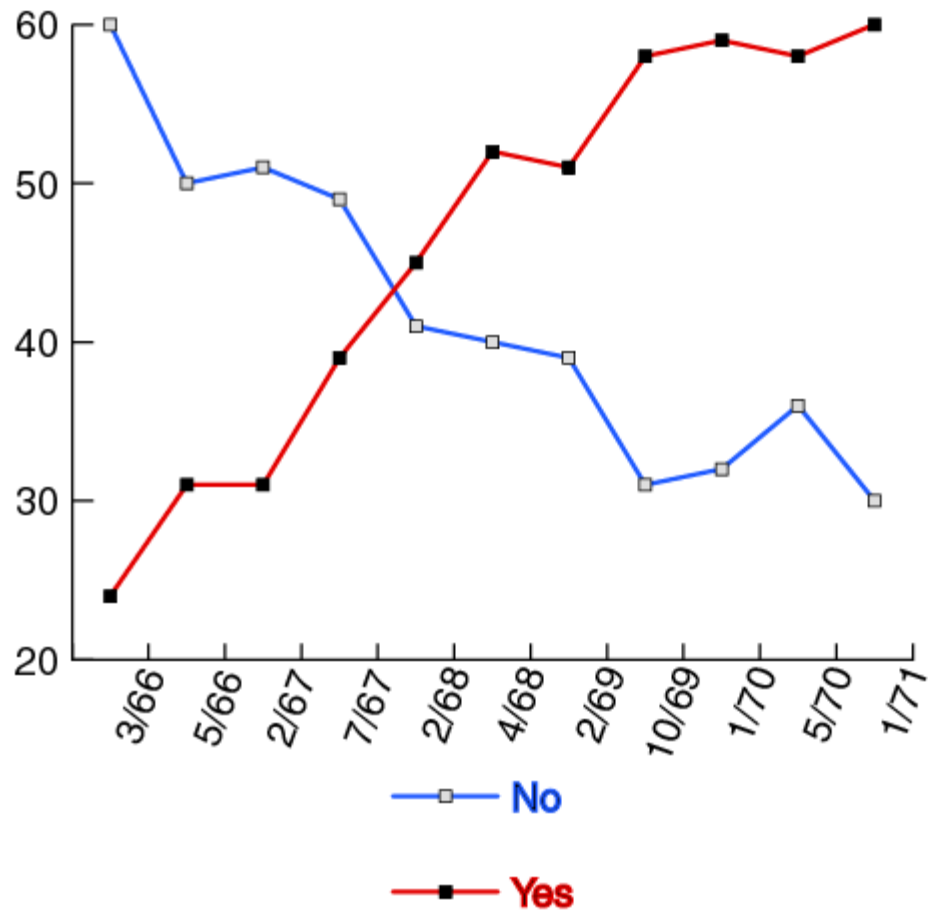




1968 ELECTION

- NIXON
- VIETNAMIZATION
- MORE BOMBING
- CAMBODIA INVASION '70
—KILLINGS AT KENT ST.

Did Americans Think Vietnam Was A Mistake?



"Do you think that the United States made a mistake in sending troops to fight there (Vietnam)?"

MORE PROBLEMS

- **MORE BOMBS**
- **“PENTAGON PAPERS”**
 - DANIEL ELLSBERG**
 - SHOWED U.S. HID TRUTH
ABOUT VIETNAM**

CEASE FIRE

- “PROTECTIVE REACTION STRIKES”
- JAN. 1973=ACCORD SIGNED
- WAR POWERS RESOLUTION--
1973

COSTS

- **58,000 AMERICANS**
- **1.5 MILLION VIETNAMESE**
- **\$170 BILLION**

VICTORY'S

JUST

around

THE

corner.



Handwritten signature

DAYTON DAILY NEWS 11/25/00

IT GOT “HOT”

- IN VIETNAM
- IN THE CITIES
- ON CAMPUS.....

URBAN VIOLENCE

- 1964--HARLEM, PHILADELPHIA
- 1965--WATTS (L.A.)
 - BLACK MALE
UNEMPLOYMENT=30%

BURN BABY BURN

- 50,000 IN WATTS RIOTS
- 20,000 NAT'L GUARD
- 34 PEOPLE DEAD
- 900 INJURIES
- WHO WAS TO BLAME?

1967 Riots....

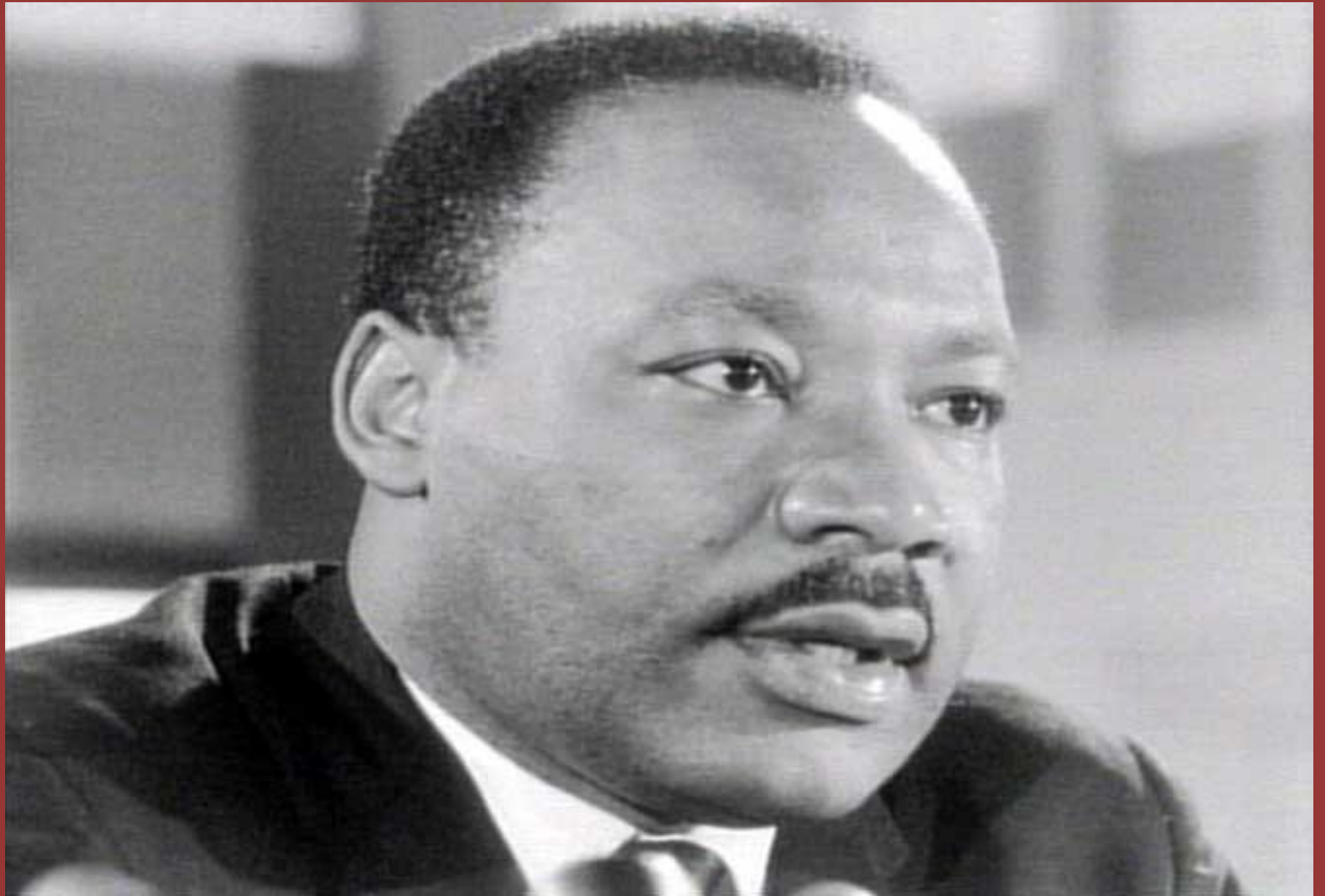
- **SAN FRANCISCO**
- **MILWAUKEE**
- **NEWARK**
- **CLEVELAND**
- **DETROIT--34 DEAD**

KERNER COMMISSION ON VIOLENCE

- LBJ ASKED FOR STUDY
- OTTO KERNER (ILL.)
- INDICTED “WHITE RACISM” ... “POVERTY” ... “POLICE BRUTALITY”

1968

- **APRIL 4, 1968--DR. KING ASSASSINATED**
 - HAD TIED WAR AND RACISM TOGETHER**
- **RIOTS BROKE OUT IN OVER 100 CITIES**





JUNE 1968

- **DEMOCRATS CAMPAIGNING**
- **ROBERT KENNEDY KILLED**
- **DEM. CONVENTION BECOMES
VIOLENT**

MORE VIOLENCE

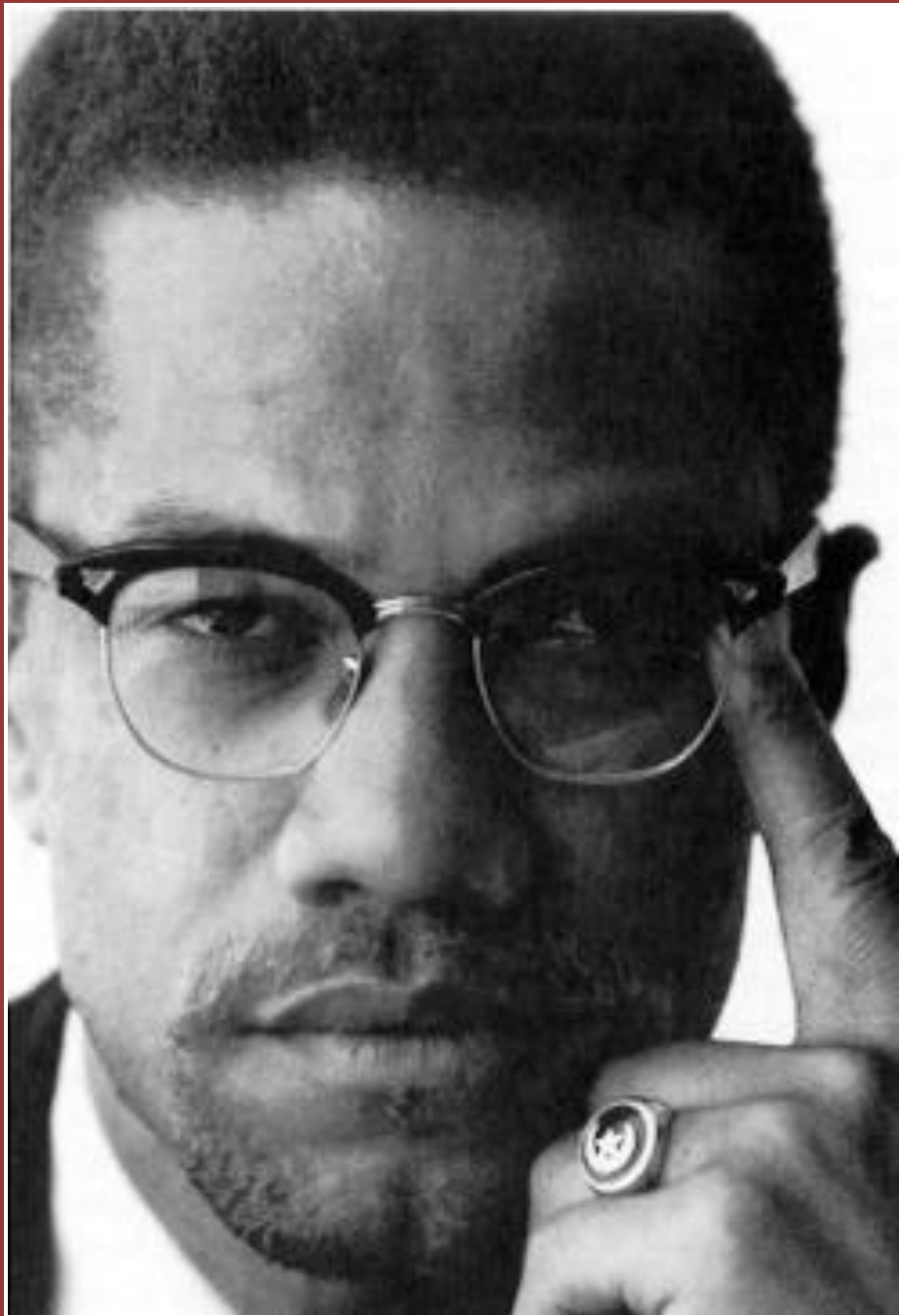
- **HUBERT HUMPHREY
NOMINATED**
- **NUDE-IN & YIPPIES**
- **EMBARRASSED THE NATION**

“Identity Politics”

- Black Americans
- Latino
- Asian
- Feminists
- Gay Rights

BLACK IDENTITY

- MALCOLM X, NOI
- BLOODY SUNDAY IN SELMA
- BEGINNING OF POLITICS OF IDENTITY



MALCOLM X

**URGED
PRIDE IN
AFRICAN
HERITAGE**

BLACK POWER

- 1966--STOKLEY CARMICHAEL
- BLACK PANTHERS
- OPERATION BREADBASKET

SISTERHOOD

- FEMININE MYSTIQUE
- NOW
- PUSHED NEW ERA
- REDSTOCKINGS
- WITCH

Ms. Magazine



ERA Demonstration



Right to Life Rally '75



RED POWER

- AIM
- 1972=TAKE-OVERS
- NARF--FUND TO FINANCE RETURN OF LAND
- RENAISSANCE

GAY LIBERATION

- LOCAL ADVOCACY
- GAY LIBERATION FRONT
- USED CIVIL RIGHTS TACTICS
- APA=GAY IS NORMAL

Gay Rights demo...'76



CHICANO POWER

- “LA RAZA”--PRIDE
- BILINGUAL EDUCATION ACT, 1968
- BROWN BERETS
- LRUP--POLITICS

Nixon Promises...

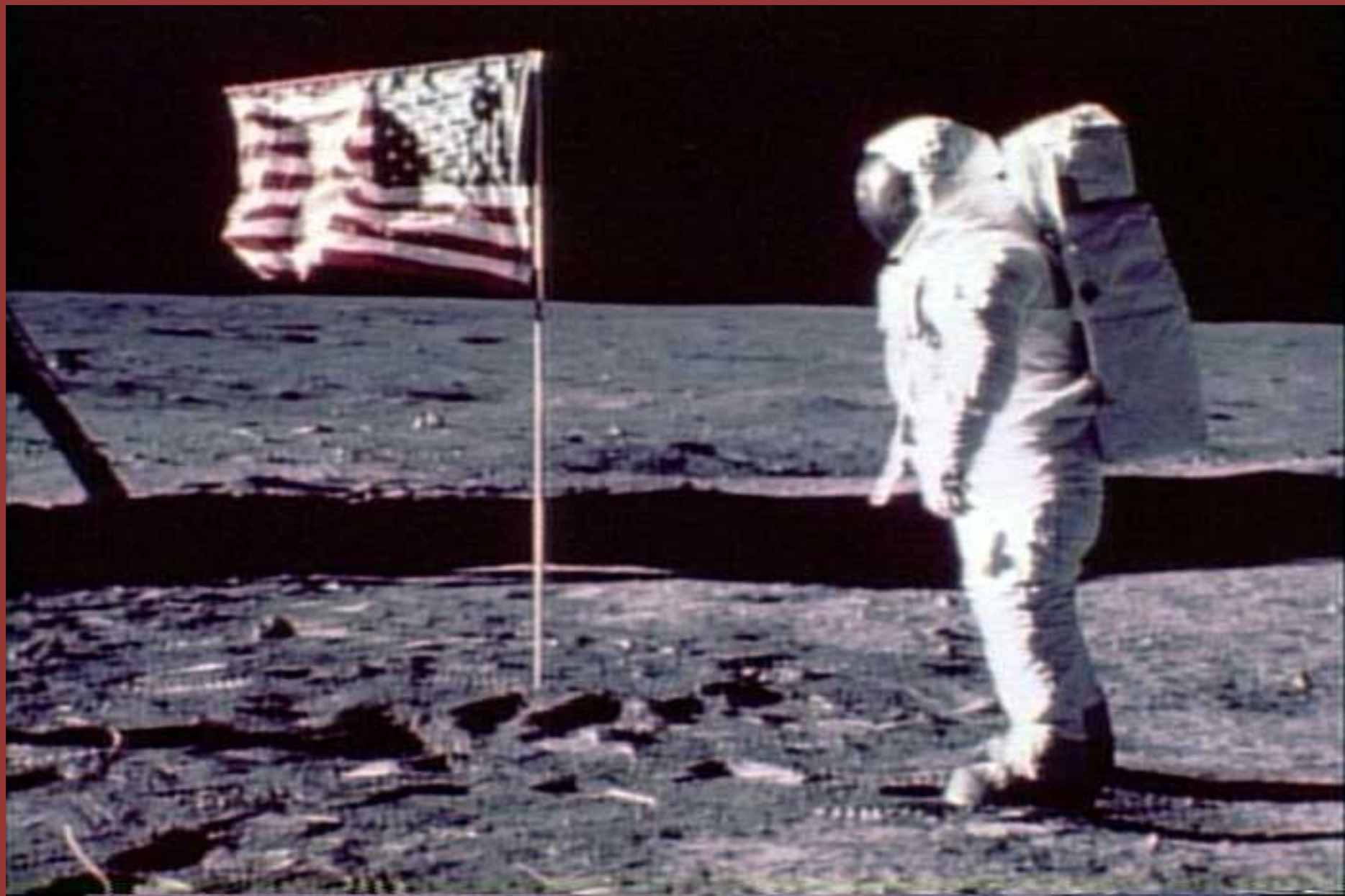


Invasion of Cambodia



Trip to China Open's New Relations





CONCLUSIONS

...Vietnam became a pawn in the colonial goals of France

...and then a goal of U.S. containment of communism

...LBJ escalated the war after the Gulf of Tonkin incident

...the Tet 1968 Offensive nearly defeated US forces

...as the war drug on urban, campus, and racial violence increased

...both Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were assassinated

...angry black youth turned to Black Power advocates

...so-called Identify Politics led to more demands for equity



A Brief Post Test! Read the question, then click on the best answer to see feedback.

The US supported France's desire to hold Vietnam as a colony. [True.](#) [False.](#)

LBJ received additional powers from the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. [True.](#) [False.](#)

Escalation along with assassination caused public opinion to support the war. [True.](#) [False.](#)

The Tet Offensive in 1968 failed but caused Americans to re-think the war. [True.](#) [False.](#)

As the war turned ugly, so did urban and racial violence. [True.](#) [False.](#)

Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968. [True.](#) [False.](#)

Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968. [True.](#) [False.](#)

Black Power advocates energized young African Americans. [True.](#) [False.](#)

The movement called Identity Politics was not a factor in the 1960s. [True.](#) [False.](#)

The feminists movement resulted in new leaders and new ideas about gender. [True.](#) [False.](#)





Good! That is Correct!

**[Click to return to the Post
Test!](#)**



Yikes! Try that again!

[Click to return to the Post Test!](#)