



PERIOD 8 1945-1980 TEST REVIEW

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THE BIG ARGUMENTS

THE KEY IDEAS

BIG ARGUMENTS

- ✓ The US established itself first as the global superpower, then as one of two in a global conflict with the Soviet Union known as the Cold War. This conflict embroils the US in two hot wars, in Vietnam and Korea.
- ✓ The civil rights movement effected monumental change in American life for people of color, but there was massive political, legal and economic resistance that persist until today.
- ✓ The turbulent 1960s saw the United States swing from an expansive vision for the federal government in Johnson's Great Society to a more conservative vision articulated by Richard Nixon. Even Nixon, though, was very liberal by modern Republican standards on environmental and economic issues.
- ✓ The United States experienced a massive economic boom at the outset of the period, but by the 1970s was experiencing a crisis in confidence caused by political dysfunction, failure in Vietnam, and new economic challenges.
- ✓ A deeply divided society battled over civil rights, LGBTQ rights, the environment and more.

**YOU MUST
REMEMBER
THIS**

KEY POINTS WORTH LOCKING AWAY IN THE BRAIN

THE EARLY COLD WAR

- The US shifts to a policy of **containment** to stop the spread of communism after WW2.
 - **The Truman Doctrine:** US aid to Greece and Turkey as a sign of commitment to preserve countries free from communism.
 - **Marshall Plan:** \$13 billion in aid to rebuild Europe. It checks the spread of communism and grows the economies of European nations.
- **Berlin**
 - The USSR opposes the consolidation of Western zones in Berlin. 1949, West Germany created.
 - **Berlin Airlift** was the first test of US-USSR in Germany.



THE EARLY COLD WAR

- **NATO** (1949) versus the **Warsaw Pact** (1955)
- **Containment in Asia**
 - Communists take power in China, 1949
- **Korean War**
 - Divided at the end of World War 2
 - 1950, communist North Korea invades
 - US and UN forces fight against North Koreans and Chinese, backed by USSR.
 - The war comes to an end in 1953 with the two sides still divided today.
- The US, abandoning its traditional isolation, not shows itself willing to fight to restrain communism.



THE RED SCARE

- Congress was searching for Communists:
 - **House UnAmerican Activities Committee,**
 - Smith Act
 - Loyalty Program
 - **Alger Hiss Case**
 - **Senator Joseph McCarthy** makes wild accusations about communists in government and in the Army, garnering wide national attention. **McCarthyism** comes to an end after his 1954 trials against the Army.
 - **The Rosenberg case**



THE 1950S ECONOMY

- **President Eisenhower** presided over the beginning of a period of massive American economic growth.
- The American GNP doubled between 1945-1960.
- By 1970, the US produced and consumed 65% of American goods with only 6% of population.
- Why?
 - Federal spending
 - Technological innovations
 - Baby Boom
 - Interstate Highways
 - Truman's **Fair Deal** created the **GI Bill** and **Serviceman's Readjustment Act**
- Not All Benefited
 - 20% in Poverty
 - **Redlining** practices undermined gains for Black Americans.



THE 1950S CULTURE

- The Age of Conformity/Consensus
- Suburban Life
 - By 1970, more people lived in suburbs (76 million) than in cities (64 million). Rural population continued to decline.
 - **Levittown** was a model for these cookie cutter suburbs.
- Women and the return to the life of domesticity
- Challenges to Conformity
 - **Beat Movement**
 - Youth Movement/**Teenagers**
 - **Rock and Roll**



1950S CIVIL RIGHTS

- 1954: **Brown v. Board of Education**: ended **de jure** segregation in the United States, **de facto** segregation remains
- **Little Rock Nine** lead to Eisenhower sending in the National Guard to protect integration.
- The **Montgomery Bus Boycott** (1955-56) calls national attention to the fight for civil rights and makes **Martin Luther King, Jr.** a national figure.
- In 1948, Truman issues Executive Order 9981, which ends segregation in the military
- The **filibuster** emerges as a tactic to delay civil rights.
- The **Emmett Till** sparks awareness of the continued violence against Black Americans in the South.



ROSA PARKS

1960S CIVIL RIGHTS

- Kennedy was slow to act, even though only **5% of eligible Black voters were registered in Mississippi** and states still used tactics from **poll taxes** to violence to restrict Black voting.
- Two early popular movements were **Sit-ins** and the **Freedom Riders**.
- Kennedy critiqued civil rights leaders for escalating tension and undermine US credibility abroad.
- **Birmingham (1963)**
 - “Most segregated city in America”/Bombingham
 - Letter from a B’Ham Jail
 - Children’s Crusade/Bull Connor
 - Shift to the movement seeking to escalate tension, not educate.



MLK AND JFK AFTER THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

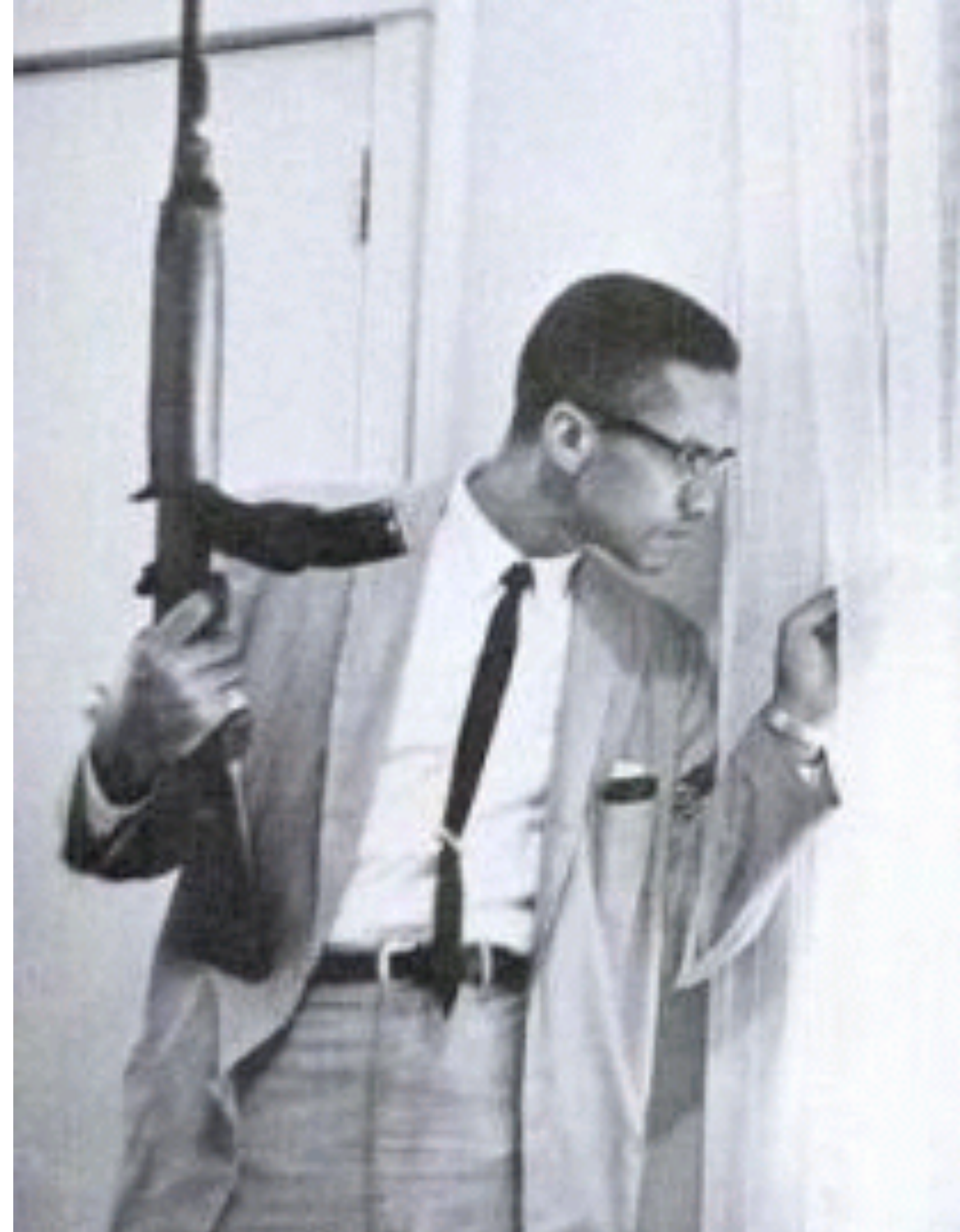
RESULTS

- The **March on Washington** (1963) saw 200,000 people march and forced JFK to speak to MLK.
- After Kennedy's assassination, **Lyndon Johnson** gets civil rights legislation passed:
 - **Civil Rights Act of 1964** opened all facilities, protected the right to vote, and worked for employment equality.
 - **Voting Rights Act of 1965** authorized federal investigations and saw the federal government sue when voting rights were threatened.



CRITIQUES

- The **Black Panthers** argued for a more militant fight for civil rights and questioned the need for integration.
- **Malcolm X** and the **Nation of Islam** argued for **black nationalism**. Malcolm was assassinated when he began to question the Nation of Islam.
- Towards the end of his life, King also adopts a more radical posture, calling for a **Poor People's Campaign** and **criticizing the Vietnam War**.



EXPANSION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

— Women

- Near passage of the **ERA**.

- **Roe v. Wade**

- **Second Wave Feminism**

— Chicano Movement

- Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers

— LGBTQ+

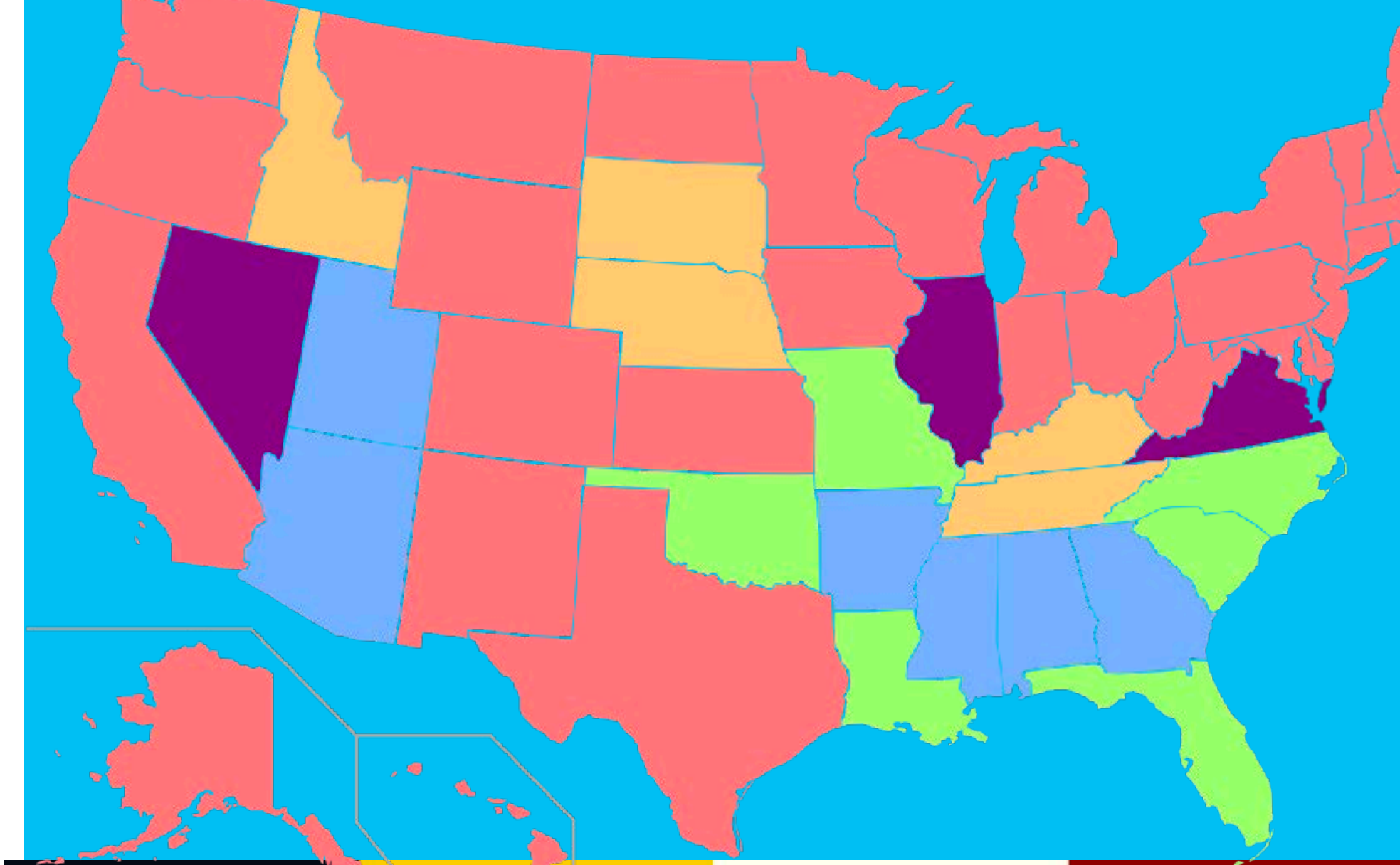
- The Stonewall riot (1969)

- Homosexuality no longer declared a mental illness by the APA (1974)

— American Indians

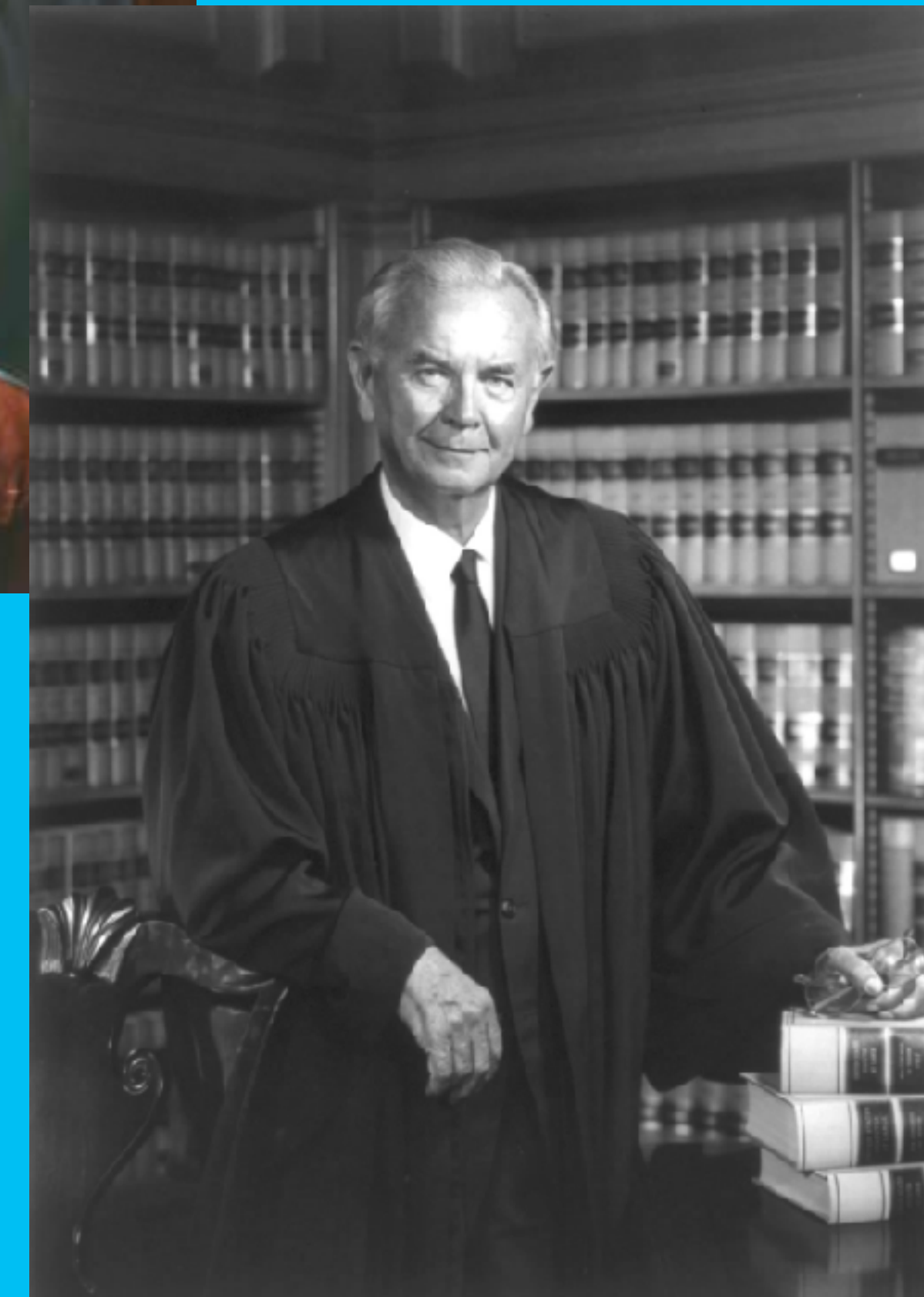
- Russell Means the the American Indian Movement

- Wounded Knee Occupation



THE WARREN COURT

- Under **Earl Warren**, the Supreme Court shifts left, granting more protections for the rights of women, people of color, and those accused of crimes.
 - **Gideon v. Wainwright** (1963) held that states must give indigent people a legal defense.
 - **Miranda v. Arizona** (1966) required police to inform suspects of their rights.
 - **Loving v. Virginia** (1967) struck down miscegenation laws.
 - **Griswold v. Connecticut** (1965) guaranteed the right to use birth control.
- These cases fuel a conservative backlash that will help lead to the resurgence of the right in the 1970s and 1980s.



FOREIGN POLICY: 1950S-1970S

- **Eisenhower**
 - Shifts US policy to **brinksmanship** and **massive retaliation**, kicking off the **arms race** that eventually saw 61,000 nuclear warheads.
 - Also begins the **Space Race** that culminates with the **US putting astronauts on the moon in '69**.
 - **U-2 Incident**
- **Kennedy**
 - **Bay of Pigs**
 - **Cuban Missile Crisis**
- **Johnson**
 - See Vietnam notes



FOREIGN POLICY 1950S-1970S

■ Richard Nixon

- Nixon Doctrine
- China
- Realpolitik
- Detente

■ Jimmy Carter

- Camp David Accords (1979)
- The Iran Hostage Crisis (1979)
- Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan



THE VIETNAM WAR

- US enters under Eisenhower as part of the **domino theory**, but under Ike and JFK the US has a relatively limited role. 17,000 **advisers** there in 1963.
- Under Johnson, the **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution** (1964) gives the President broad power to escalate the conflict
- Between '65 and '75, the US drops **7.5 million tons** of bombs on Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.
- **Nixon** expands the war with bombings in **Cambodia**, but promises to end the war with a policy of **Vietnamization**.
- Anger over the war leads to passage of the **War Powers Act**.
- Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos all become communist nations.



THE YOUTH MOVEMENT

- Student activism reaches a peak with the **Students for a Democratic Society** and **Free Speech Movement**.
- The **hippie movement** offers a radical critique of capitalism and social norms.
 - **Woodstock (1969)**
- The **Sexual Revolution** is kicked off by the introduction of the **birth control pill** in 1960.
- The **Anti-War Movement**
 - 300,000 march in NYC
 - Burning of Draft cards, flight to Canada
 - Anger over **deferments**
 - **Muhammad Ali**



THE GREAT SOCIETY

- **Lyndon Johnson** passes the most ambitious domestic agenda outside of the New Deal, a program collectively known as the **Great Society** and the **War on Poverty**.
 - **Medicare** (1965)
 - **Medicaid** (1966)
 - Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 - Head Start
 - **Immigration Act** (1965)
- Implications
 - **Greatest reduction in poverty in US history**
 - Very expensive, leads to big expansion of federal government
 - Inspires conservative movement
 - **Guns and Butter**



THE KEY 1968 ELECTION

- Along with **1800, 1860, and 1896**, the 1968 election is a **realignment of the political landscape**.
- One of the most turbulent years in American history: **assassinations of RFK, MLK** and the disaster of the **1968 Democratic National Conference**.
- The **Solid South** breaks away from the Democrats to back **George Wallace**. Four years later, it will break for Nixon.
- Nixon appeals to “**silent majority**” of white voters, concerned about the youth movement, crime, and the breakdown of traditional values.



THE TROUBLED 70S: WATERGATE

- Nixon ends up running one of the most corrupt administrations in American history. His VP, **Spiro Agnew**, is forced to resign over bribery charges and **Nixon is forced to resign to avoid impeachment**.
- News coverage of the bungled **Watergate break-in** exposes not only crimes in the Committee to Re-Elect the President (**CREEP**), but a coordinated **cover-up** at the White House.
- The **White House tapes** reveal the extent of the Nixon cover-up, and the **Saturday Night Massacre** turns Congressional Republicans against the President.
- Nixon resigns in 1974, kicking off deep cynicism about government in middle America.



THE ECONOMY IN THE 1970S

- In 1973, **OPEC** places an embargo on oil sales to countries, including the US.
- This kicks off an economic disaster: runaway inflation, loss of manufacturing jobs, and a decline in the standard of living for middle-class Americans.
- The 1970s spelled the end of American faith in **Keynesian economics** as people began to question limits to American abundance in an era of **stagflation**.
- Neither President Ford nor Carter can turn the economy around.
- In 1979, Carter gives his (in)famous **crisis of confidence** speech, in which he articulates how America seems to have lost faith in itself.



RISE OF THE EVANGELICALS

- Concerned by acceptance of the LGBTQ community, ending prayer in schools, the ERA and most of all, abortion, **evangelical Christians** began to emerge as a political force on the right.
- By 1980, **Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority** and Pat Robertson's **Christian Coalition** emerge as key figures in the **New Right** of the Republican Party: a coalition of social conservatives and pro-business conservatives.



ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

- The modern environmental movement is kicked off by **Rachel Carson** after the publication of her book ***Silent Spring*** in 1962.
- Environmentalism becomes a mass movement
 - **Earth Day** (1970)
 - **Sierra Club**
- Under Nixon, the US passes
 - **Clean Air Act** (1970)
 - **Clean Water Act** (1972)
 - **Endangered Species Act** (1973)
- The **Sagebrush Rebellion** signals conservative resistance, particularly in the West.



CONTEXT

WHAT ARE KEY LINKAGES BETWEEN THIS ERA AND OTHERS?

POINTS OF CONNECTION/CONTEXT

Before/Other

- ✓ The hostility between the US and USSR after the war can also be traced to the failure of the US to open a Western front in WW2 and even the Allied invasion of Russia in 1918.
- ✓ American student protests in the 1960s were a global phenomenon, with young people all over the world fighting the conformity of the 1950s generation.
- ✓ The Great Society represented the culmination of the New Deal and the promise of FDR's "four freedoms."
- ✓ The Nation of Islam and Black Panther Party can trace some ideological influence back to Marcus Garvey.

After

- ✓ American victory in World War 2, combined with the damage to much of Europe, set in motion a period of massive economic growth and political power for the US between 1945-1970.
- ✓ The repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act in 1999 is linked to the mortgage collapse of 2008.
- ✓ The liberalism of the Warren Court, youth movement, and civil rights movement spur a backlash that drives a more conservative Republican Party through the elections of George W. Bush and Donald Trump.
- ✓ The "Silent Majority" Nixon appealed to have many of the attributes of those who brought Donald Trump to power in the 2020.
- ✓ The Baby Boom that brought prosperity in the 1960s has led to economic challenges for the US today.

TERMS

THE BROAD LIST OF TERMS FROM THIS UNIT

- 38th Parallel
- Alger Hiss
- American Indian Movement
- Arms Race
- Army Hearings
- Baby Boom
- Bay of Pigs
- Berlin Airlift
- Berlin Blockade
- Betty Friedan
- Birmingham/Bombingham
- birth control pill
- Black Panthers
- Blacklisting
- brinksmanship
- Brown v. Board
- Bull Connor
- Camp David Accords
- Cesar Chavez
- Children's Crusade
- Chuck Barry
- Civil Rights Act
- Clean Air and Water Acts
- Containment
- Crisis in Confidence
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Cuyahoga River
- detente
- Domino Theory
- Douglas MacArthur
- Earl Warren
- Emmet Till
- Endangered Species Act
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Executive Order 9981
- Fair Deal
- filibuster
- Freedom Riders
- gentrification
- George Wallace
- GI Bill
- Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- Guns and Butter
- Head Start
- Hippies
- House Un-American Activities Committee
- Hungarian Revolution
- Interstate Highway Act
- Iran Hostage Crisis
- Iron Curtain
- J. Edgar Hoover
- Joseph McCarthy
- Levittown
- Little Rock Nine
- Loyalty Program
- Malcolm X
- March on Washignton
- Marshall Plan
- McCarran-Walter Act of 1952
- McCarthyism
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- military-industrial complex
- Milliken v. Bradley
- Moral Majority
- Muhammad Ali
- NATO
- Neil Armstrong
- New Right
- Nixon Doctrine
- Nixon Tapes
- OPEC
- Poll Taxes
- Rachel Carson
- Realpolitik
- Redlining
- Robert Kennedy
- Robert Oppenheimer
- Roe v. Wade
- Rosa Parks
- Rosenbergs
- Sagebrush Rebellion
- SALT Treaty
- Saturday Night Massacre
- Second Wave Feminism
- Silent Majority
- Smith Act
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- Southern Manifesto
- Space Race
- Sputnik
- stagflation
- Stonewall
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
- Students for Democratic Society
- Superfund
- Teenagers
- Tet Offensive
- The Beats
- The Other America
- Thurgood Marshall
- Truman Doctrine
- U-2
- Vietnamization
- Voting Rights Act
- Warren Court
- Warsaw Pact
- Watergate
- Watts Rebellion
- Whitaker Chambers
- Woodstock
- Woodward and Bernstein