Topic 10: An Era of Change

I The Counter Culture of the 1960's

- A. For the counterculture movement "freedom", meant a rejection of conformity and social restraints
- B. The credibility gap over the Vietnam war inspired the maxim "Don't trust anyone over 30".
- C. The post WWII baby boom created a massive student population in the 1960's.
- D. The music of the baby boomers showed their rejection of the status quo.
- E. Andy Warhol's art showed the rejection of traditional ideas about art.
- F. Communal living was a reaction against the suburban nuclear family of the 1950's.
- G. The negative consequence of drug abuse and crime came with the hippies "free lifestyle".

II The Women's Rights Movement

- A. Betty Friedan believed that strict gender roles have a negative effect on women's health and careers.
- B. The National Organization for Women (NOW) was formed to help bring about the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.
- C. Martha Griffiths forced the Equal Rights Amendment to the floor of the house so it could be voted on.
- D. Phyllis Schlafly was open against the women's movement. She felt It would destroy the family, marriage, and children. She represented the views of the "silent majority".
- E. Women began to benefit from great familiarity with the political processes and practices.
- F. Women's opportunities in education are expanded because discrimination is banned.

III Expanding the Push for Equality

- A. Immigration to the US raises dramatically in the late twentieth century.
- B. The Nationality Act of 1965 eliminated national quotas, this led to surge of immigration from Mexico.
- C. Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union are able to get laws passed in California requiring growers to collectively bargain with Unions.
- D. The Chicano movement affected schools, as they demanded a curriculum that better reflected the culture and history of the Latino student body.
- E. The Indian Rights Movement demand land an mineral rights from the government.
- F. The establishment of the Special Olympics showed there was growing public support for those with disabilities during the 1960's.

IV The Environmental Movement

- A. In a book by Rachel Carson "Silent Spring" Americans first become aware of the dangers of pesticides.
- B. The government responds to toxic waste areas by creating Superfunds to clean them up.
- C. Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident negatively affected public opinion of nuclear energy.
- D. Critics of environmental regulations tried to argue that the 5th Amendment protected them from these laws.

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V The Two Sides of the Nixon Presidency

- A. Realpolitik allowed the US to establish relations with nations the US opposed ideologically.
- B. Nixon wanted to attract moderate Democratic voters from the South, they were the "Silent Majority".
- C. Federal Budget deficits from increased defense spending was the cause of rising inflation in the 1970's.
- D. The crises of the oil embargo of 1973, showed that the US was heavily dependent on foreign oil.
- E. Nixon criticizes the busing of children outside their neighborhood schools to try an appeal to Southern white and blue-collar voters.
- F. The most significant result of the 1972 election was that Nixon became the first Republican to sweep the Southern states.
- G. Nixon attempts to obstruct justice during the Watergate trial
- H. The Watergate scandal affected all three branches of government. The Supreme Court ruled that Nixon must turn over the tapes, and the Congress voted to impeach him.

VI Ford and Carter Struggle.

- A. The American public reacts negatively to President Ford's pardon of Nixon. They believed that Nixon and Ford must have made a secret deal, so Ford could be come Vice President.
- B. Ford's WIN plan, was a failure at stopping inflation.
- C. Carter withdrew support from many of the oppressive dictators that they US had previously supported.
- D. The Camp David Accords saw Israel restore its borders with Egypt to their pre-1967 levels.
- E. Radical Iranian students storm the US embassy in Tehran and take 66 Americans hostage, because they were protesting the US continued support of their former leader, the Shah of Iran.
- F. Population growth in the Sun Belt increased the political influence of the states in the Southwest and Southeast.
- G. The growing popularity of evangelical Christianity led to a conservative coalition with the Republicans that dominated American politics in the next decade.