

## Chapter 27 American

### **A. rise in hispanic activism**

- in the 1960s latinos or hispanic americans represented the fastest growing minority group in america. hispanic americans were comprised of a varied population of people from puerto rico, mexico, the caribbean, and other latin american countries. many of these individuals worked in low paying service industry jobs and they also worked as migrant agricultural workers. there were over 6 million hispanics living in the southwest region of the united states with the majority of them living in agricultural regions of southern california, arizona, and texas.
- during the 1960s chicago protesters drew national attention when in 1962 cesar chavez and dolores huerta organized a movement to improve the working conditions of migrant workers. they also employed the non violent tactics of mahatma gandhi. even though she grew up in a middle class urban family m huerta had experienced discrimination because of her hispanic ethnicity. she joined forces with chavez and began to press for improved education services for hispanic migrant children who were enrolled in american schools. 2
- she also organized voter registration campaigns which targeted hispanic voters. other chicano groups throughout america joined forces and began campaigns to end discriminatory education and employment practices which target hispanics
- throughout 1960s white civil rights activists also launched anti war demos student protests and the renewed feminist movement. these groups challenged the authority traditional values and legitimacy of established political and religious orgs.

### **B. johnson and the war**

- when johnson took office latin america and vietnam were already unstable regions.
- cuba was his biggest problem in western hemisphere as castro continued his close relationships with soviet union.
- therefore johnson decided to continue his economic boycott against cuba as spelled out in kennedy admin mann doctrine.
- 1965 he sent 25K us troops to dominican republic to put down an attempt by communist rebels to establish a communist regime
- the gulf of tonkin affair in 1964 led to military escalation in vietnam
- escalation: an increase in military presence and the increase in the level of military actions.
- gulf of tonkin affair after this event the us congress took action authorizing president johnson to take any measures necessary to repel attacks against us forces in vietnam
- johnson appointed general william westmoreland as the commander of us forces in vietnam from 1964-68

- ho chi minh trail main route by which north vietnamese soldiers and supplies reached south vietnam

### C. the anti war movement

- search and destroy tactics used by us military during johnson admin emphasized search for and finding vietnamese forces and attempting to cause as many deaths as possible. military success was measured by enemy body counts
- antiwar movement throughout 1964 american public begins to voice its opposition to the vietnam war, first protest held by student democratic society at university of michigan in 1965
- antiwar movement quickly spread to other universities prompting gov to initiate cointelpro
- counter intelligence program was a fbi tactic used to expose disrupt and discredit groups considered to be radical political organizations it target various antiwar groups during vietnam war
- tet offensive launched by north vietnamese increase anti war sentiment in 1968
- tet: lunar new year celebrated in vietnam, north vietnamese lead a significant attack on south vietnam and american troops in january 1968 during this celebration. american counter-attack was successful, however, number of civilian fatalities increased american anti-war sentiment

### D. tet offensive

- took 21 days to oust communist supported north viet cong from south vietnam's imperial city of hue. city was destroyed. 10K civilians killed. 5K communist forces killed. south vietnamese force lost 384 soldiers and america suffered 216 casualties
- however as more civilians killed in south vietnam began to pressure their gov to end war
- american support for war weakened and pres johnson soon accepted the reality that america was not going to win the war.
- general westmoreland commander of all american troops in vietnam from 1964-1968

### E. election of 1968

- robert kennedy was leading democratic candidate. democratic senator eugene mccarthy of minnesota was seeking the nomination. southern democrat and segregationist george wallace ran as independent. the republican ran richard nixon who had previously served as vp under eisenhower.

### F. assassination riots and backlash

- robert kennedy assassinated in june of 1968 after winning cali primary.
- mccarthy won the democratic nomination but lost election to republican but lost election to richard nixon. wallace managed to split the democratic vote. mccarthy lost by less than 1 million votes (42.7%). nixon won (43.4%) of the popular vote.

### G. hispanic and native americans

- 1960s latino leaders began to press for better labor practices and more political visibility. hispanics working in the agricultural occupations in the southwest

region. they worked for less than minimum wage, were not covered, and were not allowed to attend public schools

- cesar chavez and dolores huerta organized farm workers in central california

#### **H. nixon's domestic agenda**

- attempt to limit civil rights reform
  - nixon cuts great society budgets
  - southern political strategy
  - anti busing school desegregation
  - supreme court appointees
  - building the silent majority
- the southern strategy: a plan to lure southern's into the republican party by appointing conservative whites to the supreme court.

#### **I. political scandals**

- watergate: june 1972 republican operative broke into democratic national committee headquarters located in washington d.c. when it became apparent that republican political leaders were behind the break in nixon and other high ranking republicans attempted to cover up the scandal. after defeating the democratic nominee george mcgovern and being elected to his second term nixon's second term was defined by this and other political scandals
- in july 1973 it was revealed that nixon had meet with john dean to play the watergate break ins. john dean white house council to the president admitted his involvement in the illegal break ins and became a witness for the prosecution investigation the scandal and cover up
- during this same time span spiro agnew nixon's vp was forced to resign after it was discovered that he had been guilty of illegal financial dealings while he was governor of maryland

#### **J. nixon and political scandal**

- limits of executive power
- spiro agnew, bribery and resignation
- nixon tried to side track prosecutors by claiming executive privilege. he refused to release secret tapes related to watergate scandal
- nixon, watergate, after supreme court overruled executive privilege claims nixon was impeached
- general ford became president and immediately pardoned nixon

#### **K. republicans suffer a blow**

- congressional reform to limit abuse of government power
- federal election act of 1974
- independent counsel law
- retraining CIA and FBI power
- jimmy carter presidency