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Social Movements and Politics in the Long 1970s

"A Decade of Limits, A Decade of Possibilities"

- something in the 1970s was encouraging retro thought (e.g., M*A*S*H, Grease, Happy days... Vietnam war, other two set in the 1950s)
- for the youth, "lets go natural with the hair" (afros, let it grow long without layers, etc. until Farrah..)
- music: disco
- clothing for the youth: bell-bottoms, polyester, bra-burning
- **Dichotomies b/t the younger people in the 1970s and their parents in the 1970s**
chronology alone doesn't explain when the 1960s ended and the 1970s began... runs into the early 1970s and once the '60s portion of protesting fades away (end of the draft/end of the Vietnam war)-->still the divide b/t youths and their parents
 - younger americans questioning the culture
 - increasing concern about the politics of the country---are we heading on the right track?

- Chicano/a Civil Rights & Cesar Chavez

Harvest of shame: an imprisonment based on poverty and lack of education; there are no keys and locks or ownerships--but there is certainly a box that these migrant workers were stuck in--getting out of the box was near impossible

- racial make up of the various migrants: African Americans, Mexican Americans, and *poor white migrant workers*.

Someone who tried to do something about this for Mexicans and Mexican americans-->**Cesar Chaves**
1952 he became an organizer--various organizations he came up with

- **the organization that was most long lasting was the United Farm Workers**
 - he's worried about the *practices the agribusiness community used to increase their yield-->the use of pesticides* (like when the braceros program would spray workers down with pesticides before they went into the fields)
 - *why is this a smart tactic besides just focusing on that pay sucked, living condition sucked, theres no bathrooms....etc.?*
non-migrant workers might actually care about this-- the middle-class consumers who are EATING the food that has been contaminated with pesticides might all of the sudden care more..
 - *he worked w/ the various labor unions* to make sure that white union guys were @ grocery stores to protest and picket the use of grapes and lettuce--found a way to team up w/ the labor movement
 - *he borrows very very heavily from the civil rights movement*
leading his boycotts @ the same time that Dr. King is using his boycotts and non-violence draws on some of King's tactics
 - **also draws on the Catholic Church**
drawing connections across race and class lines
doing something w/in the Latino community as well--the confessional membership of the Latino community is the Catholic Church--so if the Church can become supportive of this union activity, maybe middle-class Mexican Americans who have, at various times during this time period, tried to separate themselves from migrant workers and poor Mexican Americans, perhaps the Mexican american community can be drawn together across class lines

- Gay Liberation: The Stonewall Inn Riots

first gay rights group was formed in the 1920s (1925)

- 1925 very small gay rights group that called themselves "The Society for Human Rights Incorporated"
- their purpose was to combat public prejudice....against those 'who by reason of physical and mental abnormalities that hinder their pursuit of happiness guaranteed to them in the Declaration of Independence"
 - Chicago newspaper called it "a strange sex club"

WWII

- so many men are mobilized for military service--within the forming gay community, "military seduction centers" -->becomes an opportunity for men who were gay to find other men that were gay and open up

at least a little bit
other 1940s and into the 50s

- **The Kinsey Reports**

- Alfred Kinsey publishes 2 very well documented (somewhat criticized) social science research on sexual behavior and the human male (1948) sexual behavior and the human female (1953)
- his conclusion: there are no absolutes when it comes to sexuality, nobody is exactly one thing
 - "37% of one of the sexes had had an overt sexual experiences" -->men
 - "21% of the other sex had had an overt sexual experience" -->women

- **Stonewall Inn Riots**

- Stonewall Inn was a gay bar in New York associated with drag queens
- no pre-notification by the police on when the raid would occur: the June 27, 1969
- drag queens are arrested, beat up, the community shows up to watch... it becomes a multi-day affair
- "I'm mad and i'm not gonna take it anymore" like the Rosa Parks, *think of a turning moment that causes more and more people to become mobilized-->this is what the Stonewall Inn Riots do for the gay liberation movement*
 - Multiple demands of the Gay Liberation movement:
 - psychiatrists (APA) to quit labeling homosexuality as a mental disease/mental disorder
 - reform at the state level with regard to sexual conduct laws
 - for a long time, Texas had an anti-sodomy law in its books--law was amended in the 70s/80s to allow consensual sodomy between gay couples and still illegal otherwise? whatever she said
 - end to housing discrimination
 - they want the ban against same sex marriage removed
 - care of a spouse/person who has been injured is just one example
 - what about pension policies of a deceased partner?
 - marriage provides a whole bunch of rights that we don't even think about and take for granted that gay couples cannot enjoy because they cannot get married
 - Some quick goals get results:
 - by 1974: APA did remove the mental disorder-homosexuality from the DSM
 - lots of states got rid of their same sex whatever laws by 1987

- **Disco Culture**

YMCA song and the like (The Village People)

- perhaps risen above their disco designation
- performing in gay male night clubs to a very particular sub set in the nation--but their music does reach a broader audience
 - does help further acceptance of gay identity in American society
 - then there's the rest of society that doesn't understand the double meaning
- Donna Summer, the preeminent disco star
- BeeGees (Saturday Night Fever)

- **The Feminist Movement**

1968: Miss America vs the 1920's Miss America (when it was "liberating")

- by the 1960s this concept of women as the American beauty queen-->gags younger feminists b/c of this very narrow definition of what is beautiful
- at the 1968 they stage a protest in Atlantic City on the boardwalk (bra burning)
 - put things in the "freedom trashcans" that they consider to be discrimination against women: bras ("what's the point?"), corsets, hair curlers, stockings, heels, make up....all the things that objectify women as opposed to letting women identify as people, go into the freedom trashcan

the woman who graduates top of her class 4.0 average at Yale...wants to go to law school in the mid 1950s and even 1960s-->takes the LSAT, gets a perfect score, *might well be rejected from law school because she is a female*. "they're just going to get a degree, go and get married and quit the firm to have babies" ... ew

- Schroeder had to get a credit card in her husband's name and couldn't even fly the whole way to D.C...
- women could not get credit cards in their own name

- the generation of college women who had participated in the civil rights movement in the 1960s viewed themselves as equals in the peers--but found too often that men wanted to sit down and write the think pieces and the women were expected to make the sandwiches and sweep up after them-->didn't sit very well with the younger generation of women in college who were already politically active and questioning the system

middle-class women, the "helmet head women" even in the early 1960s "the feminine mystique" become charged

- Control of Biology

a major part of the feminist movement was control of biology--access to birth control the pill had just come to be

1962: Supreme Court decision w/ regard to access to contraceptives if one is not married

- "the pill" country western song, loretta lynn
 - issues w/ playing this song, def. not received with open arms with the demographic population most likely to listen to country western music
 - suggests: there was no distinction across class lines--affected everyone when it came to sexual liberation through control of biology--not just the young, college educated women
- time magazine cover on the lecture powerpoint