

## ***Days of Hope, Days of Rage: Panthers, Leftists and Hippies In the 1960s***

- I. The Sixties' protest movements - two phases
  - 1) "Hope" - reformist, positive
    - a) Want to fix the broken parts of America
    - b) Still believe in the American Dream
    - c) Similar to the New Deal or the Progressive movement
  - 2) "Rage" - bitter, cynical, sometimes violent
    - a) Things pushed for in the hope phase aren't being carried out (US troops still in Vietnam)
    - b) Believe things need to be torn down and rebuilt
- II. Civil Rights - From "We Shall Overcome" to "Black Power!"
  - 1) Starts out "tame" and non-radical
    - a) legal phase - Brown v. Board, etc
    - b) nonviolent protest phase
  - 2) The turn towards radicalism - born of frustration and white violence
    - a. Stokely Carmichael becomes the leader of SNCC, kicks out whites, renounces nonviolence, and adopts black power ideals → becomes the Black Panthers
    - b. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)/Black Panthers
- III. The New Left
  - 1) College-oriented reform group - very optimistic
  - 2) Protests at democratic convention
  - 3) Begins bombing ROTC buildings
  - 4) New Left critiques of American society/culture/politics
    - a) Racism, poverty, "inauthentic" suburbia
    - b) "The Establishment"

- i. Government, military, corporations, universities – all working together to get and keep power
        - 1. The falseness of “liberalism”
      - ii. The unity of all problems
        - 1. Vietnam War – the ultimate symbol and expression of The Establishment’s corruption
  - 5) Protesting Vietnam
    - a) Marches, teach-ins, etc.
    - b) Fighting the Draft
  - 6) The turn towards radicalism
    - a) Democratic Convention – Chicago, 1968
      - i. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)- petition gov’t, hold sit-ins, burn draft cards
    - b) The Weathermen (1969)
      - i. Violent, revolutionary (at least rhetorically)
      - ii. Become communists; plant bombs in gov’t buildings; adopt Marxism
      - iii. Disappeared in the early 1970s, like the Black Panthers
- IV. The Counterculture and the Hippies
- 1) Not the same as the New Left!
  - 2) Hippies generally white, middle-class, college kids who are disillusioned by American society, so fight it by not being a part of it
    - a) Center of hippie-dom → San Francisco
    - b) Timothy Leary → Johnny Appleseed of Acid
  - 3) Protested “corrupt” America by refusing to take part – “dropping out”
    - a) “life as politics” – dress, drugs, sex as protest
    - b) Communes – hippie utopias?

- c) Yippies – cynical version of hippies, fighting the system through mockery
  - ii) Abbie Hoffman