

**US History**  
**An Age of Civil Disobedience**

**Learning Target:**

*I can analyze the expansion of the Vietnam anti-war movement on the home front.*

**1. Antiwar Protesting Intensifies**

***The Student Movement –***

The Generational Gap Widens –

-Cold War fears, Civil Rights protests, Vietnam War

- Generation gap between baby boomers and parents widened as decade wore on
  - 1964 – the first wave of baby boomers entering college
  - 1960's youth movement started on college campuses with white middle class students

The New Left –

-The growing student movement of the 1960s became known as the “New Left”

Students for a Democratic Society –

Free Speech Movement –

-Started at the University of California at Berkley

Campus Activism –

-SDS and FSM spread to campuses across the country

***The Protest Movement Grows –***

SDS & College Deferments –

Other Groups Protest –

- Folk music began to protest the war
  - Country Joe & The Fish – I Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag

Draft Resistance –

- 1967 – 500,000 protestors gathered in Central Park to burn draft cards
- Protests continued to Nixon phased out the draft in the early 70s

## War Divides The Nation –

*“I’m bitter . . . It’s people like us who give up our sons for the country. The college types, the professors, they go to Washington and tell the gov’t what to do. But their sons, they don’t end up in the swamps over there, in Vietnam. No sir. They’re deferred, because they’re in school. What bothers me about the peace crowd is that you can tell from their attitude, the way they look and what they say, that they don’t really love this country.*

*– Firefighter who lost son in Vietnam*

## *War Support Starts To Erode –*

- Nixon’s escalation of the Vietnam War by bombing Cambodia provoked outrage in US
- Anger particularly high on the nation’s college campuses

## Kent State Shootings –

Location –

-May 4, 1970 – Kent State University, OH

Background –

The Shootings –

Other Shootings –

- May 14, 1970 at Jackson State College
- 2 students killed protesting in a dorm by police

## The Repeal Of The Tonkin Gulf Resolution (Dec. 1970) –

- Nixon insisted this did not affect his authority to continue the war
- Congress developed plans to stop the war by cutting off funding once troops withdrew

## The Pentagon Papers (1971) –

- A secret collection of government documents relating to the war in Vietnam
- Revealed the government had misled the American people about the course of the war
- They were leaked to the press by Daniel Ellsberg, a former Dept. of Defense official