

US History An Age of Civil Disobedience

Learning Target:

I can examine the emergence of the youth counterculture that developed in the 1960s and analyze its impact on American society.

2. A Cultural Revolution

The Counterculture –

- Some youth began to reject everything connected with mainstream America
- Became known as hippies – created a counterculture or alternative lifestyle

Dropping Out –

- Hippies rejected the materialism, technology, and war of American society
- Throughout the mid to late 1960s tens of thousands of hippies left school, work or home
 - Many moved to rural communes and lived collectively with nature
 - Others moved to the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco

Drug Use –

- Many hippies searched for new physical experiences – Marijuana and LSD
 - Timothy Leary – Harvard University instructor who gave it to students
 - Fired for experimenting on students
 - “Turn on to the scene, tune in to what is happening, and drop out.”

Fashion –

- Hippies adopted a casual and colorful style of dress
 - Tie-dyed clothes became popular & jeans became casual instead of work clothing

Pitfalls Of The Counterculture –

- Experimentation of 60's came at a high price for some
 - Drug addiction and STDs ruined many lives

Condition of Haight-Ashbury Erodes –

- Haight-Ashbury really a harsh urban neighborhood
 - “Kids are starving on the street. Minds and bodies are being maimed as we watch. Are you aware that Haight St. is as bad as the squares say it is?” – Leaflet describing Haight-Ashbury
- Counterculture also attracted some criminals into its culture of freedom
 - Charles Manson – moved to Haight-Ashbury in 1967
 - 2 years later committed mass murder in California

Sounds Of The 1960s –

Rock Music –

- Rock 'n' Roll reflected social change of the 1960's
- 1964 – British Invasion – British bands such as the Beatles and Rolling Stones introduced to American audiences
- Electrical instruments led to experimentation with music
 - Jimi Hendrix and his electric guitar best example

Folk's Rebirth –

- Folk music gained popularity to point out ills in American society
- Bob Dylan most famous folk artist – “Blowin’ in the Wind”
 - Linked folk and rock music
 - Used electric and acoustic guitar – many folk purists angered by this

Motown And Soul –

- British invasion pushed many black performers off the charts
- Berry Gordy and Motown Records in Detroit brought them back
 - The Supremes, Temptations, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson

Woodstock Music & Art Fair

- Marked the height and beginning of the end of the counterculture movement
- Rock music the focal point
- August 1969 – 400,000 people went to upstate New York for the fair
- Despite rain, mud, and shortages of food and water the festival remained peaceful
- More than a concert – A celebration of an era and a movement