Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

04/16/2021

CH 30 Focus W # 1,2; DTP#1

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After the postwar movement of homogenization amongst America’s family and its youths, a rebellious youth developed in the late 60s and 70s. Growing up under the threat of Communist invasion and nuclear war, along with seeing race issues, poverty, and inequality threaten America, inspired many youths and college students to campaign for a growing reform movement. This “New Left” was a large coalition of African Americans, other minorities, but mostly young white men and women. The high population of young people in America after the Baby Boom allowed this group to wield considerable power in politics. Many of their annoyances and reforms were stated in the declaration of beliefs for the Students for a Democratic Society, an organization of college students. They expressed their disillusionment with the current economic system, instead wanting greater incentives than money (Johnson SDS Statement, pg 2). They also kept that they were brought into politics due to the injustice caused on many minorities, as the rest of America prospered. This racial failure of the nation guided many of these students and youths into politics (Johnson SDS Statement, pg 1). These people were successful in creating a more racially equal society with the Civil Rights Movement, but their goals on reforming the country’s financial system faltered. However, this group received significant backlash from older, conservative opponents who already controlled the country. Students rebelled against the government and many Universities in the Free Speech Movement, started at Berkeley, which advocated for students’ rights to promote political views, which had been previously infringed upon. Victory in this movement was another major success for the youth movement and proved its effectiveness. This large group of the “New Left” was able to significantly influence America at the time, starting a counterculture against the previous decades and the older generations. This “hippie movement” became a part of the youth culture, and instead of becoming fringe, became commonplace across America, influencing it for generations to come.

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2.   
 After the Civil Rights Movement brought significant change for one of the most historically oppressed minorities in America, other minorities also created incredible change for themselves in this postwar era. Despite economic and social progress made by all people in America, Native Americans were furthest back, with the highest unemployment and the least national influence. Americans in power attempted to fix this with practices with the goal of their assimilation into mainstream American society. Practices of “termination” destroyed Native American reservations with the goal of forcing them to join White America. With the immense backlash by the Native Americans, Eisenhower stopped the program in 1958. The Indian Civil Rights Movement was jumpstarted soon after with the goal to right the many wrongs done to them over the years, and to preserve their way of life. Part of this was to reclaim some of the lands stolen or forcible taken from them with the white colonization (Native Americans Alcatraz Proclamation, pg 1). Part of this was the American Indian Movement, a branch of the movement which had significant support from Native Americans living in urban areas. These people occupied locations with goals to take back land or to receive recognition from the federal government in missions like the Occupation of Wounded Knee, or the Alcatraz Proclamation (Native Americans Alcatraz Proclamation, pg 1). Latino Americans also faced similar problems. They were the fastest growing Minority group in America due to Latino Immigration and began to wield significant power due to their “Chicano” Activism. Many Latino Americans had controlled land and power in the United States for decades, but as more entered the country in large numbers, welcomed during the World Wars, they also began to wield political power. Cesar Chavez, a Latino activist who advocated for the rights of the largely Latino farming industry, won significant victories through strikes, and works with powerful Democrats. By the end of the century, the Latino population was one of the most influential minorities in America and had significant sway over the country.

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1. The Watergate Scandal was one of, if not the, most infamous political scandals in American history. Nixon was involved in the Watergate Break-in, as his campaign was doing illegal acts in order to gain advantages in the election. After the break-in, he was once again caught with his hand in the cookie jar, covering it up. He was charged for the “Cover-Up” in the impeachment trial U.S. v. Richard M. Nixon, and after his impeachment in the House of Representatives, Nixon resigned. At the time, historians studying recent history believed that this was a result of increasingly powerful presidents and that the impeachment and removal of a president was inevitable seeing recent patterns. These early historians believed that secretly, presidents had been committing many illegal act, and that Nixon was just the first to be caught. This theory of the “Changing Presidency” was commonly believed across America, as the Congress became more ineffective, and the President was forced to find ways around the messy Washington bureaucracy, and so Nixon created a plan to block investigations by the FBI (Nixon Smoking Gun, pg 4). Later historians were less pessimistic about the president’s growing illegality, and instead believed that Nixon’s presidency was in a difficult time, facing criticism for the new inflation problem, and even the continuation of the war in Vietnam, and in order to protect himself, he stopped something he believed would be even more detrimental to his Presidency, and created an even greater problem doing so (Nixon Smoking Gun, pg 4). The remaining people who examine the Watergate investigation usually come to the conclusion that it was not a reflection of any patterns or changes in government, but that Nixon and the people around him were to blame, and that their personalities and corruption eventually led to the impeachment. They believe that Nixon’s corrosive hatred was the main cause of his eventual downfall.

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