

# Some History

Sat Prep Class 10

The Vietnam War: Part 2

Vietnam War Protests

As the slides are presented, fill in each blank with an appropriate verb.

The movement against U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War began small—among peace activists and leftist intellectuals on college campuses—but gained national prominence in 1965, after the United States began bombing North Vietnam in earnest. Anti-war marches and other protests, such as the ones organized by Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), attracted a widening base of support over the next three years, peaking in early 1968 after the successful Tet Offensive by North Vietnamese troops proved that war's end was nowhere in sight.



*The paragraph*

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*the anti-war movement  
as the product of college  
activism.*

## Vietnam War Protests: The Beginnings of a Movement

In August 1964, North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked two U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin, and President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered the retaliatory bombing of military targets in North Vietnam. And by the time U.S. planes began regular bombings of North Vietnam in February 1965, some critics had begun to question the government's assertion that it was fighting a democratic war to liberate the South Vietnamese people from Communist aggression.



*The cartographer's choice of the adverb "reportedly" \_\_\_\_\_ that some propaganda was used to influence mainstream Americans.*



Did you know? Boxer Muhammad Ali was one prominent American who resisted being drafted into service during the Vietnam War. Ali, then heavyweight champion of the world, declared himself a "conscientious objector," earning a prison sentence (later overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court) and a three-year ban from boxing.

*By \_\_\_\_\_ Muhammad Ali's conscientious objections to the war, the writer indirectly expresses his stance on this historic war.*

The anti-war movement began mostly on college campuses, as members of the leftist organization Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) began organizing “teach-ins” to express their opposition to the way in which it was being conducted. Though the vast majority of the American population still supported the administration policy in Vietnam, a small but outspoken liberal minority was making its voice heard by the end of 1965. This minority included many students as well as prominent artists and intellectuals and members of the hippie movement, a growing number of young people who rejected authority and embraced the drug culture.



*By emphasizing the anti-war efforts of a movement dominated by a liberal minority (some of whom succumbing to drug use), the writer seems to \_\_\_\_\_ that the movement was hijacked by a particular subculture.*

### Widespread Disillusionment

By November 1967, American troop strength in Vietnam was approaching 500,000 and U.S. casualties had reached 15,058 killed and 109,527 wounded. The Vietnam War was costing the U.S. some \$25 billion per year, and disillusionment was beginning to reach greater sections of the taxpaying public. More casualties were reported in Vietnam every day, even as U.S. commanders demanded more troops. Under the draft system, as many as 40,000 young men were called into service each month, adding fuel to the fire of the anti-war movement.

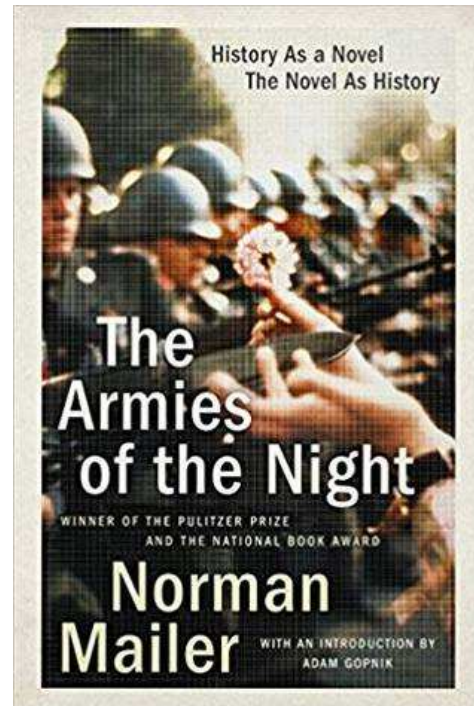


*At this point, the article \_\_\_\_\_ an economic analysis of the war, thereby emphasizing a certain futility in the administration’s pro-war policy.*



On October 21, 1967, one of the most prominent anti-war demonstrations took place, as some 100,000 protesters gathered at the Lincoln Memorial; around 30,000 of them continued in a march on the Pentagon later that night. After a brutal confrontation with the soldiers and U.S. Marshals protecting the building, hundreds of demonstrators were arrested. One of them was the author Norman Mailer, who chronicled the events in his book "The Armies of the Night," published the following year to widespread acclaim. Also in 1967, the anti-war movement got a big boost when the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. went public with his opposition to the war on moral grounds, condemning the war's diversion of federal funds from domestic programs as well as the disproportionate number of African-American casualties in relation to the total number of soldiers killed in the war.

*The allusion to the poetically titled "The Armies of the Night" might have \_\_\_\_\_ a sense of moral darkness and confusion among readers who opposed the war.*



### Political Consequences of Vietnam War Protests

The launch of the Tet Offensive by North Vietnamese communist troops in January 1968, and its success against U.S. and South Vietnamese troops, sent waves of shock and discontent across the home front and sparked the most intense period of anti-war protests to date. By early February 1968, a Gallup poll showed only 35 percent of the population approved of Johnson's handling of the war and a full 50 percent disapproved (the rest had no opinion). Joining the anti-war demonstrations by this time were members of the organization Vietnam Veterans Against the War, many of whom were in wheelchairs and on crutches. The sight of these men on television throwing away the medals they had won during the war did much to win people over to the anti-war cause.



*The brief but powerful description of broadcasted anti-war scenes, scenes of veterans "in wheelchairs and on crutches," infuses the statistical figures with a feeling of social justice.*

After many New Hampshire primary voters rallied behind the anti-war Democrat Eugene McCarthy, Johnson announced that he would not seek reelection. Vice President Hubert Humphrey accepted the Democratic nomination in August in Chicago, and 10,000 anti-war demonstrators showed up outside the convention building, clashing with security forces assembled by Mayor Richard Daley. Humphrey lost the 1968 presidential election to Richard M. Nixon, who promised in his campaign to restore “law and order”—a reference to conflict over anti-war protests as well as the rioting that followed King’s assassination in 1968—more effectively than Johnson had.



The following year, Nixon claimed in a famous speech that anti-war protesters constituted a small—albeit vocal—minority that should not be allowed to drown out the “silent majority” of Americans. Nixon’s war policies divided the nation still further, however: In December 1969, the government instituted the first U.S. draft lottery since World War II, inciting a vast amount of controversy and causing many young men to flee to Canada to avoid conscription. Tensions ran higher than ever, spurred on by mass demonstrations and incidents of official violence such those at Kent State in May 1970, when National Guard troops shot into a group of protesters demonstrating against the U.S. invasion of Cambodia, killing four students.



# The New York Times

**Tricia Nixon Takes Vows In Garden at White House**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1971**

**By NEIL R. McMillen**

Tricia Nixon, 26, daughter of the President, today took her wedding vows in the White House garden. She married Philip D. Canine, 30, a former aide to the President, in a ceremony presided over by the Rev. James M. McHugh, Bishop of New York.

The ceremony took place in the garden of the White House, which was filled with guests. The bride wore a white gown and a tiara. The groom wore a tuxedo. The ceremony was held in the presence of the President and Mrs. Nixon.

**VIETNAM ARCHIVE: Pentagon Study Traces 3 Decades of Growing U. S. Involvement**

**By NEIL R. McMillen**

A master study of how the United States went to war in Indochina, conducted by the Pentagon three years ago, concludes that four administrations progressively deepened a course of commitment in a non-Communist Vietnam to a point where the United States was left with no choice but to go to war in Vietnam to prevent the loss of the South to the North.

The 2,000-page study, which was completed in 1968, was commissioned by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and covers the American involvement in Indochina from 1945 to the present. It is the first study of the kind to be published by the Pentagon.

"All of them made choices," said the study, "and the choices were made in a series of decisions that led to the present situation. The choices were made in a series of decisions that led to the present situation. The choices were made in a series of decisions that led to the present situation."

**NIXON CRITICIZED AS MAYORS MEET**

**By NEIL R. McMillen**

In June, 1971, as a time of great personal dissatisfaction with the President's policies in Vietnam and at home, the Mayor's Association met in New York City. The meeting was held in the presence of the Mayor of New York, John Lindsay, and the Mayor of Los Angeles, Tom Bradley.

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**WASTED REVIEW OF WAR Took a Year**

**By NEIL R. McMillen**

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