

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAM SEVEN

PROGRAM SEVEN: 1964 - 1973

With the death of Kennedy, the American Camelot passed away into myth. Kennedy had promised much and his charismatic personality had led Americans into service for their country through the Peace Corps and other agencies. However, in his 1000 day presidency, Kennedy was remarkably ineffective on domestic issues. It would take Lyndon Johnson, the quintessential deal-maker, to bring about the sweeping changes in desegregation, voting rights and Medicare. Meanwhile, the Vietnam War and rage at home dominated these nine years, taking the luster off President Lyndon Johnson's attempt at creating a great society. Not since the Depression had Americans looked so introspectively at themselves and their nation. The era sparked phrases such as 'generation gap,' 'body bag,' 'sock it to me' and 'tune in, turn on, drop out.' Hippies, Yippies and SDS (Students for Democratic Society) competed for headlines as a generation of young people, born during World War II and the early years of the cold war, sought alternatives to the establishment from violent overthrow of the government to communes. Blacks, no longer willing to put up with racism and inequality, took to the streets from Watts to Detroit to vent their frustration and rage.

This program discusses Lyndon Johnson's 'Great Society'; the Vietnam War; Black urban riots; Earth Day, and the unmaking of a President through Watergate.

Turning Point #1

1964 – Lyndon Johnson Announces the Great Society

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- The background to Johnson's call for a 'Great Society' based on Kennedy's call for a 'New Frontier' for all Americans.
- Civil Rights legislation, the Office of Economic Opportunity and Medicare.
- The slow disintegration of Johnson's dream through his absorption in Vietnam and legislation to lessen its effectiveness.

Points for Teachers:

- Johnson's vision would be the last great social and political reform of the century.
- Most importantly, his dream was not socialistic. He did not favor the creation of a dole-- putting money in the hands of poor people. Instead he envisioned an investment in opportunity for everyone, providing money for education, legal aid, job training, urban renewal and health care.
- In 1964 Congress passed the Civil Rights Act after a 75 day filibuster in the Senate was broken and Johnson signed it into law.
- Under Johnson new agencies came into being: The Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Department of Transportation; the Administration on Aging; the Office of Economic Opportunity received a billion dollars to assist the unemployed; Head Start and VISTA, a domestic Peace Corps.
- Not since the days of FDR had the country seen such significant legislation and increase in domestic spending. Federal expenditures on health, education and welfare doubled in the years from 1965 to 1970.

- Johnson's legacy would endure to the end of the century until another Democratic President, Bill Clinton, undertook welfare reform, dismantling or gutting many of the programs of his predecessor through budget cuts.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1933 – President Roosevelt's 'One Hundred Days' Begins his New Deal
- 1935 - President Roosevelt Signs the Social Security Act
- 1914 - Clayton Anti-Trust Act Passed

Turning Point #2

1964 - Vietnam War: Congress Passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- Historical background to the conflict between France and the Vietnamese.
- America's participation in the creation of South Vietnam.
- Facts surrounding the Gulf of Tonkin Incident.

Points for Teachers:

- Captain John Herrick, commanding the USS Maddox, had grave doubts about the accuracy of the battle. Harried by Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara among others, he was never allowed to state his misgivings. In fact, prior to August 4, 1964, the US had been leading unprovoked sorties against North Vietnam.
- In 1964 American forces numbered 16,000 soldiers and advisors.
- American forces and equipment poured into Vietnam and by 1968, 550,000 troops were stationed there.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1950 - President Truman Sends American Troops to the Aid of South Korea
- 1950 - 1953 The Korean War
- 1962 - Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1968 - Vietnam War II: The Tet Offensive
- 1973 – Vietnam War: Cease-Fire Ends War
- 1983 - The Grenada Conflict
- 1990 - The Gulf War Demonstrates American Military Supremacy

Turning Point #3.

1965 Black Urban Riots Begin

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- Background to the urban rage among black men in 1965.
- Black Power movements led by Malcolm X, Bobby Seale and Huey Newton.
- Backlash against Black Power by whites.

Points for Teachers:

- "Burn! Baby Burn!" became the rallying cry among Black youth and middle aged adults alike.

- List of major riots: a. New York City--1964; b. Watts in 1965; c. Chicago, Cleveland and San Francisco in 1966; d. Newark and Detroit in 1967.
- In August 1965 a Black motorist in Watts resisted arrest and was shoved into police car. Onlookers cried police brutality. As many as 80,000 rioters took to the streets in a few hours, burning buildings and cars, looting from local stores. The National Guard had to be called out to restore order. 34 people were killed, 891 injured and 3,758 arrested.
- Detroit's five days of rioting were the bloodiest and most costly riot of the 20th century. From July 23 -27 Detroit erupted in flames. 43 were left dead, 1200 wounded, 7231 arrested, 5,000 homeless and 1,300 buildings destroyed.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1739 - Black uprising in South Carolina
- 1793 - Congress Enacts a Fugitive Slave Act
- 1865 - Formation of the Ku Klux Klan
- 1875 - Robert Smalls, Former Slave, Is Elected to the House
- 1881 - Booker T. Washington Opens Tuskegee Institute
- 1896 - Plessey v. Ferguson Case Upholds Segregation
- 1936-38 - Jesse Owens and Joe Louis Debunk Hitler's Claim of Aryan Superiority
- 1954 - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka
- 1955 - Rosa Parks is Arrested
- 1963 - Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" Speech

Turning Point #4

1968 - Vietnam War: The Tet Offensive:

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- President Johnson escalated American war efforts in Vietnam.
- The Viet Cong continued to fight and North Vietnam began to send regular army troops into South Vietnam as early as 1965.
- In the U.S. protesters began to oppose the war.
- In January 1968, during the Vietnamese New year, known as Tet, 70,000 North Vietnamese regulars and Vietcong blitzkrieged cities in the south, bringing the war to the civilian population for the first time.
- Though a military failure for North Vietnam, Tet galvanized opponents to the war.

Points for Teachers:

- During the Tet offensive, a suicide squad broke into the US Embassy in Saigon, killing many of the guards before it was repulsed four hours later.
- In the ancient capital of Hue, Vietcong and North Vietnamese soldiers held on for 12 days before they were finally ousted at a heavy toll to Americans.
- To the American military, so confident a year earlier that they were going to win the war, it appeared as if the North Vietnamese and their Vietcong allies would never stop. Johnson aid, Harry McPherson said, "The terrible quality of the war in Vietnam came home to the people. It appeared that these guys were never going to quit."
- On March 31, 1968, Johnson called a partial halt to the air bombardment and announced that the US would initiate peace talks with Hanoi. He also refused to run for re-election.

- In the United States, antiwar protests intensified. At the Democratic national Convention in Chicago, millions of television viewers watched what Life magazine termed, "The most widely observed riot in history." At the center was a coalition of antiwar groups including the Yippies, Black Panthers and Students for a Democratic Society.

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Turning Point #5

1970 - First Earth Day

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson's works were the foundation for the environmental movement.
- Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin was the tireless promoter in the senate of the environmental movement.
- In the first half of the twentieth century, politicians and industry ignored the consequences of pollution in the U.S.
- On April 22, 1970, the first Earth day brought environmental concerns to all the people of the United States.

Points for Teachers:

- Rachel Carson's book warned that the unlimited use of pesticides and herbicides was destroying much of the nation's wildlife. In 1962 she wrote that life "had burned down to a very tiny flame that might so easily flicker out."
- As the decade of the 60's unfolded, it became apparent that the litany of environmental horrors were merely the effects of self-destruction by humans. Species such as the black footed ferret, the bighorn sheep, the California condor, the blue whale, even the bald eagle were endangered. And so were humans.
- Many groups around the country had been promoting the benefits of cleaning up the environment. From the Sierra Club to the Audubon Society they had thousands of examples to point at to show the disastrous consequences of unregulated industry.
- The infamous Love Canal was a cesspool; fish from Lake Erie could no longer be eaten; and in Ohio the Cuyahoga River routinely caught on fire.
- There were a few victories. Environmental groups stopped the construction of dams on the Colorado River that would have flooded the Grand Canyon.
- By 1970, 70% of Americans thought the environment was the nation's most important issue.
- The Earth Day was a resounding success; even Congress took the day off so that Senators and Representatives could participate.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1902 - The Government Passes the Newlands Reclamation Act.

Turning Point #6

1972 - Watergate

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- Background to the break-in at the Watergate Hotel.
- The investigation by Washington Post reporters, Woodward and Bernstein.
- President Nixon's advisors concocted an absurd scheme to break into Democratic Headquarters.
- Nixon's support of the cover-up of his advisors' scheme cost him his Presidency and place in history.
- The significance of Nixon's actions.

Points for Teachers:

- Nixon's presidency was about taking power from the Congress, the courts and the people to create a glorified Presidency.
- Nixon apologists have written that the President's participation in the break-in and cover-up were only alleged and that Nixon was the victim of an imperial press trying to overturn the electoral vote of 1972.
- In fact, Nixon actively tried to derail the investigation. He coached grand jury witnesses in perjury; he doctored transcripts of tapes, including the infamous 18 and half minute gap blamed on his secretary; he raised hush money for the burglars; he refused to honor subpoenas for evidence and then doctored evidence.
- Perhaps the most shocking misuse of Presidential power came with the notorious "Saturday night Massacre" in October 1973. Nixon asked his Attorney General Elliot Richardson to fire the special prosecutor, Archibald Cox. Richardson refused and was forced to resign, his deputy also refused and was forced to resign. Nixon finally found a compliant underling, Robert Bork, who fired Cox.
- Watergate was an unparalleled abuse of power by an American President. No other President ever used the power of his office to cover up a scandal of this magnitude. Grant and Harding, whose administrations were riddled with scandal, were quite stunned to learn of the problems in their administrations and moved to stop them.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1868 - President Johnson is Impeached
- 1923 - Teapot Dome Scandal
- 1994 - Whitewater Leads to the Impeachment of President Clinton

Turning Point #7

1973 - Vietnam War: Cease-Fire Ends War:

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- President Nixon's actions in ending the Vietnam War.
- Intensified anti-war protests in the United States.
- The Pentagon papers.
- The war ended in 1975.
- Ultimately, America's failure in the war created a bitterness in the minds of all Americans and left a legacy that haunted America for the rest of the century.

Points for Teachers:

- "The greatest honor history can bestow is the title of peacemaker. This honor now beckons America," spoke Richard Nixon at his inauguration in 1969.
- By 1971 American forces had decreased from a high of 540,000 men to 334,000.
- While decreasing American ground forces, Nixon expanded the scope of the war. He sent troops and bombers into Cambodia in hopes of destroying the Ho Chi Minh trail--a vast network of trails and resupply stops that channeled supplies and troops from North Vietnam into South Vietnam.
- After 1973, American ground troops came home; North Vietnam released some 600 American prisoners of war; Secretary of Defense, Melvin Laird, suspended the draft, and the South Vietnamese government of General Nguyen Thieu remained in Saigon.
- By 1975, in spite of American promises of military aid to stop the North Vietnamese, the United States turned a blind eye to Communist forces pushing southward to Saigon.

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- 1968 - Vietnam War: Congress Passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- 1973 - Vietnam War: The Tet Offensive
- 1983 - The Grenada Conflict
- 1990 - The Gulf War Demonstrates American Military Supremacy

Resources - Internet Sites:

Turning Point #1.

1964 - Lyndon Johnson Announces the Great Society

1. Reader's Companion to American History - -GREAT SOCIETY
http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/rcah/html/ah_038500_greatsociety.htm
2. Columbia American History Online http://caho.columbia.edu/eseminars/0715_hkc.html
3. History Faculty Library The Great Society Era 1960-70:
<http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/libraryit/faclib/society.htm>

Turning Point #2

1964 - Vietnam War: Congress Passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

1. The Vietnam War Internet Project <http://www.vwip.org/vwiphome.html>
2. <http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/vietnam/>
<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/vietnam/>
3. The American Experience/Vietnam <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/>

4. Battlefield: Vietnam <http://www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/>
5. Vietnam: Yesterday and Today <http://servercc.oakton.edu/~wittman/>
6. USAF Museum - Vietnam War History
<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/vietnam/vietnam.htm>

Turning Point #3

1965 - Black Urban Riots Begin

1. The History of Jim Crow
http://www.jimcrowhistory.org/resources/lessonplans/hs_es_urban_race_riots.htm
2. United States History Index <http://www.ku.edu/history/VL/USA/urban.html>
3. Grossman, African-American Urban History (2000)
... Quintard Taylor, "Black Urban Development-Another View:
<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~urban/teach/syllabi/grossman2000syll1.htm>
4. BLACK HISTORY QUIZ
http://mabelvale.org/blackhistory/Black_history/black_history_quiz.htm
5. Reader's Companion to American History - -BLACK MIGRATION
http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/rcah/html/ah_010500_blackmigrati.htm

Turning Point #4

1968 - Vietnam War: The Tet Offensive

1. The Vietnam War Internet Project <http://www.vwip.org/vwiphome.html>
2. <http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/vietnam/>
3. The American Experience/Vietnam <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/>
4. Battlefield: Vietnam <http://www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/>
5. Vietnam: Yesterday and Today <http://servercc.oakton.edu/~wittman/>
6. USAF Museum - Vietnam War History
<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/vietnam/vietnam.htm>

Turning Point #5

1970 - First Earth Day

1. Earth Day 2003: History of Earth Day <http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>
2. Earth Day 2003 - EnviroLink Resource Guide <http://earthday.envirolink.org/>
3. Earth Day at Kids Domain - History <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/history.htm>

Turning Point #6

1972 - Watergate

1. The Watergate Scandal - <http://www.bol.ucla.edu/~aferrara/Watergate.htm>
2. Real History Archives Watergate Collection
<http://www.webcom.com/~lpease/collections/conspiracies/watergate.htm>
3. Watergate Links <http://www.watergate-history.com/links.html>
4. Thirty Years After Watergate. <http://www.watergate-history.com/>
5. Watergate - Contemporary/US History lesson plan (grades 8-12)
<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/watergate/>

Turning Point #7

1973 – Vietnam War: Cease-Fire Ends War

1. The Vietnam War Internet Project <http://www.vwip.org/vwiphome.html>
2. <http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/vietnam/>
3. The American Experience/Vietnam <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/>
4. Battlefield: Vietnam <http://www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/>
5. Vietnam: Yesterday and Today <http://servercc.oakton.edu/~wittman/>
6. USAF Museum - Vietnam War History
<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/vietnam/vietnam.htm>

SEE BLACKLINE MASTER 7A – TEST QUESTIONS

ANSWERS TO TEST QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAM SEVEN

(Answers: 1-d, 2-a, 3-d, 4-b, 5-a, 6-a, 7-d, 8-c, 9-c, 10-d, 11-a, 12-d, 13-b, 14-a, 15-d, 16-a, 17-c)

SEE BLACKLINE MASTER 7B - TIMELINE