

10/17: Presentation: The Birth of the Environmental Movement

- Side note: information organization in history
 - Narrative and hierarchies of information should resemble an *inverse pyramid* (from broad to specific)
 - Large contextual details → small, specific details
 - Point of each section should relate to thesis/argument
 - Evidence should be chosen based upon what proves your point the best, makes it most believable



- The 60s
 - Civil rights movements
 - Vietnam, anti-war movement
 - Sex, drugs, and rock and roll
 - Cold War and space race
 - 2nd wave of feminism
 - Political assassinations
 - Rise of media (especially TV)
 - Story of the “baby boomers”



* almost all of these have to do with the power of the state and its place on the world stage, or challenges to the status quo (it has created a “mythos” that is skewed...)

- 1967: national media polls of who supported the war and didn’t support the war the most (by gender, age) — against: middle-aged women (mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters of men who fought); for: young men (glory in serving the country, anti-communism)
- Protests by college students
 - campus conditions
 - discrimination

- Vietnam War
- Exceptional circumstances break Americans' belief in not intervening in foreign conflicts
 - First World War
 - Second World War
 - Cold War & fear of communism (involvement in Korea, Vietnam)
- How Television Changed America
 - ex: Montgomery Bus Boycott (1954)
 - story of Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., etc.
 - national story comes with the *rise of television* (and the expansion of media advertising)
- Counterculture
 - ex: Abbie Hoffman and the “Yippies”, “Monty Python”, etc.
 - young, liberal people upset with the “status quo”, form protests, organizations, movements → search for alternative ways of living, culture, “a new present, if not a new future”...
 - evolution of music
 - ex: The Beatles, The Doors, The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, etc.
 - “They paved paradise and put up a parking lot” (Joni Mitchell)
 - drugs and sex
 - “make love, not war”
 - celebration of illegal drugs
 - religion

- revolutions within churches, new religions start forming, new movements and converts (e.g. “Jesus Freaks”, “Hare Krishna”, “Jesus being the original hippie”)
 - communes
 - operating under a new set of rules, establishing new communities, being “off the grid”
- New movement of environmentalism
 - traditional kickoff: *Silent Spring* (1962) by Rachel Carson → warns of the dangers of pesticides
 - bipartisan members of Congress try to pass laws to protect the environment (argument: industry cannot be left unchecked)
 - “*cultural contradictions of capitalism*” (Can they work together? Yes Do they have to? No.)
 - Part of the “Great Society”: Clean Air Act (1963), Wilderness Act (1964), Clean Water Act (1965), Endangered Species Act (1966), etc.
 - *The Population Bomb* by Paul R. Ehrlich
 - increasing membership in The Sierra Club and other environmental groups
 - about protecting the Earth and the rights of future generations; environmental action at neighborhood level
 - national demonstrations about environmental issues; establishment of “Earth Day” (4/22/1970) *largest demonstration of the 60s

10/19: Discussion: Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass Part Two

- Major takeaways:

- importance of our relationship with the environment/natural world – concepts like “gratitude”, “respect”
- learning new ways of life takes time (e.g. *reciprocity* leading to responsibility, nature and people as part of the same system – it goes both ways)
- Western/scientific ways of knowing v. Indigenous/traditional ways of knowing; these can be used *together* though! – they both lead to, or can work together to get to ‘truth’
- realization: we don’t care as much because everything in our marketplace is “dead” (the caring relationship with the earth isn’t ingrained into our economy and society)
- Thoughts from group discussion (especially how these chapters relate to class themes)
 - environmentalism can be optimistic
 - we have to change our systems...
 - we can learn how to be more environmentally conscious/sustainable
 - importance of caring for/with the Earth
 - *industrial capitalism* → had led to us to be “disconnected/alienated” from the environment → but it doesn’t have to be that way (business and nature can work together)