

Historical Context: Chronology of Some Events Since 1945

- 1944** June 6, D-Day: U.S. invades Beaches at Normandy
- 1945** May 8, Germany signs articles of surrender in Berlin.
August 6, U.S. drops nuclear bomb over Hiroshima, Japan, instantly killing 100,000 persons. August 9, bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.
August 14, Japan surrenders
- 1948** Berlin Blockade and Communist take-over in Czechoslovakia
- 1953** De Beauvoir's Second Sex published in US; Rosenbergs executed
- 1954** James Dean dies aged 24
H.H. Humphrey sponsors Communist Control Act -- would have made Comm illegal.
McCarthy hearings being televised. Brown Vs. Bd. of Education
- 1955** Break-thru year for Rock'n Roll
Rosa Parks Montgomery Alabama
Allen Ginsberg reads "Howl" in SF "Moloch"
merger of AFL and CIO marks end of Comm influence in unions (Git 65)
- 1956** Eisenhower wins over Adlai Stevenson. Heartbreak Hotel hits
Whyte, Organiz Man; C. Wright Mills, Power Elite
Ferlingetti arrested for selling obscene material including Howl
Hungarian Revolution put down by Soviets
- 1957** Sputnik launched
- 1959** Batista Flees Cuba. Barbie Doll introd by Matell.
- 1960** SNCC and SDS founded. JFK elected; promises to go to the moon. Camus dies in auto wreck at age 46. Birth Control Pill approved for marketing; sit-ins start: Greensboro
- 1961** Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba; step-up Civil defense. Dylan cuts his first album
- 1962** October: Cuban missile crisis; Birmingham: dogs and cattle prods
Helen Gurley Brown, Sex and the Single Girl
- 1963** August: Civil Rts March on DC, MLK, "I have a dream"
Nov. 22: Assassination of JFK
Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique
- 1964** Pranksters riding around America on bus. The Twist hits and the Beatles come to the US
SDS -> ERAP (organizing community unions in N. ghettos)
Freedom Summer in Miss. Nov: Carmichael: "prone" Civil Rts Act, Title VII prohibits sex discrim. in employment (in businesses of 25+)

- 1965 SDS organizes 1st national anti-Viet Nam demo in April as war escalates
US troops invade Santo Domingo
Free speech movement in Berkeley; Voting Rts Act passed
- 1966 Black Power mvmt begins; Assassination of Malcolm X. Whites of New Left begin focus on draft & students
- 1967 Detroit riots; SDS focus on draft; Che Guevera killed
October: March on Pentagon
1st CR groups; ERA introduced again; Colorado 1st state to liberalize abortion
NOW: picketing and notarized complaint agnst NYT sex-segregated want-ads
LBJ signs executive orders banning sex discrim in federal employment, allowing promotion past Colonel
- 1968 February: Tet Offensive; begin large-scale anti-war protests, emergence of political violence. April 4 ML. King shot. Late April: Columbia taken over by students.
June: Bobby Kennedy shot.
- 1969 Cornell U -- 1st Women's Studies courses
Nixon signs Exec Order requiring Affirmative Action in federal gvmt.
Neil Armstrong walks on the moon
- 1970 Four students killed at Kent State University.(05/18/70); student strikes
Major feminist works published: Shulamith Firestone, Dialectic of Sex; Kate Millett, Sexual Politics; Robin Morgan, Sisterhood is Powerful!
Conservative Party (Margaret Thatcher) wins in Britain
- 1971 U.S. bombs Cambodia; Lt. Calley found guilty of Mylai Massacre. Pentagon Papers begin to appear. In Washington, D.C., more than 7,000 people demonstrating against the Vietnam War arrested. (05/03/71)
The 26th Amendment to the Constitution, giving 18-year-olds the right to vote, was ratified. (06/30/71)
- 1972 President Nixon visits Red China, (02/28/72) Watergate break-in.
Richard Nixon re-elected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern
Title IX of Education Amendments Act outlaws sex discrim in educational institutions
- 1973 cease-fire agreement in Paris ends U.S. role in combat in Vietnam War. An end to the military draft was announced on the same day. (01/27/73)
The Watergate scandal unfolded throughout the year as Judge John Silica sentenced the burglars (03/23/73); top White House aides had to resign (04/30); and the Senate Judiciary Committee conducted televised hearings
Roe V. Wade invalidates state laws agnst abortion in 1st trimester
Arab Oil Embargo
AIM (American Indian Movement) occupies Wounded Knee
- 1974 President Richard Nixon resigned, (08/08/74)
death of Karen Silkwood, Kerr-McGee nuclear plant employee in a suspicious auto accident November 13, 1974
- 1975 The Vietnam War ended-after 14 years and 56,559 American dead. (01/10/75)

- Margaret Thatcher, 49, was elected leader of Britain's Conservative Party, the first woman to serve in that capacity. (02/11/75)**
- 1976 Bicentennial; Jimmy Carter won the presidential election, defeating incumbent Republican President Gerald Ford**
- 1980 Ronald Reagan was elected President. Mt. St. Helens erupts. John Lennon is killed
Soviets invade Afghanistan**
- 1981: Iranian hostage crisis ends. First women Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Conner
MTV goes on the air. Economy falters. IBM introduces the PC**
- 1982: Falklands War. ERA falls short of ratification. US Marines land in Beirut.
Tylenol scare. Recession peaks. First space shuttle flight**
- 1983: US invades Grenada. First American woman in space.**
- 1984 The Republican Reagan/Bush ticket won. AIDS virus identified**
- 1985: 1985: Gorbachev comes to power. Sanctions on South Africa for apartheid.
VCRs begin to be common. Rock Hudson dies of AIDS. US dollar devalued**
- 1986 explosion of the spacecraft, Challenger. US air strikes against Libya. Iran-Contra affair
exposed. First genetic engineered organisms. Ivan Boesky Wall Street scandal**
- 1987: Rev. Jimmy Baker resigns his ministry. Worst stock crash in history on Wall Street.**
- 1988 Republican George Bush was elected President, and Dan Quayle Vice President.
PanAm 747 explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland. Lt. Col. Oliver North indicted.
Wal-mart and K-mart**
- 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre
The East German government opened its borders and the Berlin wall was torn down.
(11/10/89) . US Forces enter Panama and capture Pres. Manuel Noriega.
Exxon Valdez Oil spill; major earthquake in California; Hurricane Hugo**
- 1990 Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan Association costs taxpayers more than \$1 billion.
Junk bond king Michael Milken sentenced. Germany Unified (October 3)**
- 1991 Clarence Thomas nominated to Supreme Court; Oct hearing on allegations of sexual
harassment by Anita Hill. Desert Storm: Iraq invades Kuwait; is expelled by coalition of
forces including U.S.**
- 1992 Mike Tyson convicted of rape.
Los Angeles rioting followed the acquittal of four policemen on trial for the beating of
Rodney King, a Black motorist
Democrat Bill Clinton was elected President, and Al Gore, Vice President,
*Thelma and Louise***