

18.1

The Counterculture of the 1960s



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Describe the rise of the counterculture.
- List the major characteristics of the counterculture.
- Evaluate the positive and negative impacts of the counterculture movement on American society.

A Counterculture Emerges!

The counterculture movement was created around the social & political events of the 50s & 60s

Example include the Beat movement of 1950s & The Civil Rights movement

The youth had a distrust of authority. “Don’t trust anyone over 30!”

Generation Gap- A lack of understanding & communication between the old & young.

Generation Gap

Due to the large number of young people due to the baby boom after WWII, young people began to seek social change & industries changed to meet demands

Parents (The Silent Generation) were affected by the Great Depression & WWII, they were frugal, valued authority, married young, & sought conformity

The young favored individuality & grew up in a time of prosperity & pop-culture spoke to them

Music of a Generation

John Sinclair believed that rock became “A weapon of cultural revolution”

The “*Trinity of Counterculture*,” Sex, drugs, & rock-&-roll, were big in the era, as was a move to spirituality

1964- The **Beatles** appear on the *Ed Sullivan Show* to more than 70 million Americans watching

CHECK THIS
OUT!



The Beatles-Ed Sullivan Show

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jenWdylTtzs>

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Bob Dylan wrote folk songs to protest issues in the U.S. such as Civil Rights & peace movements

CHECK THIS
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Bob Dylan- Blowing in the Wind

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWwgrjjIMXA>

The background of the slide is a vibrant, psychedelic pattern. It features thick, wavy lines in shades of pink, orange, and yellow, creating a sense of movement and depth. Scattered throughout the design are stylized flowers in various colors (orange, green, blue) and small, bright white stars. The overall aesthetic is reminiscent of the visual language of the 1960s counterculture movement.

Art & The Sexual Revolution

Art showed rebellion, such as Andy Warhol creating art to mock consumerism

Novelists such as Tom Wolfe & Hunter S. Thompson, created new writing forms that blurred the lines between reporting & political activism

Sex became a bigger talking point in the mainstream as the youth sought a “sexual revolution”

Hippie Culture

In 1967, around 2,000 people moved to the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco to join a counter-culture movement.

These Hippies experimented with drugs, wore unconventional clothing, listened to rock music, & turned towards political radicals

Hippies would typically live in **communes, small communities in which the people have common interests & share resources**

Often times the high rates of drug abuse would lead to increased crime in cities

People sought out spiritual enlightenment outside of Christian traditions. Such as Buddhism, living in harmony with nature, or adopting the beliefs of Native American groups

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Positive & Negative Effects of Counterculture

**Drug addiction & overdoses rose & violence based around
rock-&-roll arose**

**At a Rolling Stones concert, members of the Hells Angels
motorcycle gang (they were hired as security) stabbed
a concert goer**

**The movement's values became more shallow &
self-centered & hippies began to melt back
into the mainstream**

**Rights Revolutions, however, would continue to
grow**