**Impact of baby boom generation**

1950 -- 1 million went to college; 1960 -- 4 million
 Raised largely in economic security; 75% of college students came from families with income above the national average.
-Student protest movement only a minority of student population -- 10-15%

  **New Left**
 By mid-1960s majority of Americans were under age 30.
Universities became perceived as bureaucracies indifferent to student needs.
 Students for a Democratic Society, headed by Tom Hayden called for “participatory democracy."
[**Port Huron Statement**](http://apushcanvas.pbworks.com/Port-Huron-Statement) **of Students for a Democratic Society, 1962**

**Free Speech Movement (**[**YouTube Clip**](http://youtu.be/MufwTCgodmM)**)**Students at U.C. Berkeley stated sit-ins in 1964 to protest prohibition of political canvassing on campus.
Came to emphasize the criticism of the bureaucracy of American society.
Police broke up a sit-in in December and protests spread to other campuses
SDS would become more militant during the Vietnam War.

**Counterculture**
Like New Left, felt alienated by bureaucracy, materialism, and the Vietnam War.
Turned away from politics in favor of an alternative society.
 In many ways, they were heirs of the Beats.

**"Hippies"**
Experimented with Eastern religions, drugs, and sex.
Many involved in urban communes e.g. Haight-Ashbury district; others in rural areas.
Leading spokespeople: Timothy Leary, Theodore Roszak
 Most unable to establish sustaining lifestyle. -   - "flower children"

 **Music of the counterculture**
Music: Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Pete Seeger
 Beatles became influenced by Americans counterculture
 Woodstock, August, 1969  ( featured Joan Baez, Jimi Hendrix, Santana)
 By early 1970s, counterculture was shrinking as a result of either its excesses or its  members re-entering the  mainstream.

**Black Anger**
Anti-white anger erupted when all-white juries acquitted whites of the murder of blacks, most notably in Miami and Chattanooga.

African-American civil rights leaders denounced the judicial system and the lack of appointments by Reagan's administration -- 12% blacks and women under Carter, but 4% blacks and 8% women under Reagan (but 4 women were in his cabinet and the first female Supreme Court justice).

**Civil Rights Record**
Reagan's administration favored tax exemptions for fundamentalist Christian schools that cited the Bible to justify                 racial segregation and whites-only admission.

Voting Rights Act 1965 was renewed although opposed by Reagan's civil rights chief in the Justice Department

Reagan's administration also opposed busing and affirmative action and was criticized for lax enforcement of fair housing laws and laws banning sexual and racial discrimination in federally funded education programs.

**Native American Militancy**
Native Americans suffered the highest incidence of alcoholism tuberculosis and suicide of any ethnic group in the US, four out of ten Native Americans were unemployed and nine out of ten lived in substandard housing.

A small group of Indians seized Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay in late 1969.  Arguing that an 1868 Sioux treaty entitled them to possess unused federal lands they occupied the island until mid-1971.

 Two years later members of the militant American Indian Movement (AIM) demanded the rights guaranteed Indians  in treaties with the US and seized eleven hostages and a trading post on the Pine Ridge Reservation at  Wounded Knee SD, and the confrontation with federal marshals ended 71 days later with a government agreement to examine treaty rights of the Oglala Sioux.

In the 1980s, Indians, using the 1946 Indian Claims Commission,  sought compensation for lands stolen from them  and scored some notable victories.

**Hispanic Americans**
An influx of immigrants unequaled since the turn of the century coupled with a high birthrate made Hispanics America's fastest-growing minority by the 1970s.

Of over 20 million Hispanics in the US in the 1970s, 8 million were Mexican-Americans.  During the 1980s, the Hispanic population increased by 34% for a total of 19.4 million or 8.1% of the total U.S. population with 1/2 in Texas and California.

These officially acknowledged Hispanics were joined by millions of undocumented workers or illegal aliens.   Hispanics wanted political power -- brown power.

Cesar Chavez’s United Farm Workers was the first Hispanic interest group to gain national attention
 The militant Brown Berets tried to provide meals to preschoolers and courses in Chicano studies and consciousness raising to older students.

 A Mexican-American political party, La Raza Unida , was a potent force in the Southwest and East Los Angeles in the 1970s.