

GLOSSARY AND CREDITS

The '60s were characterized by waves of unrest, uncertainty, and relentless demands made on the Federal government. The civil rights movement dominated the domestic scene for much of the decade, culminating in positive achievements (the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965) and negative actions (race riots and violence). The Vietnam War was etched across the screens of American televisions, helping to give rise to the anti-war movement that reached its apex during the latter part of the decade. The nation also experienced the loss of three popular leaders, John Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Bobby Kennedy, to assassins' bullets.

Chapter 1 - A Montage of Unrest

The first part of the decade saw a heating-up and then cooling-down of the Cold War as incidents between the United States and Soviet Union brought the earth to the brink of world war. At the same time, the civil rights movement was growing by leaps and bounds, finally achieving two major breakthroughs in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. His successor, President Johnson, greatly escalated the Vietnam War, sending thousands of troops to fight in the jungles. The move was very unpopular and gave rise to almost constant protests around the nation's campuses.

Chapter 2 - Cultural Mosaic

Even in the midst of so much chaos, America saw achievements made in technology, the arts, and entertainment. Rock music reached a classical stage with the arrival of the British invasion and countercultural artists. Terrific strides were made in medicine with the first heart transplants and several new wonder drugs. Some of America's most beloved authors appeared during the '60s, producing many classic works of literature.

Chapter 3 - 1968

The year 1968 was not a very good year. The January Tet Offensive gave Americans notice that the Vietnam War was not going as well as reported. First, Martin Luther King and then Bobby Kennedy lost their lives to assassins. The anti-war movement was peaking, with violent protests that were televised live during the Democratic National Convention, making the convention a bitter source of embarrassment to the city of

Chicago. In the midst of the turmoil, NASA was on the brink of landing a man on the moon, thus fulfilling a promise President Kennedy had made a few years earlier.

VOCABULARY

adamant	to be very determined or set in a belief
conscription	to require military service of individuals; the draft
copacetic	a situation or thing considered great or wonderful
culmination	the end result or most important part of an event
decolonization	the act of achieving independence from colonial rule
disarray	to be completely confused or disorganized
divert	to change the focus or direction of something or someone
enthralled	to be captivated or fascinated with someone or something
envision	to "see" something in the future as an idea or invention
exploitation	the act of taking advantage of a weaker person or nation
fluorescent	something that is shiny, bright, or glowing, like some paints
focal	the main focus of someone's attention
formidable	a very difficult challenge to overcome
fragging	the use of a fragmentation grenade to kill an officer
gulag	a Russian prison or labor camp
hamper	to hinder the growth or development of something or someone
illicit	something that is illegal or unlawful
ludicrous	totally and completely ridiculous; beyond understanding
melee	a noisy and chaotic group of people such as in a riot
nonalignment	to remain neutral in international politics

perennial	something which is enduring year after year
permeate	to fully absorb something such as water soaking a sponge
posturing	a type of exaggerated behavior for the purpose of impressing others
recant	to go back on something already admitted to
reiterate	to say or repeat something again
ridicule	to put down or mock in a mean way
semblance	words, ideas, or actions which imitate something else
stereotype	the act of characterizing a group of people in some way
surreal	strange or bizarre images of objects or people
tenement	multi-storied apartment buildings in urban areas