

Chapter 37: The Stormy Sixties (1963-1973)

The LBJ Brand on the Presidency

- Lyndon B. Johnson inherited the presidency from JFK when he was assassinated
 - Johnson supported many New Deal policies
 - He was a manipulative politician, who used the “Johnson treatment” — an intimidating display of backslapping, flesh-pressing, and arm-twisting that overbore friend and foe alike”
 - He was a liberal president
- He passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - It “banned racial discrimination in most private facilities open to the public, ... strengthened the federal government’s power to end segregation in ... public places, ... barred employers from discriminating based on race or national origin in hiring and empowered the Equal Employment Opportunity” — a very intensive act to help minority races
 - When conservatives tried to block the bill by adding gender equality to the bill as well (which they thought was too radical to pass), the bill actually passed and guaranteed gender as well as racial equality
- In Johnson ordered affirmative action (1965) for federal employers
 - Affirmative action is policy helping the victims of discrimination
- Johnson initiated a “War on Poverty” program to try to reduce poverty in the US
 - This included a tax bill
 - This was a continuation of JFK’s presidency (which had also considered an antipoverty campaign)
 - This was part of the “Great Society” that Johnson tried to create
 - The Great Society included “a sweeping array of measures encompassing New Deal-style universal social programs, targeted assaults on remaining pockets of poverty, and major new public investments in education and the arts”

Johnson Battles Goldwater in 1964

- Johnson was nominated as the Democratic nominee in 1964
 - Johnson was very liberal
- The Republicans chose Barry Goldwater (senator of AZ) as their presidential nominee
 - Goldwater was very conservative
 - He attacked “the federal income tax, the Social Security system, the Tennessee Valley Authority, civil rights legislation, the nuclear test-ban treaty, and ... the Great Society” — basically New Deal and more recent liberal programs
 - Goldwater was popular amongst a rising wave of conservatism, especially strong in the Sunbelt regions that was opposed to desegregation and new civil rights laws
- The Democrats condemned Goldwater as a trigger-happy politician that might elicit another world war
- Johnson passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (August 1964)

- This happened after the Gulf of Tonkin Incident, in which two American destroyers near Vietnam were supposedly attacked unprovoked
- This was supposed to involve only a “limited” retaliatory air raid” against Vietnam, but it “covered everything,” giving the president great military power over Vietnam
- Johnson won the presidency, 486 to 52 electoral votes
 - He only lost in the Sunbelt and AZ (Goldwater’s home state)
 - Both houses of Congress also had majority Democratic factions

Politics and Power: Johnson’s introduction into the presidency after JFK’s death was a time of quick social change. He used his newfound political power to initiate many liberal policies, especially ones that JFK was already working on, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, affirmative action against discrimination, and the “War on Poverty” with his “Great Society” policies. These helped to give the society many policies helping the poorer sector of society, especially blacks and women, as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 established equal employment rights to all races *and genders*. His popularity with these radical new policies — reminiscent of FDR-age New Deal policies — to improve the lives of the common people won him the election of 1964. However, his expanded government power in foreign politics worsened the situation in North Vietnam when he passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution to bomb the North Vietnamese, heightening tensions between the US and North Vietnam.

The Great Society Congress

- Johnson used his large congressional Democratic majorities to his advantage
 - The government gave \$2 billion to the Office of Economic Opportunity and \$1 billion to develop Appalachia
 - He created the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - He created the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities
- Johnson had four main goals in his Great Society:
 - “Aid to education”
 - Gave educational financial aid to students, not schools (which helped all kinds of students and schools, did not target schools by religion)
 - “Medical care for the elderly and indigent”
 - Medicare (1965) for the elderly and Medicaid for the poor were established as government medical financial aid programs
 - These helped millions of Americans but involved heavy spending from the US government
 - “Immigration reform”
 - The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 undid the immigration quotas of the immigration laws since 1921
 - It allowed 290,000 immigrants to enter the US annually, and it limited the number of immigrants from the Western Hemisphere
 - It allowed relatives of US citizens to enter the US as well
 - The source of immigrants greatly shifted from Europe to mainly from Asia
 - “A new voting rights bill”

- The new Voting Rights Act of 1965 (see below)
- While critics said that the Great Society programs wasted a lot of government money and did not achieve much, they greatly improved American standard of living
 - Poverty greatly decreased
 - Medicare decreased poverty amongst the senior citizens
 - Infant mortality rates increased with better government help for the poor from Medicaid

Battling for Black Rights

- Despite the progress made by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, many blacks still were not voting in the South
 - For example, only 5% of the blacks in Mississippi were voting, due to “the poll tax, literacy tests, and barefooted intimidation”
- The 24th Amendment abolished the poll tax
- Freedom Summer was when thousands of blacks and white civil-rights promoters went to register many blacks at once in the summer of 1964
- Racial hatred increased as a result of these efforts towards improving civil rights
 - There was violence in Mississippi
 - The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party were denied entry at the DNC in 1964
- MLK Jr. led a march in Selma, Alabama
 - It was a peaceful protest but was met by “state troopers with tear gas and whips [that] assaulted King’s demonstrators”
 - This involved two deaths
 - National footage of this shocked much of the nation and increased the pro-civil rights movement
 - Johnson responded to this in a televised national address with support for civil rights
- Shortly after the Selma incident, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act (August 6, 1965) that outlawed literacy tests and helped blacks register for voting
 - This again increased the power of blacks, who could now vote with protection by the government
 - For the first time there was a net migration of blacks into the South

Black Power

- There were wave of violent black protests after the Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - There was a violent conflict in Watts (Los Angeles) shortly after the passing of the Voting Rights Act, and other violent riots in Newark and Detroit
 - Malcolm X was a leader of the Nation of Islam, a militaristic group
 - The group supported the idea of black separation from American society, rather than integration like the peaceful protesters with MLK
 - The Black Panthers were a militant socialist black group
 - Their main group was to resist police brutality

- The SNCC's leader preached Black Power, the idea that African Americans will “smash everything Western civilization has created”
 - This was interpreted by some to support integration and others to support separation
- MLK was shot and killed in April of 1968
 - This sparked more violence by blacks
- There was some progress amidst this violent protesting in terms of civil rights
 - Voter registration in the South greatly increased
 - Some major cities had black mayors elected
 - Southern African American enrollment in schools increased
 - Many blacks moved above the poverty line

Culture and Society: Johnson's early presidency involved great social reform to help the common people, liberal policies reminiscent of the New Deal. This involved bolstering the Department of Transportation, the creation of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Medicaid and Medicare, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These all gave more economic or political opportunity to the poorer people of American society, such as with Medicaid to help the nonworking elderly and Medicare for the poorer people who cannot afford regular healthcare, as well as the Voting Rights Act that prevented restrictions against fair voting. These government-initiated welfare programs were matched in social reform by the Civil Rights movement, with leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X leading the fight for total black equality under the law. These activists worked to achieve total racial equality for blacks in voting and integration into all public facilities. All in all, government welfare programs and civil rights protests enacted much liberal social change to help the underprivileged and poor people.

Vietnam Vexations

- The Viet Cong (Vietnamese Communists, i.e., Southern Vietnamese loyal to North Vietnam) attacked a US base
 - This led to retaliation in the form of the bombing of North Vietnam as “Project Rolling Thunder”
 - 184,000 American troops were involved in South Vietnam by 1966
- The US believed that a gradual escalation of US force would be most effective and efficient to win against North Vietnam, but every escalation was met with stronger guerilla defense by the North Vietnamese
 - By 1968 500,000 American troops were in Vietnam and \$30 billion was being spent a year on it
- The fact that a global superpower (the US) was meddling in the affairs of a tiny country (Vietnam) was appalling to other countries and to some Americans
 - Some countries repelled American Peace Corps troops and France showed its discontent by withdrawing from NATO
- The Six-Day War (June 1967) happened while the US was busy at war with Vietnam
 - Israel took over much Palestinian land, putting 1,000,000 Palestinians under Israeli rule and creating another 350,000 refugees
 - This worsened the tension that was already strong in the Middle East

- There were anti-war protests in the US
 - Some people dodged the draft
 - Some students protested with “teach-ins”
 - People in large cities such as NYC, San Francisco, and Chicago led marches against the war
 - Senator William Fulbright of AR led a series of televised anti-war hearings
- The war had become highly unpopular and expensive (both in money and human lives) by 1968
 - The people saw the war as brutal and expensive and unnecessary, and they distrusted the government more and more as they discovered the manipulation taking place by the government over the people
- The CIA was ordered to spy on domestic officials (despite being an foreign surveillance program) and the FBI condemned anti-war advocates as communist sympathizers

Vietnam Topples Johnson

- The Tet Offensive (January 1968, during the Vietnamese New Year (Tet)) was a North Vietnamese and Viet Cong offensive
 - The Americans counterattacked and won
 - The US generals asked for 200,000 more troops in response to the Tet Offensive
 - The ferocity of the attack showed to many Americans that the war would not be easily won, even with such a high level of American interaction
- Many Americans were becoming anti-war
 - Eugene McCarthy, a Democratic candidate for the election of 1968, was strongly anti-war
- Johnson announced that he would not be running for re-election in 1968
 - This was due to mounting anti-war complaints that was widening the gap between pro-government and anti-war people
 - It was also due to the fact that Johnson had lost popularity in comparison to McCarthy and Robert Kennedy, another Democratic candidate
 - Johnson also announced that he would be scaling back the involvement in Vietnam
 - This appeased the “war doves” by promising lesser involvement in the war while also appeasing the “war hawks” by not specifying a total end to the war

America in the World: The Vietnam War was a major blunder by the US. While it was met initially by an enormous US effort to wipe out the communist North Vietnamese with 500,000 US troops and Project Rolling Thunder dropping thousands of bombs, it was met by aggressive guerrilla fighting that the US and South Vietnamese could not hold off. The war quickly became very expensive due to this fruitless and highly involved military spending, and it became unpopular as more Americans saw it as brutal to both the American troops involved and to the Vietnamese civilians caught in the war. The discovery of the use of national security agencies (the CIA and FBI) to silence opponents to the war and the strong Tet Offensive that weakened the American prospect of winning caused multiple anti-war protests. In the end, Johnson had to humiliatingly assure the nation that he would not be running for re-election, and instead focus the end of his presidency not on re-election but on drawing American troops out of Vietnam. The Vietnam War was thus an international US intervention that was highly unpopular and

pressured out by American popular sentiment, weakening the US reputation of being a righteous, always-victorious “international police.” They also gained further contempt from the North Vietnamese and the communists, worsening the Cold War.

The Presidential Sweepstakes of 1968

- Hubert Humphrey (Johnson’s VP), Eugene McCarthy, and Robert Kennedy were the Democratic candidates for president
 - Kennedy was shot by an Arab immigrant resentful of Kennedy’s pro-Israel stance
 - Herbert Humphrey thus became the Democratic nominee
- Humphrey supported the idea of continuing the Vietnam War at full involvement until the North Vietnamese were willing to negotiate
- The Republicans chose Richard Nixon, former Vice President, to be the presidential nominee
- George Wallace ran as an independent in the election
 - He was the one to block black students from entering the University of Alabama
 - He supported reversing civil rights measures (reactionary, extremely conservative)
- Nixon won the presidential election of 1968
 - He won 301 electoral votes to 191 electoral votes for Humphrey and 46 for Wallace
 - Wallace won several states in the Sunbelt, the most electoral votes for any third-party candidate
 - He was a minority president, winning mostly because the people distrusted the current Democratic administration that began the Vietnam War
- Johnson had created a mixed legacy of bad and good
 - He had passed many laws to help the poor people and African Americans
 - His dual attempts to reduce poverty and fight the North Vietnamese at the same time by federal funding was unrealistic and failed

The Cultural Upheaval of the 1960s

- Many Americans became disillusioned about the government’s role because of their distrust of the government over the Vietnam War
 - They found out that “American society was not free of racism, sexism, imperialism, and oppression”
 - This caused many Americans to lose the sense of cultural dignity (their “moral rudder”) that they had for being American
 - For example, membership of the Protestant faith greatly dropped (48% to 41% in the 1960s)
 - The more educated generally became more secular, while the less educated became more religious
- Young people, especially college students, commonly had antiestablishmentarian protests against the government
 - The baby boom generation had reached college age, providing a large source of the college students
 - UC Berkeley had a peaceful Free Speech Movement protest
 - College protests would become more and more violent and radical

- The Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) became the terrorist group, the Weather Underground (the Weathermen)
- Drugs such as marijuana and LSD corrupted many youthful minds and led a many young addicts and drug dealers
- Sexual rights advanced
 - Birth-control pills were invented, preventing unwanted pregnancies
 - The Mattachine Society (1951, LA) advocated for gay rights
 - The Stonewall Rebellion was a revolt by gay supporters against police brutality against homosexuality
- The great social changes in 1960's stated in 3 P's:
 - "Population bulge of the baby boomers"
 - "Protest against racism and the Vietnam War"
 - "Prosperity that seemed a permanent fixture of postwar America"

Culture and Society: The changes in perspective of the baby boomers were dramatic and sometimes even radical. Many Americans suddenly became aware of the racial injustice and social inequality present in the US and protested these problems. Some of them had peaceful protest, such as the Free Speech Movement protest at UC Berkeley, but others had radical reactions such as the terrorist group Students for a Democratic Society that became the terrorist group known the Weathermen, and some groups turned to drug addiction to drown these newfound sorrows in American society. However, social change was generally positive, with protests such as the Free Speech Movement and the Mattachine Society (for gay rights) and the Stonewall Rebellion (against police brutality), as well as the invention of birth control pills (which gave people more sexual freedom), advanced social rights even in this time of despair in American inequality.

Nixon "Vietnamizes" the War

- President Nixon sought to soothe the Vietnam conflict through a process called "Vietnamization," the gradual removal of American troops from Vietnam
 - He wanted to remove all 540,000 American troops from Vietnam, while training the South Vietnamese troops so that they could fight their own war
 - This led to the Nixon Doctrine, which stated that the US would help its allies militarily but without support of large groups of American troops — i.e., other nations have to fight their own wars
 - Nixon still wanted to win the war, but not militarily
- Anti-war "doves" still thought Nixon's withdrawal was too slow
 - They wanted an end to the American involvement that "was prompt, complete, unconditional, and irreversible"
 - They had a anti-war protest of 150,000 people in Boston Common and Washington, DC
- Nixon tried to appeal to the silent majority
 - He believed that the majority of the people still supported the war despite the riots, hence the "silent majority"
- People were growing steadily more hateful towards the war

- The war drafted mostly poorer Americans, especially African Americans, because they did not occupy the essential roles in society that would exempt them from the draft
- The conditions in Vietnam against guerrilla warfare were especially brutal
- “Drug abuse, mutiny, and sabotage” were common amongst the American soldiers
- People were horrified to discover that American troops had slaughtered many innocent civilians at My Lai

Cambodianizing the Vietnam War

- Nixon ordered federal troops to attack North Vietnamese in Cambodia
 - Cambodia had been used to connect the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong
 - Troops were withdrawn two months later in response to the riots
- The attack on the North Vietnamese in Cambodia caused angry students to riot
 - At Kent State University four student rioters were shot and killed by the National Guard
 - At Jackson State College the highway patrol shot and killed two students
- Several concessions were given by the government to appease the anti-war doves
 - The Senate repealed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that gave the government and the president so much military power in Vietnam
 - Fewer people were drafted and people were only drafted for one year instead of eight
 - The 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to eighteen
- The Pentagon Papers were released by a Pentagon official to *The New York Times* that showed deceptions of JFK and LBJ to the people, further fueling anti-government sentiment

Nixon's Détente with Beijing (Peking) and Moscow

- Russia and China were at odds with their different interpretations of communism
 - The US desired to exploit their differences to weaken communism or to better their relations with them by supporting one side or the other
 - Henry Kissinger, Nixon's military advisor, helped negotiate with North Vietnamese and with the two major communist powers to schedule a trip for the president
- Nixon traveled to China in 1972
 - He talked to the leaders and they decided to “normalize” the relationship between China and the US
 - The US lessened support to Taiwan as an independent nation to improve its favor with China; this was the “one-China” policy
 - He was the first president to have visited China during the presidency
- Nixon traveled to Russia in 1972
 - The USSR needed American food supplies and didn't want to conflict with China (which now was supported by the US), and therefore was ready to normalize relations with the US as well
- The improved relations with China and Russia meant an era of détente
 - Détente means relaxed tension between the nations before conflict occurs
 - This détente included an anti-ballistic missile treaty and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT)
 - This détente greatly helped reduce the intense tension of the Cold War

- Nixon remained strongly anti-communist even in the détente with Russia and China
 - They were against a communist leader of Chile and supported his dictatorial, non-communist successor

America in the World: After the decision to start backing out of Vietnam, the US began a foreign-policy change towards improving relations with communist countries to ease the tensions of the Cold War. Exiting from Vietnam with the policy of “Vietnamization” was the first step— this showed that the Americans were willing to let Vietnam decide its own fate rather than simply stopping the communist North Vietnamese from taking over. This resulted in an American moral victory by taking its troops out of the immoral war, and a communist victory by having the North Vietnamese win over South Vietnamese two years after the American pull-out. Later, Nixon traveled to China and the USSR to speak with their leaders in order to ease tensions with détente and some negotiations such as SALT. As a result, the US began to resume more normal relations with China and Russia, which then eased the Cold War conflict.

A New Team on the Supreme Bench

- The Chief Justice under most of Nixon’s presidency was Earl Warren
 - Warren was very liberal, and many liberal rulings passed under him:
 - *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) allowed the use of contraceptives
 - *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963) gave criminals the right to free attorneys if they were too poor to afford them
 - *Escobedo* (1964) and *Miranda* (1966) gave the right to remain silent
 - *Engel v. Vitale* (1962) and *School District of Abington Township v. Schempp* (1963) prevented schools from requiring prayer
 - This angered many religious conservatives
 - Nixon had a campaign promise of changing the Supreme Court’s makeup to be more conservative (following Republican ideals)
 - Conservative Warren E. Burger and three other conservatives replaced the Chief Justice and three other justices on the Supreme Court during Nixon’s presidency
 - Interestingly, even Nixon’s new Supreme Court ruled liberally sometimes
 - In *Roe v. Wade* (1973) they legalized abortion

Nixon on the Home Front

- Nixon supported welfare systems (which went against traditional Republican conservatism)
 - He approved policies increasing Food Stamps, Medicaid, and Social Security
 - He created the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the disabled
- Nixon implemented the Philadelphia Plan (1969) setting a quota of employers dedicated only to minorities
 - This was a new form of affirmative action that effectively forced privileges on African Americans rather than protecting their rights
- Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (1970)
 - This was in response to 20 years of increasing concern about the environment, such as by influential author and environmentalist Rachel Carson

- This was related to the creation of Earth Day (April 22, 1970) that recognizes the importance of natural resources and is a holiday still celebrated today
- Nixon increased government control in industry
 - Nixon approved the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to protect workers and consumers from dangerous company processes and products
- Nixon created several policies in order to avoid inflation
 - He had a “ninety-day wage and price freeze in 1971”
 - He took the US off of the gold standard and lowered the value of the dollar
 - This ended the Bretton Woods system (based on the gold standard) of international currency balancing that had been in place since WWII
- Nixon’s methods of “appointing conservative Supreme Court Justices, soft-pedaling civil rights, and opposing school busing to achieve racial balance” were considered Nixon’s “southern strategy”
 - This was meant to convert more unsure Southern Democrats into becoming Republican

The Nixon Landslide of 1972

- The Vietnam War flared up again in 1972 in severity when the north Vietnamese entered South Vietnam across agreed demilitarized zones
 - The US decided to bomb the North Vietnamese in retaliation, luckily not provoking Chinese or Russian intervention on behalf of the attack
- Anti-war senator George McGovern became the popular Democratic presidential nominee for the election of 1972
 - McGovern took advantage of the new primary election system (which now favored the younger and poorer majorities) to bolster his popularity amongst the commoners
 - However, this had him labeled as “the countercultural candidate of ‘acid, amnesty, and abortion’” and was frowned upon by conservatives
 - When it was discovered that his vice president had gone through psychiatric therapy, he lost great popularity amongst the American people
- Nixon became very popular as the presidential nominee for the Republicans
 - He had the achievement of reducing the American troops in Vietnam from 540,000 to 30,000
 - Kissinger announced that the war would be over in only a few days, improving the hopes of the people on Nixon in a war-free era
- Nixon won 520 electoral votes to 17 for McGovern (a huge gap)

American and National Identity: The government began to favor new welfare systems, the primary, and OSHA that protected more rights for the common people and workers. The Supreme Court also passed many liberal policies, such as *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965), *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963), *Escobedo* (1964) and *Miranda* (1966), and *Engel v. Vitale* (1962) and *School District of Abington Township v. Schempp* (1963) that gave people more simple rights such as the right to use contraceptives and the right of people to remain silent in a court case. Even the creation of Earth Day and the EPA protected another gave more protective rights to an oppressed member of American society: its environment. These new changes under

President Nixon very much followed the same trend that governed the early Johnson Great Society policies — many of them were welfare acts that emphasized the rights of the common citizen. The emphasis on welfare, beginning with Social Security, became a much greater part of the American identity when new welfare systems such as Medicaid and Medicare were created, policies that remain today as a strong part of our national identity.

The Secret Bombings of Cambodia and the War Powers Act

- After his reelection, Nixon initiated a series of heavy bombings of North Vietnam in an attempt to pressure the North Vietnamese into negotiating
 - They agreed on a ceasefire in January 1973 (two months later)
 - While Nixon claimed that the cease-fire was a honorable way to achieve peace, it actually involved the withdrawal of many of the US troops while leaving many North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam
- Americans became more concerned about Nixon's continued bombing of Cambodia
 - Nixon had secretly had 3,500 bombing raids against communist forces in Cambodia
 - Nixon was supporting the dictatorship of Cambodia over the communist forces of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong
 - Nixon vetoed congressional acts to stop his Cambodian military campaigns
- The War Powers Act (1973) was passed to limit the president's military power
 - Under this act the president has to report to Congress about new military campaigns he has unilaterally authorized and has to withdraw troops if Congress rejects it
 - This was part of New Isolationism, an era of cautious military intervention by the US

The Arab Oil Embargo and the Energy Crisis

- The Syrians and Egyptians attacked the Israelis in the Yom Kippur War (October 1973)
 - It was meant to regain territory lost in the Six Day War
 - The Israelis were losing badly until US weaponry was sent over
 - The US felt a dire need to support the Israelis because Israel was its democratic ally in the Middle East and there was a potential for the USSR to support the Arab nations
 - The US support led to Israel's victory and a ceasefire
- The Arab OPEC nations set an embargo to the US and some European nations supporting Israel in retaliation for their support of Israel
 - This caused an economic shortage as fuel for cars and heating was greatly decreased in supply
 - This marked the end to cheap and abundant energy in the US
 - The US had been declining in its oil production since 1970, and this embargo highlighted that fact and its dependence on the Middle East
 - The embargo lasted only five months but had international effects, even on nations that did not have the embargo (due to globalization all nations felt the economic depression)
- After the embargo, OPEC quadrupled its oil prices, which made oil still hard to obtain
- After the embargo, the US created the International Energy Agency to offset OPEC's power

America in the World: The heavily criticized aggressive bombing campaign of Cambodia and the oil restriction by OPEC made the US more cautious about its foreign-intervention policies in a new era of “New Isolationism.” The Cambodia campaign was ordered solely by Nixon and involved over 3,500 bombing raids and vetoes by Nixon against stopping the raids. This in turn caused Congress to pass the War Powers Act that limited the President’s unilateral war-making power, which in turn limited the US’s power to intervene in world affairs. In addition, the embargo of the US in retaliation for the support of Israel caused the US to lose much of its main oil supply, which again limited the US in turns of oil and therefore lost military and transportation ability (as tanks and cars are heavily dependent on oil). As US relations in the communist Far East and the radical Middle East worsened, the US lost its ability to majorly intervene in these other nations.