

THE USA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 1945-1991

From 1945 to 1991 during the Cold War, the USA played a huge part in the world diplomacy.

As the main winner of WWII , it helped to establish a new order but had to face the Soviets into a war by proxy: THE COLD WAR

The USA firstly took the lead of the WEST and imposed its model

It also played a part into two major Cold War crises: Cuba and Vietnam

But it was questioned in the late 60's

I/ THE USA TOOK THE LEAD OF THE WEST

A/ It was active in post-war conferences

1-Yalta: in February 1945

Dismemberment of Germany and reparations to be paid

2-San Francisco: June 1945

-50 states founded the UNO

UN Charter- Security Council- General Assembly-

50 member-states

3-The Potsdam conference in July 17th August 1945

- It was attended by: Atlee, Truman, Stalin
- It was about the enforcement of Yalta's decisions



B/ Triumph of US capitalism

1-What is capitalism?

2-Bretton-Woods July 1944

- End of the gold-exchange standard
- The dollar is the new standard-currency
- The US is the only one to have the right of veto in the International Monetary Fund IMF

3-The USA uses this economic power to « rescue »
the « old continent »

-It is part of the « Manifest Destiny »:

a so-called God-given mission to defend freedom
and democracy in the world

It offers the **MARSHALL PLAN** which was the
economic branch of the **TRUMAN DOCTRINE**

■ The Truman doctrine

"The peoples of a number of countries of the world have recently had totalitarian regimes forced upon them against their will. The Government of the United States has made frequent protests against coercion and intimidation, in violation of the Yalta agreement, in Poland, Rumania, and Bulgaria. [...] At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one.

One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression.

The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio; fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms. I believe that it must be the policy of the United

States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. [...] I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes. [...] The seeds of totalitarian regimes are nurtured by misery and want. [...]"

Harry Truman (1884-1972), Speech to the US Congress, March 12th, 1947.

1-Identify the source

2-What does Truman mean when he refers to « violation of the Yalta agreement »?

The Soviets did not organize free elections in the countries they liberated as it was asked in Yalta

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3-What are for him the two alternative ways of life in the world in 1945?

One way is the democracy with freedom and free elections.

It clearly refers to the American model

The other is the dictatorship based on terror and oppression.

It alludes to the USRR

It's a Manichean vision

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4-Why does he suggest economic intervention at the end of the text?

To him economic help would bring “ economic stability” and avoid the spread of totalitarianism

In real, it’s also to avoid the spread of communism as poor people could find communism attractive

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5- Is this document biased?

Yes it is

Truman clearly stands up against communism

And his economic help is against the spread of communism but he never mentions this clearly

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C/ The USA used its hard power to create a military alliance

1949 NATO was formed to protect against a possible Soviet attack (The URSS had the A Bomb in 49)

It was followed by a **series** of alliances nicknamed « Pactomania »

Ex: 1951 ANZUS New Zealand and Australia

Ex: 1955 The Bagdad Pact with the Middle East

The USA quickly got involved into cold war crises to defend freedom and democracy and to stop the Soviets

III/ THE USA WAS INVOLVED INTO TWO MAJOR COLD WAR CONFLICTS (2 examples)

A/ Cuba October 1962

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A/ Cuba October 1962

1-What happened?

Cuba, small island, 160 miles from coast of Florida

US ally, US businesses & US military base (Guantanamo)

Domino theory

1959, Fidel Castro overthrows Batista (US-backed dictator), and establishes a Communist government.

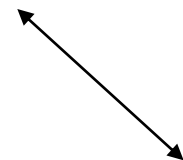
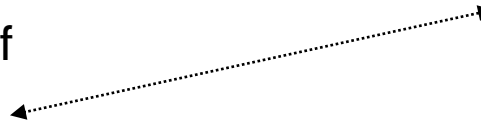
Castro takes over US businesses

Autumn 1962, Cuba has received 1000s of USSR missiles and some launchers were set

AMERICAN REPLY

January 1961, US breaks off diplomatic relations

April, 1961, Bay of Pigs – 1,400 anti-Cuban exiles attempted to overthrow Castro



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It was not officially said but they were armed by the US

Autumn 1962, Cuba has received thousands of USSR missiles and some launchers were set in Cuba

2-Why was the USSR interested in helping Cuba?

Cuba was a new Communist state and an “open door” to South America

Cuba provided a launch base for Soviets missiles

Khrushchev wanted to test strength of new US president, JFK

3-How did it end?

Kennedy received a letter from Khrushchev offering to negotiate :

he accepted to withdraw the missiles from Cuba providing the USA withdrew theirs from Turkey (NATO base)

Consequences:

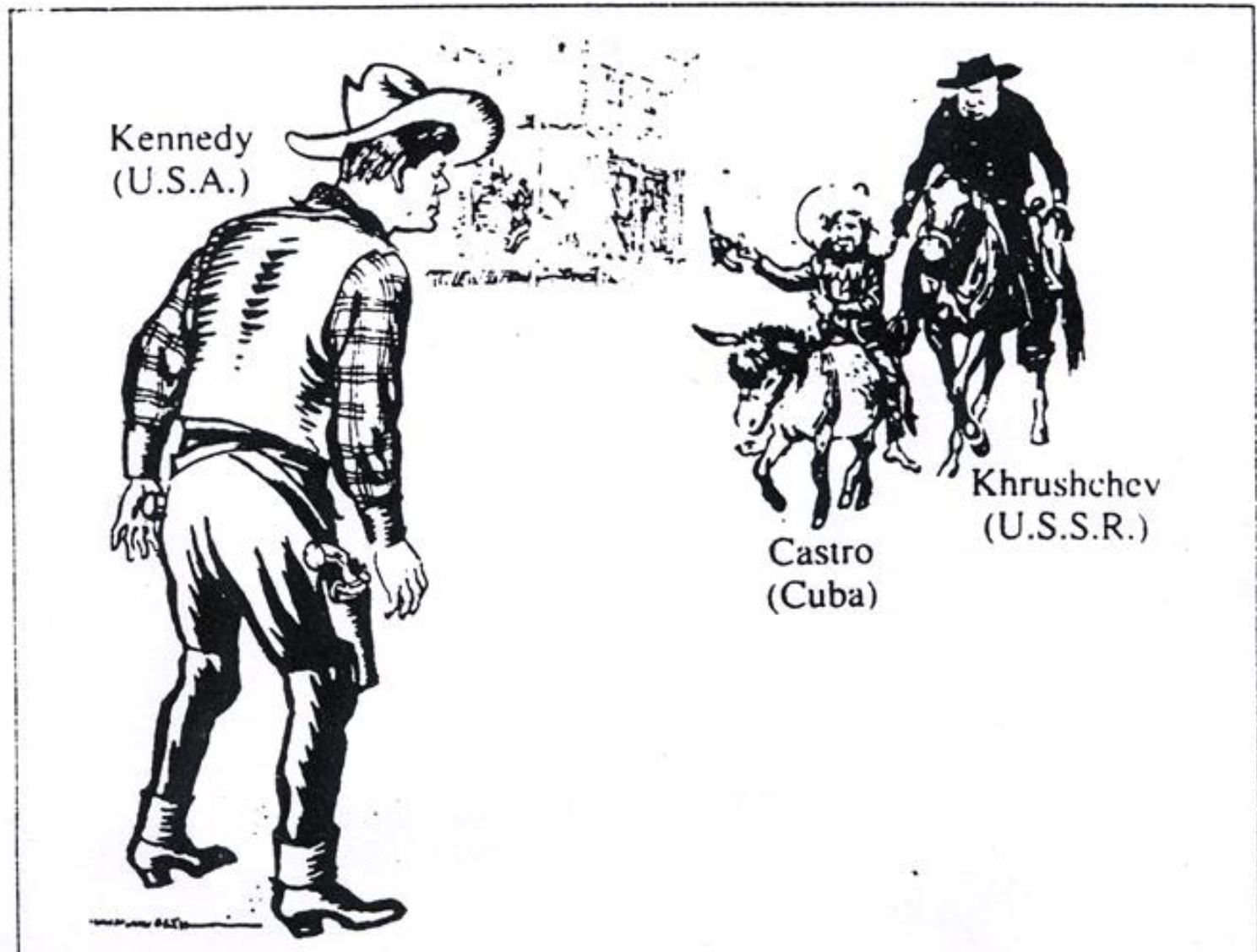
It opened a new era called **PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE**

A permanent hotline between White House and the Kremlin was set up

Kennedy showed he was tough

But Cuba remained communist

a cartoon from a British newspaper, *The Daily Mail*, October 1962)



B/ Vietnam 1965-1973

-A French colony until 1954

-In 1955 a referendum chose **NGO DIEM** as president of south Vietnam

He was backed by the USA on behalf of the **Domino theory**



1-The situation in South Vietnam

-Diem's regime was quickly discredited

It was a very corrupt system and he discriminated Buddhist against

Many Vietnamese joined the communist resistance of the South: the **VIETCONG**

He was murdered 1963 (CIA)

The Vietcong received supplies from North Vietnam which was backed by China which was backed by the USSR. (Cold war logic: war by proxy)

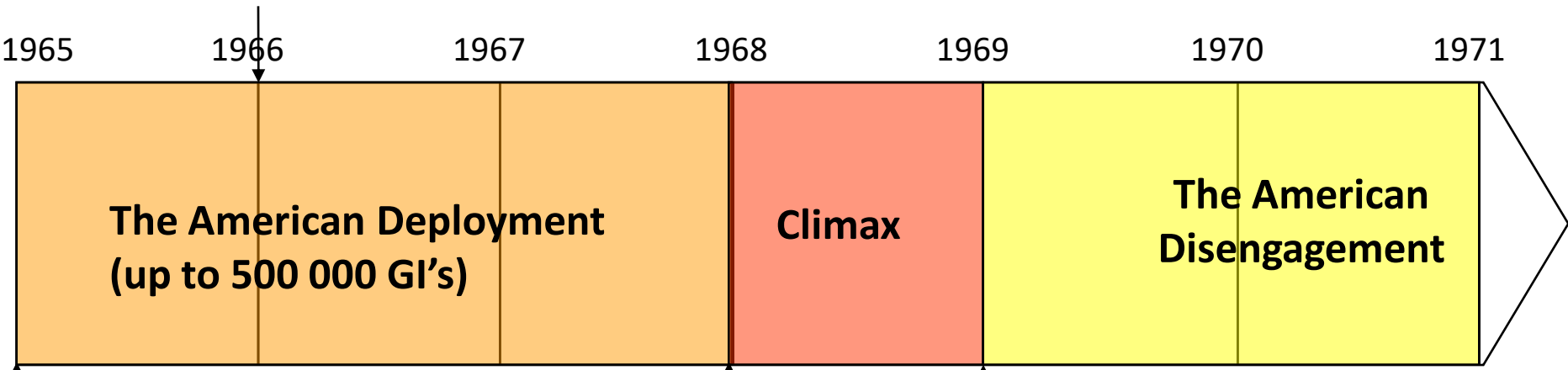
2- The USA at war in :March 1965 ... the first American soldiers landed in Da Nang ...

Facing the growth of the Vietcong, the USA sent its army (including drafted young people) under **Lyndon Johnson**

Half a million GI's



3- Steps of the war



Beginning of the War

January 1968 :

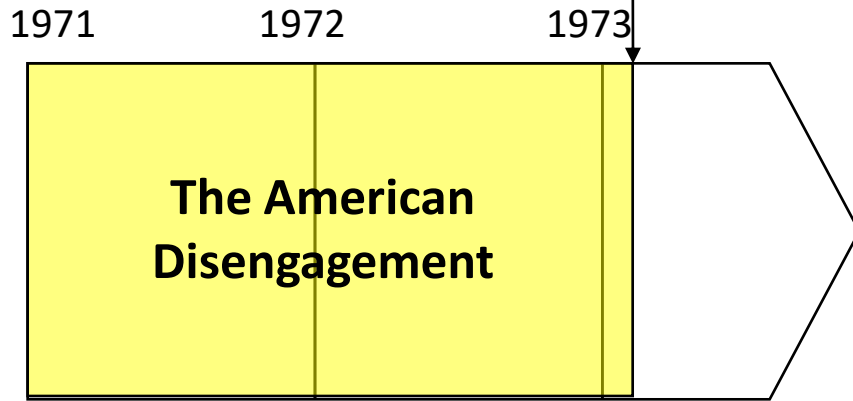
The Têt Offensive

The USA is almost defeated

July 1969 :

The Nixon Doctrine

**January 1973 :
The Paris Agreements**



↑
**« Vietnamisation » of the
conflict**

Results of the war

	Number of Killed
The USA	58 183
North Việt Nam including Viet Cong forces	1 000 000
South Việt Nam	223 748
Vietnamese Civilians	4 000 000

4- A source of criticism

The economy was badly touched by the conflict because of the bombings (napalm) and more than **5 MILLION vietnamese** died from 1965 to 1975

The Americans used 15 000 000 tons ammunitions **(3 to 4 times the WWII tonnage)**

16% of lands were touched by **chemical weapons: orange agent and napalm. Lands are still poisoned**

Besides the defeat, the USA's image was badly tarnished on the world stage

NAPALM

During the Vietnam War

(Photos and videos)

Napalm bombings



More napalm bombings...



The French Aviation naval drops napalm over Viet Minh guerrilla positions during an ambush.



A riverboat of the US mounted flamethrower in Vietnam deploying an ignited napalm mixture.

Effects of napalm



AGENT ORANGE

During the vietnam war

(Photos and videos)

Effects of Agent Orange



Use of Agent Orange



**The criticisms were worse and worse
in the 60's and even culminated in
1968**

III/ THE USA IS QUESTIONED IN THE LATE 60'S

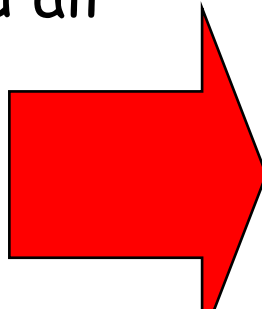
A/ Within the Country, the Civil Rights movement was very destabilizing

1-It really started with the
Montgomery bus boycott

December 1st, 1955 Rosa Parks
(1912-2005)- Arrested

The black community decided
to protest and organized a
bus boycott led by Martin
Luther King: PEACEFUL
(assassinated 1968)

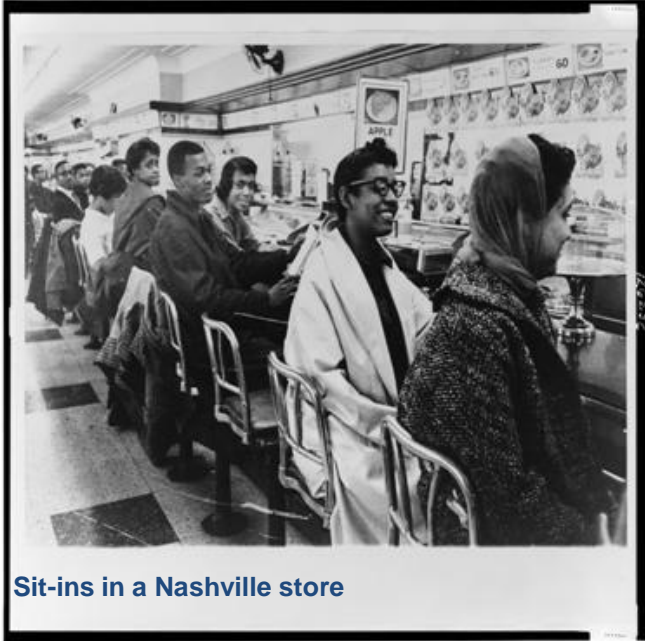
It ended in Victory and then
the movement spread all
over the USA



-1964: Civil Right Act:
Official end of
segregation

-1965 Voting right act:
right to vote without
restriction

So many non-violent ways to protest against segregation



Sit-ins in a Nashville store

Demonstrations



The Freedom Riders, both African American and white, traveled around the South in buses to test the effectiveness of desegregation in bus stations

2-Some black people claimed violent methods

MALCOLM X 1925-1965

(Malcolm Little)

1952-1964 Nation of Islam

Violent

Assassinated in 1965 by 2
Nation of Islam activists

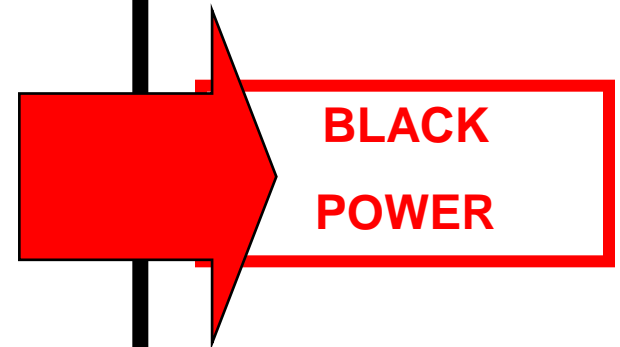


Black panther party since 1966

Violent and close to
marxism

10 point program

Nation of Islam activists



assimilation or
integration takes
black people's
dignity and
heritage.

AN EXAMPLE OF ACTIVISM: ANGELA DAVIS



Racial Demonstration



Black Power

B/ The hippie movement brought another
form of criticism

The hippie « counter culture » was a youth movement that arose in the United States during the mid-1960s and spread to other countries around the world.





~ Flower Power ~



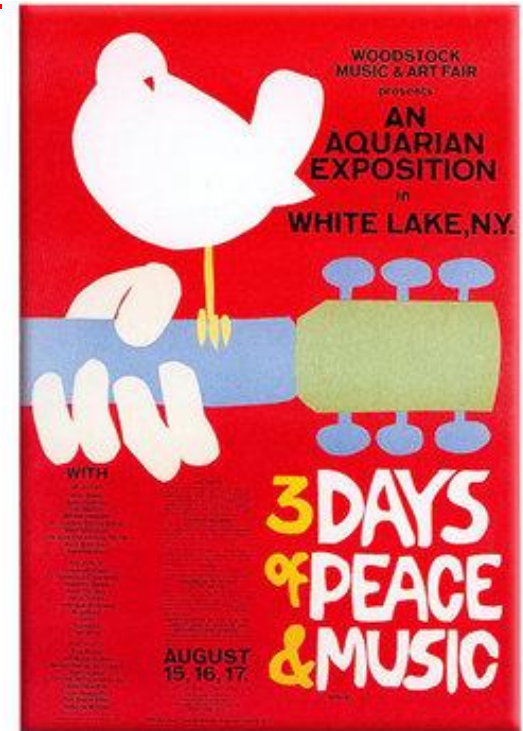
It opposed the Vietnam War



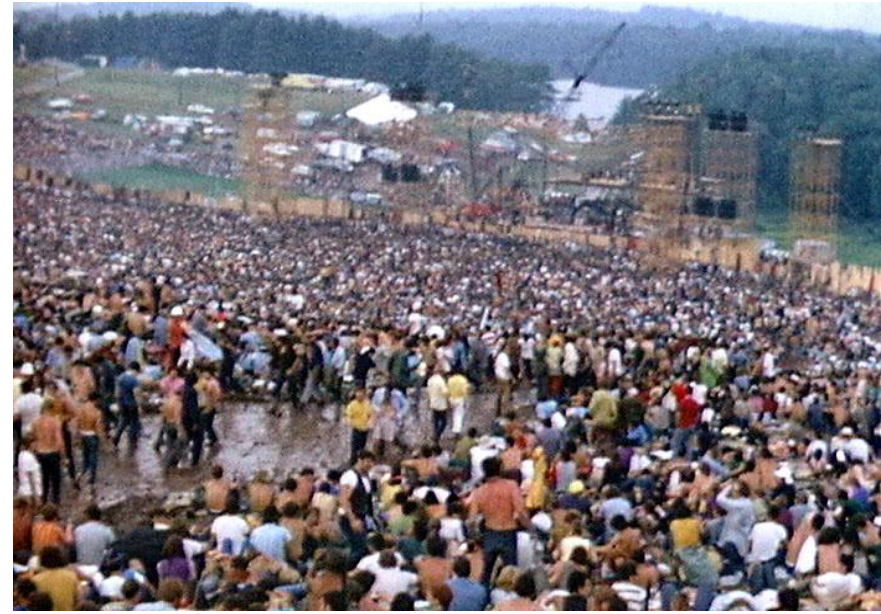
They promoted free love, communal living, recreational drug use, nudity, music (particularly psychedelic rock, blues, and folk music), vegetarianism, and ecology.

Most of all hippies promoted the ideals of Love and Peace

The WOODSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL IN AUGUST 1969 STAYS THE CLIMAX OF THIS MOVEMENT



**From the 15th
to the 18th of
August 1969**



More than 450 000
people

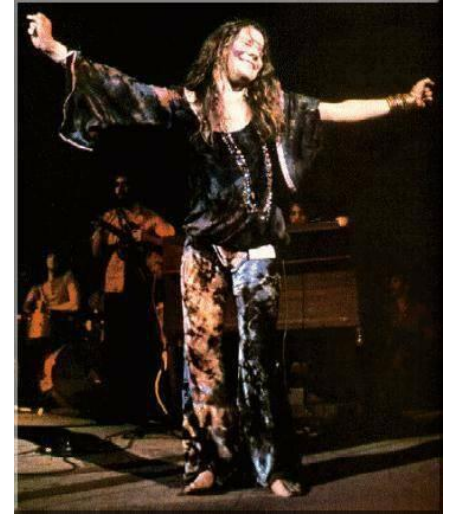
Cost \$ 2.4 millions

Symbols:

The Vietnam song

Joan Baez

Jimmy Hendrix playing the
American anthem



CONCLUSION

In 1991 Gorbachev dissolved the USSR and ended the Cold War

The USA claimed it won the Cold War (to win by default)

What was true however was that the USA asserted as an economic and military power

In 1991 It led the « new world order » in 1991...

YEAR 1968 IN THE WORLD

**February 1, Saigon, Vietnam:
Chief Brigadeer General Nguyen Ngoc Loan,
of the South Vietnamese national police, executes a Vietcong officer with
a single pistol shot in the head during the tet Offensive**



January 23: Some 15 years after the Korean war , North Korea captured the Navy intelligence US Vessel USS PUEBLO and its crew. U.S. authorities claimed the ship had been in international waters in the Tsushima Strait, but North Korea disagreed, and held the 83 crew members in a POW camp before the two countries could negotiate their release.



March 16: After repeatedly denying he would challenge Johnson for the Democratic nomination, Senator [Robert F. Kennedy](#) announced he would enter the presidential race. On the same day (though it would not be revealed until the following year), U.S. ground troops killed more than 500 Vietnamese civilians in the [My Lai massacre](#) in South Vietnam.



March 28, Memphis, Tennessee, USA:

A police officer uses his nightstick on a youth reportedly involved in the looting that followed the break-up of a march led by Dr Martin Luther King Jr

Photograph: Jack Thornell/AP



April, Memphis, Tennessee:

The American civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King Jr lying in state as his colleagues pay their respects to him. From right to left, the mourners were Andrew Young, Bernard Lee and Reverend Ralph Abernathy



May, Paris, France:

A young woman challenges riot police near the Mabillon intersection, Boulevard Saint Germain



**June 5, Los Angeles, USA:
Senator Robert Kennedy lies
sprawled semi-conscious in his
own blood after being shot in the
head and neck, while Juan
Romero, a busboy at the
Ambassador hotel, tries to comfort
him**



July 24, Nigeria:

A starving Biafran child huddles on a pavement



**August, Prague, Czechoslovakia:
Emotional scenes as crowds gather after the Russian invasion**



**October 16, Mexico City, Mexico:
Extending gloved hands skyward in
racial protest, the US athletes
Tommie Smith, centre, and John
Carlos stare downwards as the Star
Spangled Banner plays after Smith
won the gold medal and Carlos the
bronze in the 200-metre sprint at
the Olympic games**



November 5: Nixon wins the White House



December 24: Apollo 8 orbits the moon for the first time in history

