



TURN TURN TURN

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS 1965-75

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contact: Jennifer Reynolds, media specialist, 909-307-2669 ext. 278
Michele Nielsen, curator of history, 909-307-2669 ext. 240

Tell it like it is a history timeline

1965

- The New York Times identifies a “credibility gap” as President Lyndon Johnson escalates the United States military involvement in Vietnam. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara recommends a nationwide network of bomb shelters.
- President Johnson outlines the “Great Society.”
- The Immigration Act of 1965 equalizes immigration policies. Immigration doubles between 1965 and 1970 and immigration shifts from Europe to Asia and Central and South America.
- The Voting Rights Act outlaws discriminatory voting practices, including literacy tests.
- Medicaid and Medicare are enacted.
- The Higher Education Act of 1965 authorizes a federal student loan program.
- Malcolm X, an African-American Muslim minister and human rights activist, is assassinated in Harlem, New York.
- The Watts Riot in Los Angeles is the first of several major urban riots due to racial issues.
- 25,000 marchers participate in a voting rights march led by Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.
- The National Farmworkers Association is formed.
- Burning draft cards becomes illegal.
- Ralph Nader writes “Unsafe At Any Speed: The Designed-In Dangers of the American Automobile.”
- Head Start programs begin.

1966

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is established as part of LBJ’s Great Society.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. announces his opposition to the war in Vietnam.
- Rodolfo Acuña teaches the first Mexican American history class at San Fernando Valley State College.
- The National Historic Preservation Act expands the National Register of Historic Places to include sites of regional, state, and local significance.
- The Red Guard begins to wipe out western influence in China.
- Miranda v. Arizona establishes “Miranda rights” for suspects.
- LSD becomes illegal in California.
- James Meredith, the first black student to enroll in the University of Mississippi, is shot.
- César Chávez marches with farm workers from Delano to Sacramento.

TURN TURN TURN CONTINUED

1967

- The 1965 affirmative action policy is expanded to cover discrimination based on sex.
- The US, USSR, and UK sign a treaty banning nuclear weapons in space.
- *I Am Joaquín* by Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzáles is published.
- The Detroit race riot precipitates the “long hot summer,” with race riots in 159 cities nationwide.
- The 25th Amendment establishes succession to the presidency and procedures for filling a vacancy in the office of the vice president.
- David Sanchez founds the Brown Berets in East Los Angeles; La Piranya Coffee House opens.
- Martin Luther King Jr, Stokely Carmichael, and Dr. Benjamin Spock give speeches when 400,000 march from Central Park to UN headquarters in an anti-Vietnam War protest.
- Draft deferments are eliminated for those who violate draft laws or interfere with recruitment.
- Che Guevarra is killed in Bolivia by US-trained troops.
- José Ángel Guitiérrez founds the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO)

1968

- Martin Luther King Jr. and presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy are assassinated.
- The USS Pueblo seized by Korea.
- As many as 500 Vietnamese villagers are killed in the My Lai massacre.
- The National Front for the Liberation of Vietnam launches the Tet Offensive.
- The Civil Rights Act of 1968 (the Fair Housing Act) prohibits housing discrimination based on race, religion, and national origin—but not until 1974, gender.
- The cost of a first class postage stamp increases to 6 cents.
- LBJ announces that he will not run again for president.
- Oakland Police ambush Black Panthers. Eldridge Cleaver is arrested with a bullet-shattered leg and Bobby Hutton is shot and killed.
- The DEA (Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs) is established.
- Dr. Benjamin Spock is convicted of conspiracy to abet draft evasion.
- Richard M. Nixon wins the presidential election, defeating Hubert H. Humphrey and third-party candidate George Wallace.
- Shirley Chisholm becomes first black woman elected to U.S. Congress.
- Police clash with anti-war protesters in Chicago outside the Democratic National Convention
- The U.S. signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- César Chávez begins a 25-day fast.
- Chicano students walk out at California college campuses.
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- 50,000 people converge on Washington, D.C. during the Poor Peoples March.

1969

- Governor Reagan signs the Family Law Act. Effective January 1, 1970, California the first state to adopt a “no fault” divorce law.
- The U.S. bombs North Vietnamese positions in Cambodia and Laos.
- Two million take part in the nationwide, one-day Peace Moratorium, the largest demonstration in U.S. history.
- More than half a billion people watch as the Apollo 11 lander settles on the lunar surface. Six hours later, Neil Armstrong is the first person to walk on the moon.

TURN TURN TURN CONTINUED

1969 continued

- Four-party Vietnam War peace talks begin in January. In April, the number of U.S. troops in the war reaches its peak at 543,400 and withdrawal will begin on July 8.
- Sharon Tate and the La Blancas are found murdered by Charles Manson and his “family.”
- The Supreme Court orders desegregation nationwide.
- Warren E. Burger replaces Earl Warren as Chief Justice of the United States.

1970

- Bella Abzug is elected to Congress with the slogan, “A woman’s place is in the House.”
- La Raza Unida Party is formed.
- Shootings at Kent State occur during student protests against the Vietnam War’s spread into Cambodia.
- Timothy Leary escapes prison (San Luis Obispo) with help from the Weather Underground, joining Eldridge Cleaver in Algiers.
- The Environmental Protection Agency is created.
- The Supreme Court okays conscientious objector status on moral grounds.
- Five members of the “Chicago 7” are convicted of crossing state lines to incite riots during the 1968 Democratic Presidential Convention.
- The 1970 census counts over 200 million people living in the United States. It has taken only fifty years to go from the first 100 million in 1920 to the second.
- The Occupational Safety and Health Act, or OSHA, is signed into law.
- A ban on radio and television cigarette advertisements goes into effect in the United States.

1971

- The 26th amendment lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.
- FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover declares that his formerly secret counter-intelligence program, COINTELPRO, is over. It was organized to “increase factionalism, cause disruption and win defections” inside the Communist Party USA and, later, other organizations including the Black Panther Party (1967) and the entire New Left social/political movement, including antiwar, community, and religious groups (1968). The program was kept secret until 1971, when a group of left-wing radicals exposed several dossiers by passing the information to news agencies.
- The US creates Amtrak to rescue America’s long-distance passenger trains.
- Inmates riot at Attica State Prison in Buffalo, New York.
- D.B. Cooper skyjacks Northwest Airlines Flight 305 from Portland to Seattle, demands \$200,000 and four parachutes, jumps with the cash, and is never seen again.
- A new stock market index called Nasdaq debuts.
- Members of the Chicano Moratorium march in San Bernardino.
- Daniel Ellsberg releases the Pentagon Papers to the New York Times and the Washington Post.

1972

- Shirley Chisholm runs for the Democratic Party’s nomination for President (the first African American and second woman to do so).
- The Equal Rights Amendment is passed by the U.S. Congress and sent to the states for ratification. The amendment reads, “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex.”

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1972 continued

- President Richard Nixon visits China and meets with Mao Zedong, thus beginning normalization of relations.
- FBI director J. Edgar Hoover dies.
- George Wallace is shot and paralyzed while campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.
- Richard Nixon signs into law Title IX of the Education Amendments. It becomes the single greatest force for full participation of females in both academics and sports.
- Israeli athletes are killed at the Munich Olympics.
- A strategic arms pact, SALT I is signed by Nixon and Premier Leonid Brezhnev.
- Five men are arrested for the burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C.
- Nixon defeats George S. McGovern and is re-elected president.
- DDT is banned in the United States.
- The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee charters UFW, AFL–CIO.

1973

- The Paris Peace Accords end direct U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.
- The US military draft ends.
- Vice President Spiro T. Agnew resigns amid charges of tax evasion and is replaced by Gerald R. Ford, the first person to be appointed Vice President under the 25th Amendment.
- Congress passes the “Freedom of Information” act.
- The Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling overturns state laws against abortion.
- The War Powers Act, passed over Nixon’s veto, requires Congressional approval for military actions lasting more than 60 days.
- The Senate Watergate hearings begin; Nixon’s secret tapes are revealed.
- The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.
- The Endangered Species Act is signed into law.
- The Arab Oil Embargo causes gasoline prices to skyrocket.
- Three US Attorneys General are fired or resign on October 20—the “Saturday Night Massacre.”

1974

- Impeachment hearings are begun by the House Judiciary Committee, charging that Nixon had been part of a criminal conspiracy to obstruct justice in the Watergate affair. Nixon avoids impeachment by resigning from the presidency. Gerald R. Ford pardons Nixon for any crimes he may have committed against the United States while president.
- Ford announces conditional pardon for draft evaders and deserters,
- Comet Kohoutek, discovered on its approach to Earth, is expected to shine so brightly that it will be easily visible with the naked eye, even during daylight. It doesn’t.
- Patty Hearst is kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

1975

- Construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline system begins.
- The U.S. Armed Forces allow women to attend military academies.
- President Ford survives two assassination attempts in a 17-day time span.
- The CIA and FBI are charged with illegal surveillance of US citizens and plotting to assassinate foreign leaders.
- Jimmy Hoffa disappears.

