

## Free Speech Movement

A student protest which started during the 1964-1965 academic year at UC Berkeley. Students insisted that the university:

1. Lift the ban on on-campus political activities
2. Acknowledge the students' right to free speech and academic freedom.

Conditions preceding movement:

- ↳ 1958, activist students organized SLATE, a campus political party, to promote the right of student groups to support off-campus issues.
- ↳ By 1964, student activists set up information tables to advocate for pro-civil rights causes. Some of these students had traveled with the Freedom Riders and were active in Freedom Summer!
- ↳ According to rules at the time, fundraising for political parties were limited exclusively to Democratic and Republican groups. There was also a mandatory 'loyalty oath' required of faculty, which had led to dismissals and ongoing controversy over academic freedom.
- ↳ The administration announces enforcement of existing university regulations, which prohibited advocacy of political causes and candidates, and fundraising by student organizations at the intersection of Bancroft and Telegraph Avenues (then thought to be city property, not university property).

The movement begins...

- ↳ 1<sup>st</sup> October 1964 – student (recent graduate) Jack Weinberg arrested when he refused to show police identification.  
The police vehicle he is in is surrounded by over 3,000 students in a spontaneous gathering; lasted 32 hours! The car was used as a speaker's podium and a continuous public discussion was held until the charges were dropped
- ↳ 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1964 – 1,500-4,000 students went to Sproul Hall as a last resort to re-open negotiations with the administration on the subject of restrictions on political speech and action on campus.  
Other grievances addressed their four leaders who had been singled out for punishment.  
The demonstration was orderly: some sang, others studied; 'Freedom classes' were held by teaching assistants on the first floor. A Chanukah (Jewish) service was held. Students hold a sit-in protest continuously.
- ↳ 4<sup>th</sup> December 1964 – after 2:00a, police arrest over 800 students
- ↳ A month later, the university brought charges against students who organized the sit-in's, leading to an even larger student protest which all but shut down the university!

After much disturbance, the university backed down.

- ↳ 3 January 1965 – the university established provisional rules for political activity on the Berkeley campus.

Affects . . .

- ↳ *The Free Speech Movement was widely viewed as a movement of the "left" (liberals) and the intelligentsia (university educated).*
- ↳ *There was a voter backlash against the players in the movement.*
  - ↳ Ronald Reagan, then running for Governor, won unexpectedly, 1966  
Reagan had gained political traction by promising to "clean up the mess at Berkeley."
- ↳ *The FBI opened files on many involved in the movement*

"Bloody Thursday" at People's Park, Berkeley, 1969

- ↳ An unused property of the university, community members provided money, labor and supplies to turn the undeveloped area into a community park.
- ↳ Used by the homeless, students and staff. Speeches/rally's are held here.
- ↳ Governor Reagan is critical and unannounced sends in the California Highway Patrol (Police) to secure and fence the land.
- ↳ At UC Berkeley, a rally about the Arab-Israeli conflict gives way to a protest about the park. Leads to confrontation.
  - ↳ 791 police v. 6,000 demonstrators  
Protesters open a fire hydrant; bottles and rock throwers try to tear down the fence. Police fire tear gas canisters, and bullets. Police covered their badge numbers, so as to not be identified. 100+ officers into hospital and 200+ students hurt. Some killed. Curfew imposed.
- ↳ Reagan sends in 2,700 National Guard troops to occupy Berkeley.  
The National Guard attacks a peaceful, silent march of thousands who were demonstrating in recognition of the dead.

"Yippie Movement"

Youth International Party, whose members were radically youth-oriented and countercultural offshoots of the free speech and anti-war movements.

Counterculture, c.1965-1972

*A catchall term for the widespread tensions which developed in American society that tended to flow along generational lines regarding the war in Vietnam, race relations, sexual mores, women's rights, traditional modes of authority, experimentation with psychedelics, and interpretations of the American dream emphasizing consumerism.*

The movement endorsed: "freedom to explore one's potential, freedom to create one's self, freedom of personal expression, freedom from scheduling, freedom from rigidly defined roles and hierarchical statuses..."

Counterculture and Hippies were denoted by the themes of...

1. Liberal-political consciousness
2. Cultural and political decentralization
3. Ecological awareness (environmentalism!)
4. "Higher consciousness" (often with drugs!)
5. The "establishment" (those in power) v. the youth generation
6. This "New Left" applied an economic class perspective to 1960s America
7. Personal empowerment
8. Communal living
9. Questioning authority

## *Twenty-Something's in the Sixties, 1964-1972*

*(Exclusive of involvement in the African-American Civil Rights movement and the anti-Vietnam movement)*

Sexual Revolution

*A period of time during which the young generation challenged existing sexual mores. It was characterized by . . .*

- ↳ Pre-marital sex more common
- ↳ Birth control pill, introduced in 1960
  - ↳ *First time women had control of their own reproductive future!*
- ↳ Supreme Court struck down the last of the Comstock Laws, which had banned contraception and related education.
- ↳ *"Free love" is a social movement which rejects traditional marriage, which is viewed as a form of bondage for women.*  
Its goals were to separate the state from sexual matters such as marriage, birth control and adultery, claiming such issues were solely the concern of the people involved and no one else.
- ↳ Hippies + drugs = public nudity
- ↳ By 1970, it was acceptable for men and women to reside in the same college residence halls.

Summer of Love, 1967

Based out of San Francisco, the social phenomenon was preceded by . . .

- ↳ 'Love Pageant Rally' at Golden Gate Park, October 1966
  - ↳ Several thousand people taking LSD simultaneously to rock music!
- ↳ 'Human Be-In's' at Golden Gate Park, January 1967
  - ↳ Tim Leary: "Turn on, tune in, drop out."
  - ↳ 100,000 participants unite for free food, music, drugs, love
  - ↳ Participants embrace philosophy of 'free love'
- ↳ Monterey International Pop Music Festival, June 1967
  - ↳ 90,000 attend counterculture movement. Hippie = "Flower Child"
- ↳ Haight-Ashbury neighborhood, San Francisco, Summer 1967
  - ↳ This was an effort to create a Utopia
  - ↳ Inspired by the Beatniks of the 50s, who declared themselves independent from the perceived 'authoritarian order' of America.
  - ↳ *It was a movement which rejects elements of modern life; residents founded free food cooperatives, shelters, and free medical clinics*
- ↳ Hippies also gathered in Portland, Seattle, New York, Philadelphia, Montreal, Chicago and across Europe.

Woodstock, 1969 in New York

500,000 Hippies arrive for 3 days of music, fun and mud!

Psychedelic

Psychedelic states are an array of experiences elicited by sensory deprivation and substance (drugs such as LSD)

Such experiences include hallucinations, changes of perception, synesthesia (the idea that closing one state of consciousness allows access to a different one), altered states, and/or psychosis.

- ↳ Tim Leary advanced idea that drugs heightened life experiences.
- ↳ Aldous Huxley advanced idea that only society's elite should use drugs.
- ↳ Generally associated with the Summer of Love and the Hippie counterculture. The SF Oracle was the newspaper for the movement.



***Brainstorm review: 20-somethings in the Sixties***

1. Define 'Counterculture'
2. To what does the term 'Yippie Movement' refer?
3. Define 'Psychedelic'
- 4-6. Identify three significant affects of the Free Speech Movement
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
7. What happened at Peoples Park?
- 8-16. Counterculture and Hippies were denoted by what nine themes?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
  - e)
  - f)
  - g)
  - h)
  - i)
17. What did the Counterculture movement endorse?
18. To what does the term Sexual Revolution refer?
19. What was the topic of the rally at Berkeley which eventually lead to the protest about Peoples Park?
20. In what ways did the introduction of the birth control pill affect the emerging Feminist movement?
21. In terms of their views on LSD (drugs), how did Tim Leary and Aldous Huxley's views differ?
22. To what does the term 'free love' refer?
23. To what does the term SLATE refer?
24. How did Reagan use these events from his governorship to advance his candidacy for the presidency?
25. What did Tim Leary famously say?
- 26-27. Students at Berkeley had two demands in 1964. What were they?
  - a)
  - b)
28. What was happening in the Haight-Ashbury District of San Francisco?