

Name Surname

Professor's Name

Course Name

Date

Baby Boomer

Introduction

From the recent rank it got as a new terra, it went through the numerous vibrant experiences towards the ultimate merger. American's history is long, dynamic, rich, and exclusive in different aspects. America is the largest economic, political, and military country that dominates in the world; furthermore, it is fashioned by numerous ideals, experiences, and aspects. It is a melting pot of all countries with their race, gender, creed, and sexual inclinations that cannot be bared with. More so those people who were born in the year 1943 to 1963 have different values and experience more than their parents had. I interviewed my uncle and gathered lots of information about 1960s.

Following its involvement in the Second World War and the Cold War, it shaped its economic basis. The prosperous economy led to the rise of the baby boomers age, which was also called the Suburban era. From the professor's lecture, we tried to figure out how homes became child-centered. Each family had from 3 to 4 children; the children played in the field as their parents watched them via the window.

Civil Rights

My uncle remembered there were several revolutions and counter-revolutions, which took place in different fields such as religion, culture, and lifestyle. They became rebellious due to independent realization and economic development. Following the music culture and television invention, the number of people who owned television increased, compared to the

previous generation, which resulted to immediate access to information. It led to a rise of civil rights movements as well as uncivil liberties, brought about by uncivil unrest. He also told that revolutions affected various social entities.

At times, it happened peacefully, but mostly it was destructive, violent, fearful, and hateful. He remembered a friend who was a destroyer; at one time, he broke a window just for fun. Today, it seems to be a crazy behavior. Women's movement came up which enabled women take up jobs in offices and leave their housework responsibilities for the office. This meant that children were left under the care of housekeepers, daycare centers, and relatives. Family roles were distorted; children started experimenting with drugs, criminality, and early sexual relations, which led to increased youthful population. Beat generation was fueled by Elvis Presley's popularity. The freedom for sex movement and birth control also made people more liberal to sex. My uncle informed that "Make love not war" became a slogan during the 1960s. After the successful end of the war, the American soldiers celebrated returning back home, but the veterans would not live a normal life.

The Cold War

The rise of America as a superpower facilitated a shift from its former isolation of foreign policy to a more inclusive military backed global peace maintainer. A new opponent in the name of Communism, which is the USSR, propelled the America's military-university industrial complex into the global manufacturer it is today. This also improved the Federal Government's powers and role-play. My uncle said that the major event of that period was Cuban Missile Crisis. The American society was infiltrated of fears directed towards the Soviet Union, worsened by Stalin's resulting in the Third Global War. This expansionist moves created fear and loathing for anything connected with communism. Global power plays resulted to a

fragmented global society that affected the internal order and security. The Truman Doctrine helped in asserting America's role as the peacemaker and police of global affairs.

The Marshall plans worked to help Europe to its present recovery. Post-war prosperity was driven by the unrestrained business venture, consumer spending, and war wages, which piled up in war bonds and savings produced by the suburban culture that was geared towards the attainment of better and luxurious lifestyles. My uncle recalled that a lot of electrical equipment such as TV and wash machine became essential. Money was in the pocket at all times.

According to lecture, in order to make people living in suburban, many highways and roads were built in the 1950s. It was more convenient for people who worked in the city and wanted to live in Suburban to enjoy luxurious lifestyles. Therefore, 85% of new houses were built in Suburban during that period. My uncle used to live in SF and then moved to Oakland during the Cold War period.

Two Parties in the USA

The two principle American parties, Democrats and Republicans, had played significant roles in America's history. However, a majority of Americans opted for Democrats because they helped increase wages, job creation, and social welfare spending. When I mentioned the Democratic Party, my uncle noted that President Kennedy was the greatest president in his life. Unfortunately, he was assassinated on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas. My uncle said President Kennedy wanted to improve the relationship among various races and provide financial aid to rural regions. He also joined the early stage of the Vietnam War. After his death, many people mourned his passing on the street.

Suburban Era

As aforementioned, the Suburban era coincided with the advent of the Cold War and its effects. It was spurred by the culture of mobility primarily brought out by the creations of Harley Earl (GM motor vehicles). It led to an expanding American middle class of both peace and prosperity. It created the ideal of consensus of the American culture. Baby boomers and the generational offspring of this era were less affected by such ideals. President Eisenhower radiated a sense of stability and security and left such young generations with little to worry about other than personal issues. Such evolving suburban cultures as new ideals, driven by the perspectives of liberalism and democracy, permeated and influenced them on a daily aspect. The movies and music industry grew, which drew great numbers in viewership of the television; while the music industry was influenced by jazz music (a favorite one of African Americans) and rock-and-roll (more inclined towards the Caucasian Americans), different religions grew evidently depicted by the deep religious divisions in American society. The baby boomers were not quite religious; thus, they followed different styles such as the rock-and-roll associated with drugs, hip-hop associated with violence, and the movies industry associated with lavish and morally corrupt lifestyles.

Though the above remained true, anticommunist and patriotic themes continued to permeate through the influence of various clergy via television such as televangelists Billy Graham, Dwight Moody, and Charles Finney. My uncle said that many TV stations were talking about anti-communism. President Johnson wanted to persuade the Americans that the Vietnam War was worth. However, most of people, including my uncle, believed that it was a waste of their money to participate in this war. He supported the protest against the Vietnam War, but he did not participate.

Conclusion

The different aspects of American history were very important in shaping the contemporary American social setting. By embracing the ideals of Liberalism, enhanced by the tenets of Capitalism and free trade, American society continued to thrive though on an unequal basis. Racial discrimination continued to pervade the smooth interconnectivity desired with lack of spiritual direction, affecting most youthful populations. Drugs, music, movies, and lifestyles of the elite continued to occupy the minds of many with money being the primary motive in life. Different cultures, perspectives, and ideals continued to play different roles in shaping America's future.

My uncle lived in Oakland during the 1960s. He was serving at Air Force. During the 1960s, he participated in the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Civil Right Movement. During the interview, my uncle talked about his family with many children. He was the third child in his family. Most families had televisions; his friends were influenced by rock-and-roll. My uncle listened to easy music instead of rock-and-roll. When I asked him about the women movement, he said, "You can see many jobs start opening for women during the 1960s." However, due to many women who got jobs, they left their children for the care of daycare centers. The most impressive event he remembered during that period was Cuban Missile Crisis, which made Americans fear anything connected with communism.

President Kennedy's assassination made his upset; President Kennedy could belong to the Liberals. Therefore, his policy would make "some people unhappy." He said that Kennedy's family contributed a lot for this country. He did not participate in any protest movement, but he supported to stop the Vietnam War. The majority of people believed that the Vietnam War wasted their money in doing something meaningless. Television became more and more popular, and people could obtain news immediately, which affected the rise of civil movement.

He was interested in the Vietnam War because it seemed like it taught us a lesson. It connected him with the Iraq War; both of them were similar in some aspects. For the Vietnam War, we lost more than we got. The Vietnam War can be counted as a “misunderstanding.” I did some research on the YouTube. During the period, China supported the Vietnam War because they were afraid that America Army would occupy China. Chinese government supported the Vietnam War by using “food foundation” in order to fight against America. It affected millions of Chinese people who were starved; on the other hand, American Army used money, which it got from American tax, to fight against China. It took too many lives and broke too many fortunes. In my opinion, the two countries seemed to be doing meaningless War.