The Anti-War Movement

**Bell Ringer**

1, In your words, what is being measured in the graph?

2, Early in the war (1965), what is public opinion regarding Vietnam?

3. When does public opinion start to become divided?

4. Based on what we have learned thus far, why do you think public opinion changed?

**America Divided**

As public opinion became divided over the war, Americans divided into two groups.

**Hawks**

* Fight harder to win war
* Still majority of citizens in 1967…
  + “America – love it or leave it!”

**Doves**

* Against the war, leave now
* Started to protest
  + Sit ins
  + Students for a Democratic Society
  + March on Washington

**The Credibility Gap**

The Vietnam War differed significantly from previous wars with regards to the public’s access to information. This was the first war where news reporters risked their lives in order to get combat footage. As a result, every night the American public could watch images from the war on the nightly news.

What can you infer will be the effect of this media coverage?

**Reasons for Draft Exemption**

All men between the ages of 18 and 25 are eligible to be drafted into the military. Every day all birthdates are entered into a lottery and randomly selected. If your birthdate is chosen you will most likely be sent over to Vietnam to fight in the war. There are: however, some excuses that will exempt you from the draft.

* Attending high school/college (good for only 4 years)
  + Note: You are still eligible if you have a low class rank
* Medically ineligible (you have some medical condition that would prevent you from serving)
* Working in a defense plant
* Conscientious objector (it is against your religious beliefs, you still will serve but in a noncombat role)
* You have children and can prove that you leaving would cause extreme financial hardship

Of the 27 million men eligible for the military service, ½ tried to avoid the draft. 500,000 sought to obtain status as a conscientious objector on religious or moral grounds, 6 times as many than in World War II. 170,00 were given an alternative form of service as a medic, transport, or mess hall chef. Now, you have been drafted into the military. As a dove, you are opposed to war in Vietnam and do want to be forced to fight for a cause you do not believe in. Select one of the exemptions above that you will seek to “dodge” the draft and explain what effect this might have on the US if other draftees also chose the same exemption.

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