

# A Nation Divided

## What changed between 1968 and 1973?

We'll be discussing:

- Roots of Division
- History of the Draft
- The Draft during the Vietnam War



# The Tet – Offensive

## REVIEW:

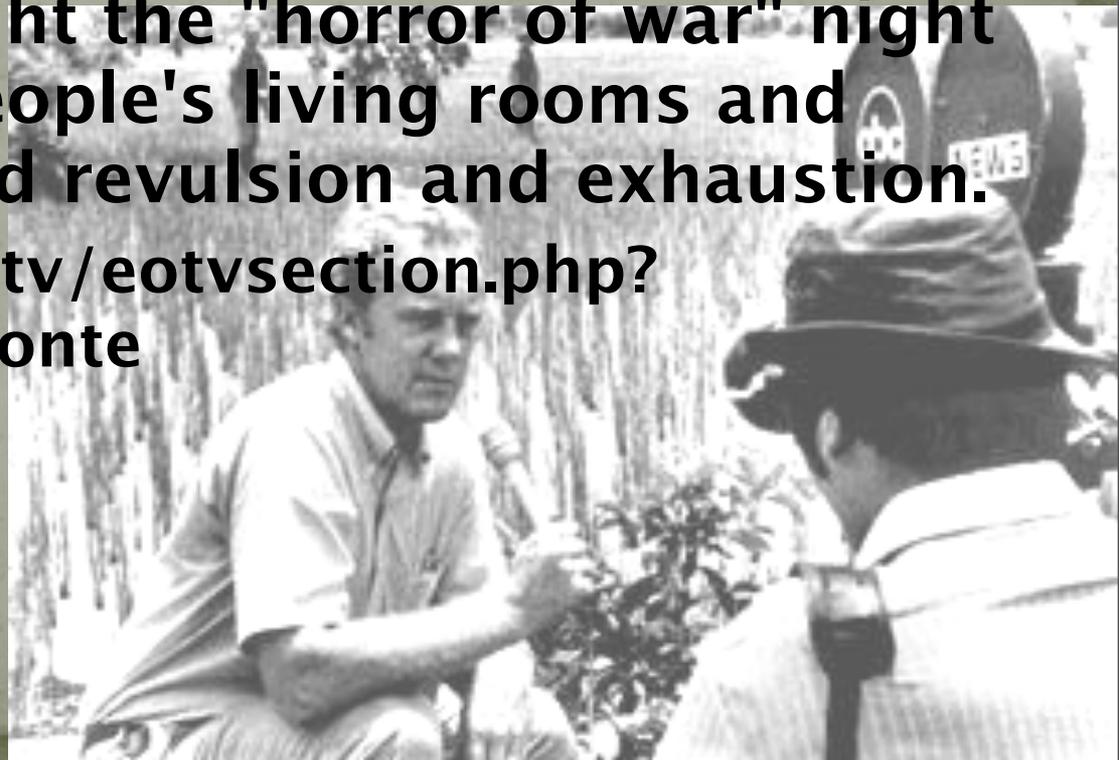
- When did this take place?
- What was the strategy of the North Vietnamese?
- How did this campaign impact US public opinion?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDNJL0mTHWI>

# Living Room War

- What was the effect of television on the development and outcome of the war? The conventional wisdom has generally been that for better or for worse it was an anti-war influence. It brought the "horror of war" night after night into people's living rooms and eventually inspired revulsion and exhaustion.

<http://www.museum.tv/eotvsection.php?entrycode=vietnamonte>



Monday, April 8, 13

# Credibility Gap



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“We can see the  
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The news sure does paint a different picture than what you're telling us....

"We can see the light at the end of the tunnel!"



# John Fogerty CCR – Fortunate

Some folks are born made to wave the flag,  
Ooh, they're red, white and blue.  
And when the band plays "Hail to the chief",  
Ooh, they point the cannon at you, Lord,

It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no senator's son, son.  
It ain't me, it ain't me; I ain't no fortunate one, no,

Yeah!

Some folks are born silver spoon in hand,  
Lord, don't they help themselves, oh.  
But when the taxman comes to the door,  
Lord, the house looks like a rummage sale, yes,

It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no millionaire's son, no.  
It ain't me, it ain't me; I ain't no fortunate one, no.

Some folks inherit star spangled eyes,  
Ooh, they send you down to war, Lord,  
And when you ask them, "How much should we give?"  
Ooh, they only answer More! more! more! yoh,

It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no military son, son.

# Who's fighting this war?

- Working Class?
  - 80% of soldiers throughout the majority of the 60s were from the lower/working classes.
- African Americans
  - 10% of the population suffering 20% of casualties



# MLK speaks out in 1967!

“we were taking the young black men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in Southwest Georgia and East Harlem...We have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools.”

–quoted in America’s Vietnam War: A Narrative History

# Women in Vietnam

- Precilla Wilkewitz was 19 when she went to Vietnam as an army administrative assistant. Years later she wrote the following about her experience:



- “They didn’t issue us weapons in Vietnam. At basic training in Fort Benning, Georgia, we trained with M-16s, M-14s. We had to do marksmanship and be in foxholes and we had to do mounted and dismounted attacks. But they didn’t issue women weapons [in country]. One night we had a human mass attack on all four corners at Long Binh. We had mortar attacks that could have landed on our compound and killed all of us. Did we have anything to protect us? No, all we had was prayer. And I did a lot of

# History of the Draft in the USA

- Conscription – since The Civil War
- 1940 Selective Training and Service Act
  - Created first peacetime draft
  - Formally created Selective Service System as an independent federal agency

Between 1948 – 1973 the SSS filled positions that could not be filled voluntarily.

Men between the ages of 18 – 26 were eligible for the draft – in a oldest to youngest order.

# What were deferments?

- **1. Ethical Deferment**
  - Stay in College (II – S)
  - Become a Minister (IV–D)
  - Claim Hardship (III – A)
- **2. Un–Ethical Deferment**
  - Failure to register
  - Doctor’s note
  - Relocation – for the purpose of facing a more sympathetic draft board

- **3. Conscientious Objection**

- Be “religious”
- Object to all wars
- Be sincere in application
- Seventh Day Adventists – willing to work in non combat roles

- **4. Full Resistance**

- Burn draft cards
- Go to jail
- Disappear / Canada

FYI: In reality, only a small portion of all men of draft age were actually drafted because local draft boards had broad powers to provide exemptions.

# Induction Statistics

Number of men who entered military service through the Selective Service System during major U.S. 20<sup>th</sup> century conflicts

Conflict	Inductions
<b>WORLD WAR ONE</b> 1917–1918	2,666,867
<b>WORLD WAR TWO</b> 1940–1946 (includes draftees	10,110,114
<b>KOREA</b> June 1950–June 1953	1,529,537
<b>VIETNAM</b> Aug 1964 – Feb 1973	1,766,910

– Taken from: Selective Service

## Vietnam Troop Levels

Source: Congressional Quarterly

1960	900
1961	3,200
1962	11,300
1963	16,300
1964	23,300
1965	184,300
1966	385,300
1967	485,600
1968	536,100
1969	475,200
1970	334,600
1971	156,800
1972	24,200

What years  
signaled

**By 1972, an estimated 70,000 draft evaders  
and deserters were living in Canada**

# 1969...A plan to make things

- In an attempt to fix the imbalance evident regarding the racial and socioeconomic breakdown of soldiers, the U.S. Government instituted the draft lottery.
  
- oh boy...hold on to your hats...



December 1, 1969 marked the date of the first draft lottery held since 1942. This drawing determined the order of induction for men born between January 1, 1944 and December 31, 1950. A large glass container held 366 blue plastic balls containing every possible birth date and affecting men between 18 and 26 years old. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVwLIEAPV0mc>