

**GRADE 12 HISTORY****CIVIL SOCIETY PROTEST****1. THE PEACE MOVEMENTS**

- a) Anti – Nuclear Weapons / Disarmament Movement (CND) 1957
- b) Anti – Vietnam War Movement (1965 – 1975)

**a) ANTI – NUCLEAR WEAPONS / DISARMAMENT MOVEMENT**

*Protesters march to Aldermaston, England*



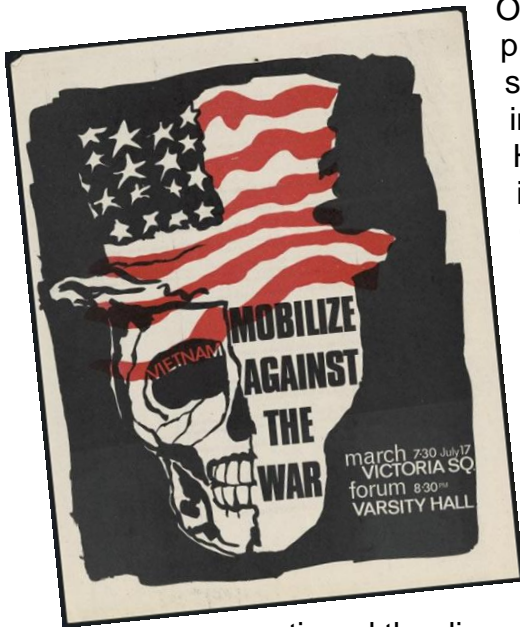
The dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended World War II. However, it was also the start of the arms race in the Cold War. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) was formed in 1958 in England and its main protest was to stop the arms race. One of the biggest marches ever organized against the development of nuclear arms, consisted of a march that lasted for 4 days and went from Trafalgar Square in London to a town called Aldermaston, where the British Atomic Weapons Research Establishment was, in 1958. It was attended by over 20 000 people. They adopted the slogan, “Ban the Bomb”.

In the 1970s, the CND held several peace conferences leading to the creation of the World Disarmament Campaign in 1980. They brought attention, via the media and mass marches, as to how nuclear testing was destroying the planet and polluting the atmosphere. Partly as a result of such marches, the US, UK and USSR signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1959. It banned nuclear testing in Antarctica.



In both America and England, however, the protestors who protested the bomb tended to include Women's Movement, Student Movements, businessmen, professionals and Hippies reflecting a huge cross section of society.

## B) ANTI VIETNAM PROTESTS



One of the events that served to both provide and ignite protests in the 1960s was the Vietnam War. The initial struggle in Vietnam was promoted by the desire for independence from the French as a colonial power. However, by the 1960s America had become increasingly involved in Vietnam, in an attempt to prevent the spread of communism in South East Asia. America's progressive involvement in Vietnam provoked protest and became a rallying point for protest against the government. This became known as the Anti-Vietnam War Movement.

The atrocities committed in the war, shown on national television, shocked Americans. Television played an important role in the protest. For the first time, Americans owned a TV and saw the effects of war in full colour. Many questioned the reasons for America's involvement in the war. Black civil rights activists

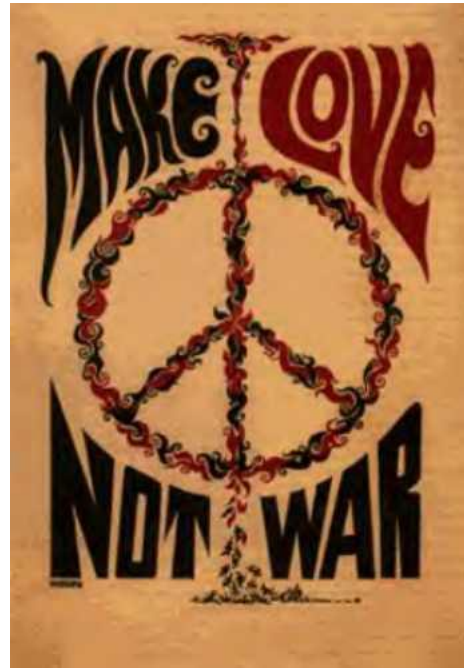
questioned the disproportionate number of black men who were being drafted to fight in Vietnam and families feared for their sons as the number of dead American soldiers increased.



## THE HIPPIE (PEACE) MOVEMENT

The Hippie Movement were mostly middle-class students, who had grown up with relative wealth and benefitted from a good education, but chose to drop out of conventional society. These students participated in the major civil society movements of the 1960s. They marched and protested against war and nuclear weapons, and for civil rights BUT their real protest was purely in being and doing what they did. They rejected the morals and values of their parents, of government and established society, and so doing, engaged in their most powerful form of protest.

The hippie movement, (or counter culture) did not last long. Drugs brought dependency rather than enlightenment, free personal relationships were fragile, communes were difficult to keep going and children were born who restricted their parent's freedom. Yet they had a lasting influence because they questioned the standards and values of mainstream society, inspired environmental awareness and promoted freedom of choice, especially with regard to military conscription.



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