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Edexcel - GCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE

# The USA, 1954–75: Conflict at Home and Abroad



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STUDY GUIDE

**The USA, 1954–75: Conflict at Home and Abroad**

Edexcel - GCSE





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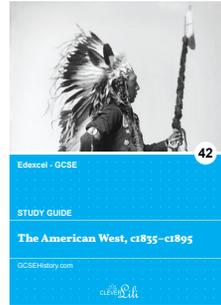
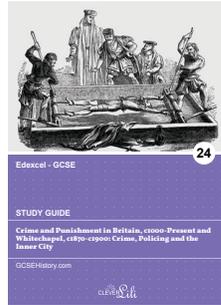
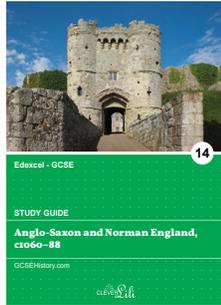
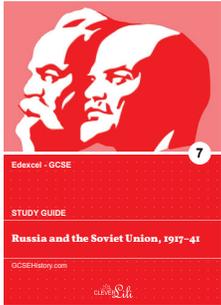
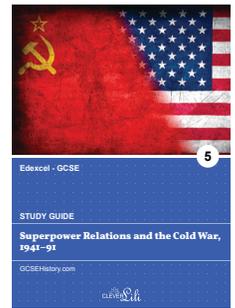
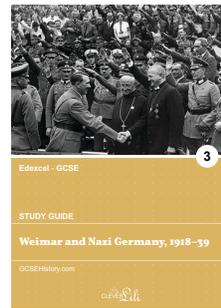
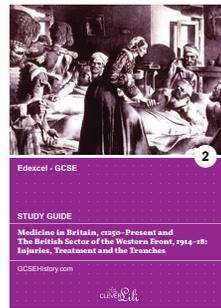
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## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

### Icons

-  **WHAT** questions cover the key events and themes.
-  **WHO** questions cover the key people involved.
-  **WHEN** questions cover the timings of key events.
-  **WHERE** questions cover the locations of key moments.
-  **WHY** questions cover the reasons behind key events.
-  **HOW** questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.
-  **IMPORTANCE** questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.
-  **DECISIONS** questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

### Highlighted words

**Abdicate** - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on **page 17**.

### Page references

**Tudor** (p. 7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

## WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

The USA, 1954-75: Conflict at Home and Abroad, is the modern depth study that focuses on the development of the civil rights movement, the challenges it faced and to what extent it overcame those challenges. The course also investigates why and how the USA was involved in the Vietnam War, and the reaction to that involvement. You will focus on crucial events during this period, and study the different social, cultural, political, economic and military changes that occurred.

### Purpose

This study enables you to understand the complexities and challenges that the USA faced at home and abroad. You will investigate themes such as civil rights, protest, segregation, integration, government, domino theory, guerrilla warfare and the impact of the media. This course will enable you to develop the historical skills of causation and consequence, and encourage you to analyse and evaluate contemporary sources as well as interpretations of the time period.

### Topics

The USA, 1954-75: Conflict at Home and Abroad is split into 4 key topics:

- 🗄️ Topic 1 looks at the development of the civil rights movement between 1954 and 1960. You will study to what extent the movement made progress and the obstacles that had to be overcome. You will also study the opposition to the movement.
- 🗄️ Topic 2 looks at the later development of the civil rights movement from 1960 to 1973. You will also study how the movement radicalised with the development of Black Power and the impact of individuals such as Malcolm X and Stokely Carmichael.
- 🗄️ Topic 3 looks at why and how the US became involved in the Vietnam War. You will study how US involvement changed under presidencies of Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.
- 🗄️ Topic 4 looks at how Americans reacted to US involvement in the Vietnam War and why US involvement ended. You will study the key reasons for the growth in opposition to the war. The reasons why the USA failed to win the war will also be explored.

### Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

- 👤 Martin Luther King.
- 👤 Rosa Parks.
- 👤 Malcolm X.
- 👤 President Johnson.
- 👤 President Nixon.
- 👤 Ngo Dinh Diem.

### Key Events

Some of the key events you will study on this course include:

- 📅 Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka.
- 📅 The murder of Emmett Till.
- 📅 Little Rock High School.
- 📅 Civil Rights Act 1957.
- 📅 The March on Washington.
- 📅 My Lai Massacre.
- 📅 The Fall of Saigon.

### Assessment

The USA, 1954-75: Conflict at Home and Abroad is paper 3, which you have a total of 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete. There will be 3 exam questions which will assess what you have learnt. Question 3 will be broken down into a, b, c and d. You answer all questions.

- 👤 Question 1 is worth 4 marks. This question will require you to make two inferences from a source that answers the question asked. You will need to support each inference with relevant detail from the source. This could be in the form of a quote, detail from a visual source or by paraphrasing what the source states.

## WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

-  Question 2 is worth 12 marks. This question will require you to explain why an event occurred. You need to identify three reasons, support each one with accurate and relevant factual detail that is precisely selected and then clearly explain how each cause made the event happen.
-  Question 3a is worth 8 marks. This question asks you to explain how useful two sources are for a specific enquiry using the content of the source, the provenance of the source and your own contextual knowledge.
-  Question 3b is worth 4 marks. This question asks you to identify the main difference in the views of two historical interpretations on a specific topic. You have to support the main difference with details from both interpretations.
-  Question 3c is worth 4 marks. This question asks you to suggest one reason why the views of the two historical interpretations might be different. You have to support the main difference with details from both interpretations and you could use the sources from question 3a to help you answer the question.
-  Question 3d is worth 16 marks and an additional 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. This question asks you to explain how far you agree with one of the interpretations. In your explanation you have to evaluate both interpretations, using your own knowledge of the historical context to come to your conclusion.

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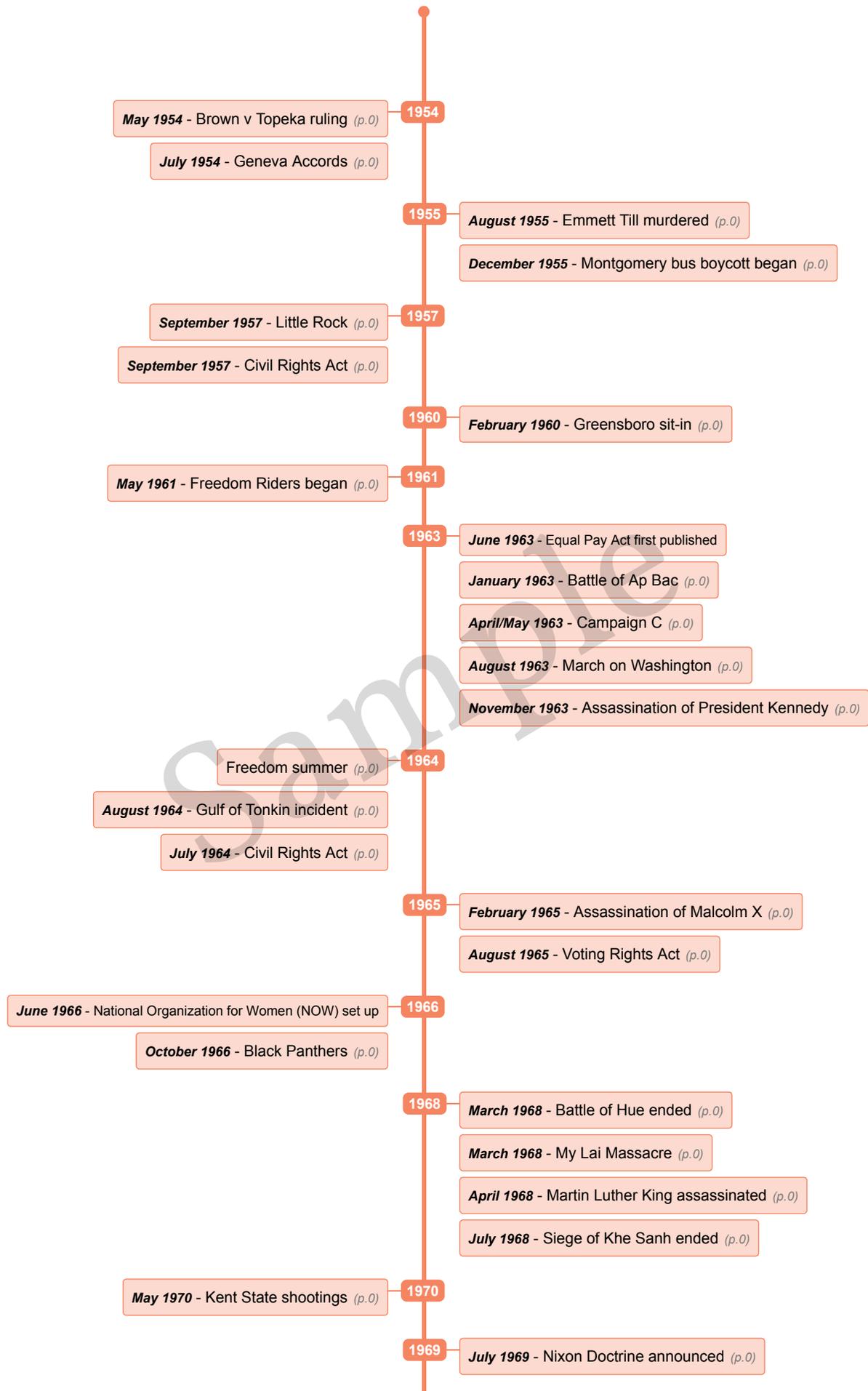


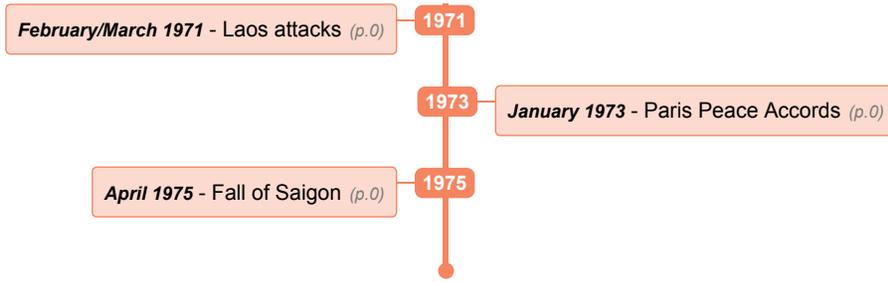
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# USA CONFLICT AT HOME AND ABROAD, 1954 TO 1975

## TIMELINE





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# TREATMENT OF BLACK AMERICANS

'Our constitution is colour-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens.' Judge Harlan disagreeing with Plessy v Ferguson



## What was the experience of African Americans in the USA in the 1950s?

Life for African Americans in 1950s America depended on where they lived. Most southern **states** had some **segregations** laws, which meant black and white people had to use separate facilities.



## What was life like for African Americans in the south in the 1950s?

In the south, strict **segregation** laws known as the 'Jim Crow' laws were enforced. This meant African Americans had to attend different schools to white children, use separate facilities in public areas, and were separated from white people on public transport.



## What were the Jim Crow laws for African Americans during the 1950s?

The 'Jim Crow' laws were introduced in a number of southern **states** to keep African Americans apart from white people. They were still in force after the Second World War.



## What was life like for African Americans living in the north in the 1950s?

African Americans in the north of America faced 4 main issues:

- ✓ Racism and **discrimination** were common.
- ✓ Most African Americans lived in areas where there were no white people, they self-segregated, and they earned less.
- ✓ There was a higher rate of unemployment among African Americans.
- ✓ African Americans usually lived in the poorest areas.



## Why didn't African Americans vote in the 1950s and 1960s?

In the 1950s, few African Americans living in the south were able to vote as **state** governments used 3 key methods to **prevent** them from registering:

- ✓ Violence was often threatened or used.
- ✓ They had to pay a **poll** tax, which few African Americans could afford.
- ✓ They had to pass a literacy test which was deliberately made very difficult. White Americans did not have to take the literacy test.



## Why didn't the president help African Americans in the 1950s?

Congress and the **president** did not enforce **civil rights** because they sometimes needed support from southern politicians who were often racist. Many southern voters would also not support civil rights.



## Why didn't the Supreme Court help African Americans in the 1950s?

There were 2 main reasons the Supreme Court did not ban **segregation**:

- ✓ The Supreme Court could have banned **segregation** but was heavily influenced by the views and opinions of its judges, many of whom were against **civil rights**.
- ✓ The Supreme Court had ruled in 1896 that separate facilities were allowed as long as they were equal. This was known as the Plessy v Ferguson case. It was used as a legal **precedent** when any **civil rights** groups tried to challenge **segregation** legally.



# SEGREGATION

'Colored go to back of bus' - sign in Montgomery, Alabama



## How were African Americans segregated in the 1950s?

There was widespread **discrimination** against, and **segregation** of, African Americans across the USA in the early 1950s. Access to some facilities, housing, education and life opportunities were either refused or restricted. Segregation was enforced and as a people they were marginalised.



## How was segregation enforced in the north of the USA in the 1950s?

In the north they found they were segregated through **discrimination** in education, employment opportunities and housing. They were only able to get badly paid jobs so could not afford to live anywhere else but the **ghettos**.



## How was segregation enforced in 1950s southern America?

There were 2 main ways **segregation** was enforced in the south of America.

- ✓ A series of **state** and local laws, known as the 'Jim Crow' laws, were used to legalise and enforce racial **segregation**.
- ✓ African Americans had to attend separate schools and separate areas in places such as restaurants, cinemas, libraries and parks.



## Why was segregation an embarrassment to the USA during the Cold war in the 1950s?

During the Cold War, the USA proclaimed itself as the leading nation of the free world. However, in reality, its black citizens were being treated dreadfully.



## Did African Americans have voting rights in America during the period of segregation in the 1950s?

During the 1950s very few African Americans were able to vote in the south.

- ✓ In a bid to gain their votes, politicians in the north of the USA began to introduce policies that would appeal to African Americans.
- ✓ African Americans in parts of southern **states** had some voting rights to elect officials within their segregated communities.



## What did white people do to prevent African Americans from voting during segregation in the 1950s?

White people employed 5 key methods to try and **prevent** African Americans from voting:

- ✓ African Americans employees were threatened with the loss of their jobs if they tried to vote.
- ✓ Some **states** allowed political parties to block people from being members on the grounds of race.
- ✓ In some **states**, African Americans had to successfully complete complicated literacy tests to be allowed to vote.
- ✓ Gangs would congregate outside **polling stations** to beat up African American voters.
- ✓ A number of African American people went to court in an attempt to defend their right to vote. Some of them were murdered.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Segregation did not always exist in America.**

The key Jim Crow laws emerged between 1890 and 1910.



## DISCRIMINATION

*'I see what's possible when we recognise that we are one American family, all deserving of equal treatment.'* President Barack Obama



### How were African Americans discriminated against in the 1950s?

African Americans suffered **discrimination** throughout America, but it was worse in some areas of the country.



### Where in the Deep South of the USA did discrimination occur?

African Americans were **discriminated** against in several ways by white people in the Deep South, which was made up of the **states** in the southern and eastern parts of the USA such as Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.



### What was discrimination like in the Deep South of the USA?

There are 3 main things to note about how **discrimination** happened in the Deep South:

- ✓ White people refused to socialise with African Americans, seeing them as lazy, stupid and criminally minded.
- ✓ There were some racists in law enforcement, including policemen and judges. It was common for African Americans to be beaten unless they confessed to crimes they hadn't carried out, and they could be imprisoned for no reason.
- ✓ If an African American was murdered, then often it would not be investigated as the police were often racist and could also be members of the KKK (*p. 0*).

Sample

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REMAINING PAGES REMOVED.  
PLEASE PURCHASE THE BOOK FOR FULL CONTENT.

# GLOSSARY

## A

**Agricultural** - relating to agriculture.

**Air strike** - an attack by aircraft, typically a bombing.

**Allies** - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

**Ammunition** - collective term given to bullets and shells.

**Amputate, Amputation** - to surgically remove a limb from someone's body.

**Artillery** - large guns used in warfare.

**Assassinate** - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

**Assassination** - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.

**Attrition** - the act of wearing down an enemy until they collapse through continued attacks.

## B

**Blockade** - a way of blocking or sealing an area to prevent goods, supplies or people from entering or leaving. It often refers to blocking transport routes.

**Booby traps** - seemingly harmless devices concealing something that will kill, harm or surprise. Especially in warfare, booby traps were often set off by a wire and contained explosives.

**Boycott** - a way of protesting or bringing about change by refusing to buy something or use services.

**Bribe, Bribery, Bribes** - to dishonestly persuade someone to do something for you in return for money or other inducements.

## C

**Campaign** - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

**Casualties** - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

**Ceasefire** - when the various sides involved in conflict agree to stop fighting.

**Censorship** - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or unacceptable is suppressed.

**Civil rights** - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.

**Civilian** - a non-military person.

**Claim** - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.

**Communism** - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each person receives according to need.

**Communist** - a believer in communism.

**Conference** - a formal meeting to discuss common issues of interest or concern.

**Conscription** - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.

**Conservative** - someone who dislikes change and prefers traditional values. It can also refer to a member of the Conservative Party.

**Constitution** - rules, laws or principles that set out how a country is governed.

**Containment** - meaning to keep something under control or within limits, it often refers to the American idea of stopping the spread of communism.

**Corrupt** - when someone is willing to act dishonestly for their own personal gain.

**Council** - an advisory or administrative body set up to manage the affairs of a place or organisation. The Council of the League of Nations contained the organisation's most powerful members.

**Crusades** - a series of religious wars during the Middle Ages where the Christians of Europe tried to take control of the holy land (Jerusalem).

**Culture** - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

## D

**Deadlock** - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

**Defect** - the act of defection; to leave your country or cause for another.

**Demilitarised** - to remove all military forces from an area and forbid them to be stationed there.

**Democracy** - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.

**Democratic** - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

**Deploy** - to move military troops or equipment into position or a place so they are ready for action.

**Desegregation** - a policy of removing racial segregation (separation).

**Discriminate, Discrimination** - to treat a person or group of people differently and in an unfair way.

**Dissolution, Dissolve** - the formal ending of a partnership, organisation or official body.

## E

**Economic** - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

**Economy** - a country, state or region's position in terms of

production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

**Embassy** - historically, a deputation sent by one ruler, state or country to another. More recently, it is also the accepted name for the official residence or offices of an ambassador.

**Exile** - to be banned from one's original country, usually as a punishment or for political reasons.

**Extreme** - furthest from the centre or any given point. If someone holds extreme views, they are not moderate and are considered radical.

## F

**Fatalities, Fatality** - Deaths.

**Federal** - in US politics this means 'national', referring to the whole country rather than any individual state.

**Figurehead** - Someone who acts as a symbolic leader for something.

**Foreign policy** - a government's strategy for dealing with other nations.

**Full employment** - when virtually everyone able and willing to work in a country has a job.

## G

**Ghetto** - part of a city, often a slum area, occupied by a minority group.

**Guerrilla tactics, Guerrilla warfare** - a way of fighting that typically involves hit-and-run style tactics.

**Guerrillas** - groups of small, independent fighters usually involved in a war against larger, regular military forces.

## H

**Harvest** - the process of gathering and collecting crops.

**Hippies** - Groups of Americans who 'dropped out' of traditional life. Most did not go to college or work and travelled around the country, organising music festivals and protests against the Vietnam war and campaigning for world peace.

## I

**Immigrant** - someone who moves to another country.

**Immigration** - the act of coming to a foreign country with the intention of living there permanently.

**Impeach, Impeachment** - to charge someone, usually a high-ranking government official, with treason or a crime against the state.

**Independence, Independent** - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

**Industrial** - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

**Industry** - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

**Inferior** - lower in rank, status or quality.

**Integrate** - to bring people or groups with specific characteristics or needs into equal participation with others; to merge one thing with another to form a single entity.

**International relations** - the relationships between different countries.

## J

**Juries, Jury** - a group of people sworn to listen to evidence on a legal case and then deliver an impartial verdict based on what they have heard.

## L

**Left wing** - used to describe political groups or individuals with beliefs that are usually centered around socialism and the idea of reform.

**Legislation** - a term for laws when they are considered collectively, for example housing legislation.

**Legitimacy, Legitimate** - accepted by law or conforming to the rules; can be defended as valid.

**Limb** - an arm or leg.

**Loophole** - an ambiguity or inadequacy in the law or a set of rules which allows people to do something that would otherwise be forbidden or illegal.

**Lynch, Lynched, Lynching** - the killing of someone by a group of people for an alleged offence without a legal trial, usually publicly and often by hanging.

## M

**Mandate** - authority to carry out a policy.

**Massacre** - the deliberate and brutal slaughter of many people.

**Mercenary** - someone who takes action in order to earn money, rather than out of principle.

**Middle class** - refers to the socio-economic group which includes people who are educated and have professional jobs, such as teachers or lawyers.

**Militant** - using violent or more aggressive methods in a protest or for a cause.

**Military force** - the use of armed forces.

**Militia** - an army created from the general population.

**Mine** - an explosive device usually hidden underground or underwater.

**Minister** - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

**Moderate** - someone who is not extreme.

**Monk** - a member of a religious community, often living a simple life of poverty, chastity and work.

**Morale** - general mood of a group of people.

**Morals** - a person's set of rules about what they consider right and wrong, used to guide their actions and behaviour.

## N

**Napalm** - a petrol based chemical, used to devastating effect in conflict as it sticks to skin and causes terrible burns.

**National Guard** - A reserve force of the US Army.

**Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic** - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

## P

**POW, Prisoner of war, Prisoners of war** - somebody who has been captured and taken prisoner by enemy forces.

**Pacification** - Making something, or someone, peaceful.

**Parliament** - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

**Peasant** - a poor farmer.

**Persecute** - to treat someone unfairly because of their race, religion or political beliefs.

**Persecution** - hostility towards or harassment of someone, usually due to their race, religion or political beliefs.

**Phonetic Alphabet** - A series of code words to indicate different letters of the alphabet, E.G 'Alpha' to mean 'A'.

**Poll** - a vote or survey.

**Polling Station** - a place where people go to vote.

**Population** - the number of people who live in a specified place.

**Poverty** - the state of being extremely poor.

**Precedent** - an earlier event used as an example in later, similar situations; often used the courts when they rule on a case similar to one held previously.

**Predecessor** - the person who came before; the previous person to fill a role or position.

**Prejudice** - prejudgement - when you assume something about someone based on a feature like their religion or skin colour, rather than knowing it as fact.

**President** - the elected head of state of a republic.

**Prevent, Preventative, Preventive** - steps taken to stop something from happening.

**Propaganda** - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

**Prosecute** - to institute or conduct legal proceedings against a person or organisation.

**Provision** - the act of providing or supplying something for someone.

**Psychological** - referring to a person's mental or emotional state.

## R

**Radical, Radicalism** - people who want complete or extensive change, usually politically or socially.

**Raid** - a quick surprise attack on the enemy.

**Rallies, Rally** - a political event with speakers and a crowd, designed to increase support for a politician, political party or an idea.

**Rational** - when something is based on reason or logic, like science.

**Rebels** - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

**Reform, Reforming** - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

**Refugee, Refugees** - a person who has been forced to leave where they live due to war, disaster or persecution.

**Restoration** - to return something to its former owner, place or condition; this includes returning a monarch to the throne or a head of state to government.

**Revolution** - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

**Rig, Rigged** - politically, to interfere in or fix an election to determine the winner.

**Right wing** - a political view with beliefs centred around nationalism and a desire for an authoritarian government opposed to communism.

**Riots** - violent disturbances involving a crowd of people.

## S

**Sanctions** - actions taken against states who break international laws, such as a refusal to trade with them or supply necessary commodities.

**Scandal, Scandalous** - something that angers or shocks people because rules or accepted standards of behaviour have been broken.

**Search and destroy, Seek and destroy** - a tactic used by the US in Vietnam. Helicopters brought in soldiers who searched out the enemy in a specific area, such as a village, destroyed them, and then left.

**Segregation** - when people are kept separately from each other - often used in the context of race.

**Siege** - action by enemy forces to surround a place or building, cutting off access and supplies, with the aim of either destroying it, gaining entry, or starving the inhabitants out.

**Soviet** - an elected workers' council at local, regional or national level in the former Soviet Union. It can also be a reference to the Soviet Union or the USSR.

**Stalemate** - a situation where no action can be taken and neither side can make progress against the other; effectively a draw.

**State, States** - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

**Strategy** - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

**Strike** - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

**Submission, Submit** - a formal surrender and acceptance of a new authority.

**Superior** - better or higher in rank, status or quality.

## T

**Tactic** - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

**Terrain** - a stretch of land and usually used to refer to its physical features, eg mountainous, jungle etc.

**Territories, Territory** - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

**Treaty** - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

## U

**Unconstitutional** - not in accordance with the constitution of a country or organisation.

## V

**Veteran, Veterans** - an ex-soldier.

## W

**WASP** - white Anglo-Saxon Protestant.

**Welfare** - wellbeing; often refers to money and services given to the poorest people.

**White supremacist** - one who believes white people are superior to people of other ethnicities and should therefore be dominant.

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