



The Vietnam
Peace
Movement

Art as a Catalyst for
Change

Vietnam Overview

- Vietnam is a small country in Southeast Asia.
- Began as a civil war between Communist-ruled North Vietnam and noncommunist South Vietnam
- Longest war in which the U.S. has taken part
- The war lasted from 1957 to 1975, but the U.S. was involved between 1965 and 1973.
- North Vietnam wanted to unite the north and south into a single nation under communist rule. The United States and the South Vietnamese army tried to stop them.

U.S. Involvement

- U.S. involved in a **Cold War** with Russia
- U.S. fears the spread of **communism** and provides military training for South Vietnam to try to stop the Northern communists from ruling
- South Vietnam army is unsuccessful so U.S. gets involved in conflict
- After almost a decade of fighting, a peace **treaty** is signed and U.S. military leaves
- North Vietnam ignores the treaty and begins fighting again, defeating South Vietnam to unite the country under communism

Facts about Vietnam

- This was the last war that had a **draft**
- First war with a lot of TV coverage
- 58,000 U.S. soldiers killed
- 365,000 U.S. soldiers wounded
- 1.5 million Vietnamese killed
- Longest U.S. War

**RESULT: MANY OPPOSED THE
WAR AND A WIDESPREAD PEACE
MOVEMENT BEGAN**

Counterculture Movement

- The **counterculture** of the 1960s was a rebellion of teens and young adults against the norms and values of American society,
- They were against what they called the **establishment**, the government, large companies, etc.
- They wanted to create an alternative culture based on peace and love instead of on strict rules and money/jobs.

The Hippie Movement

- Grew out of the Counterculture Movement
- Believed in living communally and sharing
- Rejected materialism and embraced freedom
- Valued self-expression through music and art, as well as through clothing and style
- Felt love and peace were most important
- Many left behind family, work, and traditional home life for more freedom (sex, drugs, and rock and roll)

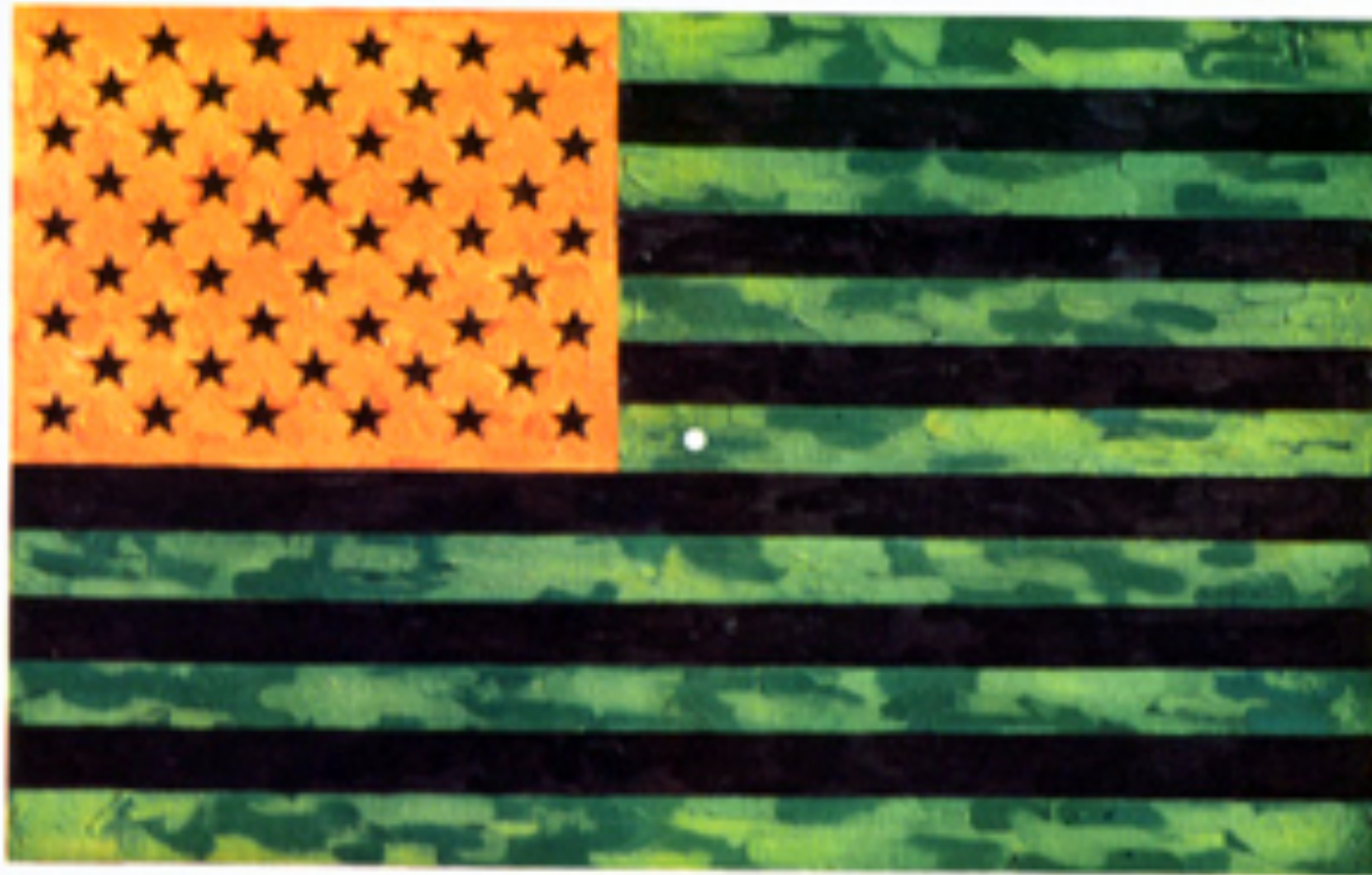
Anti-War Movement

- Over time, the Vietnam War became increasingly unpopular
- **Hawks:** those who supported the war
- **Doves:** those who were against the war
- **Students for a Democratic Society** were a radical group that protested the war on college campuses
- Though some violence occurred, this movement was largely focused on peaceful protest, especially using music and art

Art as a Catalyst for Change

- Many musicians and artists began composing pieces to help support the peace movement and bring about an end to the war
- In 1969 a network of antiwar activists across the US planned the *National Vietnam Moratorium*, a nationwide coordinated protest against the war on Vietnam.
- Activist and student groups set Wednesday October 5th, 1969 as the target date for mass demonstrations.

Moratorium (Jasper Johns 1969)



Vietnam Scene (Duane Hanson 1969)



Vietnam
(Mark
Vallen
1975)



Make a Change!

- Leave behind the isolation of your studios and your focus on pure aesthetics, and instead become engaged in the world around you. Now is the time to confront the deadly realities that plague humanity. and art is the best means we have to envision and implement a new, just, and peaceful world.

~Mark Vallen, 2005