




Anti-Vietnam War Movement Timeline

1965	180,000 American forces in Vietnam
1967	500, 000 American forces in Vietnam
Oct. 1967	75,000 protest against the Vietnam War in Washington D.C.
Jan. 1968 	Tet Offensive: Surprise attack on South Vietnamese cities by Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces. Ultimately, it was a military loss for the Communists. But Americans watched on TV and were shocked and horrified that the U.S. was caught off-guard. CBS news anchor, Walter Cronkite, famously said, "'We have been too often disappointed by the optimism of the American leaders, both in Vietnam and Washington,. . . [We] are mired in a stalemate that could only be ended by negotiation, not victory.'"
Feb. 1968	60% of Americans disapprove of Johnson's handling of the war
April 4, 1968	Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated
June 4, 1968	Robert F. Kennedy assassinated. Many believe that RFK would have been the Democratic nominee for president.
Jan-June 1968	221 college protests against the Vietnam war
Aug. 1968 	Democratic National Convention: 10,000 anti-war protesters clash with policemen and National Guardsmen. The violence is caught on television.
Nov. 1969	My Lai Massacre: Americans first hear of the My Lai massacre, which occurred in March 1968, when U.S. troops brutally attacked 300-500 Vietnamese, mostly women and children. Knowledge of the incident sparks public outrage.
April 1970	Cambodia: President Nixon announces that American forces have bombed parts of the Ho Chi Minh trail throughout Laos and Cambodia. This announcement angers Americans because Nixon campaigned on the promise of ending the war.
May 1970 	Kent State: Student protest at Kent State University against Nixon's invasion of Cambodia. National Guardsmen are brought in to break up the protest. They wound 9 students and kill 4 (2 of whom were not involved in the protest). Jackson State: (June 1970) Student protest at an all-black college in Mississippi. National Guardsmen shoot and kill 2 students, wounding 12.
June 1971	Pentagon Papers: Top-secret military report that was leaked to the <i>New York Times</i> and revealed that the U.S. had drawn up plans to go to war with Vietnam even when President Johnson claimed he wouldn't send troops.