

INCLUSIVE SOCIAL STUDIES

**Mini-Units in U.S. History That Teach
Diversity, Respect, and Cooperation**

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TO THE TEACHER

These units are designed to meet the requirements of California Senate Bill 48, the bill that instructs social studies classes to include in their curricula the study of the role and contributions of both men and women, Native Americans, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups, to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States of America, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society.

While there are many excellent resources on the roles and contributions of most ethnic groups that can be used in social studies classrooms, there have been few materials that are suitable for use in high schools regarding the LGBT community. *Inclusive Mini-units for Social Studies* proposes to fill that gap.

Rather than be treated as separate and disconnected from other history, these units are designed to be integrated into the regular American or World History course as indicated below:

AMERICAN HISTORY:

Countee Cullen: Harlem Renaissance

Giants of American Music: Popular Culture of America in the 1920s–1940s

Bayard Rustin: Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

Allen Ginsberg: Beat Movement of the 1950s

Billie Jean King: Women’s Movement

Harvey Milk: Gay Liberation Movement

Out of the Closet into the Streets (Stonewall Rebellion): Gay Liberation Movement

One Person Can Make a Difference (Larry Kramer): the Reagan Era

Handicapped or Handicapable: George H.W. Bush’s Presidency

WORLD HISTORY:

Pink Triangles: Nazi Era in Germany

AIDS: Contemporary Issues in World History

The “Essential Questions” will help you position each unit within the context of what you are teaching. They can also provide topics for essays or further research.

We value your feedback, so please let us know how these units work for you in the classroom, as well as any recommendations for ways in which we can enhance their value as supplements to your teaching in future editions.

The Harlem Renaissance



Essential Questions

- What were some of the stereotypes whites had of African Americans in the 1920s?
- How did the Harlem Renaissance affect the views whites held about African Americans as well as those that African Americans held about themselves?
- What events sparked the Harlem Renaissance?
- What significant contributions did the artists, writers, and musicians of the Harlem Renaissance make to American culture?

The Harlem Renaissance

- 1920s movement centered in Harlem, an African American neighborhood of New York City
- Included artists, musicians, activists, intellectuals, novelists, playwrights, and poets



During the first World War, many African Americans migrated north to get jobs in war industries. In Northern states, they could escape the Jim Crow laws that made them second class citizens in the South. In New York City, neighborhoods were segregated not by law, but by custom. Harlem was known as the “Black Mecca.” In addition to the migrants from the South, Harlem became the home of many educated blacks, World War I veterans, and immigrants from islands in the Caribbean, all looking for a better life.

The New Negro



Marcus Garvey

- New black identity
- Racial pride
- Black nationalism
- Marcus Garvey's United Negro Improvement Association
- Urban League

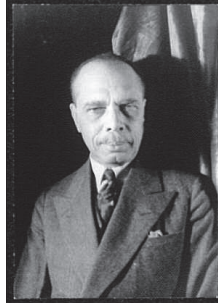
The “New Negro” was a symbolic name given to African American movements in the 1920s that emphasized racial pride and the negation of demeaning stereotypes. Marcus Garvey, an immigrant from Jamaica, formed the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and exhorted all African Americans to return to Africa as part of his Pan-African movement. He worked for political freedom and economic independence for blacks, encouraging them to open their own businesses. At its peak, the UNIA had over two million members and published its own newspaper, *Negro World*. The National Urban League was another organization that had its headquarters in Harlem. Like the UNIA, the Urban League encouraged economic empowerment. It fought against racial discrimination and for better education and job opportunities for black Americans.

The Harlem Renaissance in Literature

- Countee Cullen
- Langston Hughes
- Claude McKay
- James Weldon Johnson
- Zora Neale Hurston



Claude McKay



James Weldon Johnson



Zora Neale Hurston

The Harlem Renaissance was the name given by writer James Weldon Johnson to the flowering of African American art, literature and music that occurred in the 1920s and was based in Harlem. Langston Hughes and Claude McKay were two of many poets whose works often spoke about the African American experience. Zora Neale Hurston's novels focused primarily on the experience of African Americans in the South after slavery and Reconstruction ended. She also collected folklore from Jamaica and Haiti. The writers of the Harlem Renaissance brought the first critical attention to literature written by blacks. Their work helped disprove the stereotype of African Americans as limited intellectually and incapable of producing literature of worth.

Picture sources:

- Photos of James Weldon Johnson and Zora Neale Hurston from the Carl van Vechten collection, Library of Congress

Countee Cullen (1903–1946)

“INCIDENT” (1926)

Once riding in old Baltimore,
Heart-filled, head-filled with glee
I saw a Baltimorean
Keep looking straight at me.

Now I was eight and very small,
And he was no whit bigger,
And so I smiled, but he poked out
His tongue, and called me, “Nigger.”

I saw the whole of Baltimore
From May until December;
Of all the things that happened there
That’s all that I remember.



Countee Cullen was born in 1903; where is a matter of debate, but Louisville, Kentucky is generally accepted as his birthplace based on his college application and what he later related to his second wife. While still an undergraduate at New York University, he won several poetry contests, including the National Witter Bynner contest for undergraduate poetry, and published in *Poetry* magazine. He graduated in 1925, the same year he published his first volume of poetry, *Color*. He earned a Master’s degree from Harvard University in literature and French, graduating from there in 1926. While Cullen maintained that he did not want to be “a negro poet,” the themes of racism and oppression are evident in his work from his earliest days on. However, his poetry also dealt with the more universal themes of love, faith, and death. He strove to have his work touch people of all backgrounds and ethnicities.

Picture source:

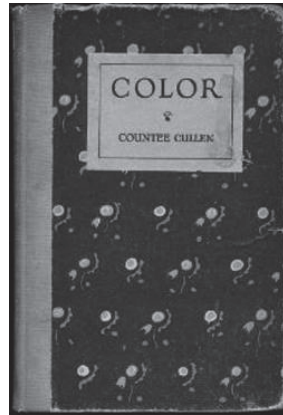
- Carl van Vechten collection, Library of Congress



1928—Cullen married Yolande Du Bois, daughter of W. E. B. Du Bois, a leading African American intellectual and civil rights activist

In 1928, Countee Cullen married Yolande Du Bois, the daughter of W. E. B. Du Bois, one of the most important African American leaders of his generation. Du Bois was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University. He urged blacks to fight for social and political equality, and was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the publisher of its magazine, *The Crisis*. Du Bois saw Cullen as a rising star in the African American community. In an essay in *The Crisis* (1928), Du Bois wrote, “In a time when it is vogue to make much of the Negro’s aptitude for clownishness or to depict him objectively as a serio-comic figure, it is a fine and praiseworthy act for Mr. Cullen to show...the inner workings of the Negro soul and mind.” The wedding was the biggest social event in Harlem and the guests included most of New York’s African American literary, scholarly, and political leaders. They divorced in 1930, after Cullen told his wife that he was attracted to men.

“Yet Do I Marvel” from Color



I doubt not God is good, well-meaning, kind,
And did He stoop to quibble could tell why
The little buried mole continues blind,
Why flesh that mirrors Him must some day die,
Make plain the reason tortured Tantalus
Is baited by the fickle fruit, declare
If merely brute caprice dooms Sisyphus
To struggle up a never-ending stair.
Inscrutable His ways are, and immune
To catechism by a mind too strewn
With petty cares to slightly understand
What awful brain compels His awful hand.
Yet do I marvel at this curious thing:
To make a poet black, and bid him sing!

Cullen’s most important influences as a poet were the English Romantics, particularly John Keats, as can be seen here in one of his most famous poems, a sonnet. Having been educated in high-quality racially integrated universities, the Romantic tradition that was familiar to him. He wanted to prove that African American writers could compose in classical forms and produce great literature. He came under some criticism by other black poets for writing in this style while they were experimenting with new forms, some derived from jazz. His criticism of poets who did not follow established forms extended beyond the black community. Among his contemporaries, he admired Edna St. Vincent Millay and Robert Frost, both of whom wrote in conventional rhyme schemes, but criticized more avant garde poets such as Amy Lowell.

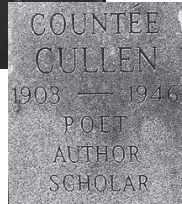
Excerpt from “Heritage”

What is Africa to me:
Copper sun or scarlet sea,
Jungle star or jungle track,
Strong bronzed men, or regal black
Women from whose loins I sprang
When the birds of Eden sang?
*One three centuries removed
From the scenes his father loved,
Spicy grove, cinnamon tree,
What is Africa to me?*



While Cullen wrote extensively about the African American experience, in “Heritage” he demonstrates his sympathy with the Pan-African movement that had so much support throughout the black community. However, he also felt that poetry could bring whites and blacks together. He criticized some of his contemporaries, including Langston Hughes, for dwelling too much on the negative aspects of African American life. Cullen never lived in the South or experienced the hostility and violence blacks were subject to there, and he felt that focusing attention on these issues would lead to further division between whites and blacks. Rather, he felt that art had to be the common ground on which the two communities could meet.

Arna Bontemps

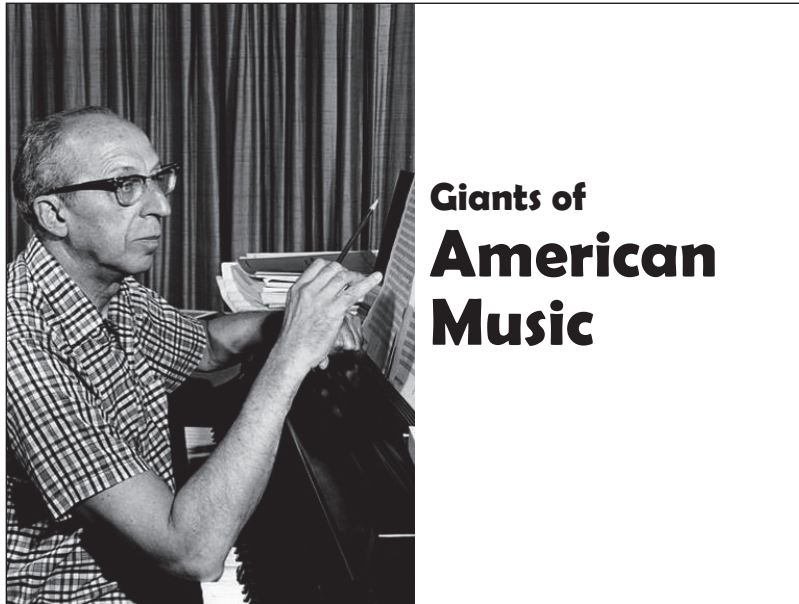


- 1934—Published *One Way to Heaven*, his first novel
- 1935—Published *The Medea and Other Poems*, the first translation of a classical work by an African American writer
- 1940, 1942—Published *The Lost Zoo* and *My Lives and How I Lost Them*, two novels for children
- 1946—Died in New York at the age of 43

In 1934, Cullen began to teach English, French, and creative writing at Frederick Douglass High School. He also turned his attention from poetry to writing novels, including two for children. *In My Lives and How I Lost Them*, he showed a more whimsical side as he pretended to share authorship with his cat. In 1946, he began working on a musical play with Arna Bontemps called *St. Louis Woman*, which was based on Bontemps's novel *God Sends Sunday*. His death from uremic poisoning and high blood pressure prevented completion of the project. He is recognized today as one of the most important and influential poets of the Harlem Renaissance.

Picture source for tombstone:

- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Countee_Cullen_Headstone_2009.JPG



Picture source

- Aaron Copland: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aaron_Copland_1962.JPG

Essential Questions

- What was distinctive about Cole Porter’s music?
- How did Cole Porter’s music both reflect and add to the culture of the 1920s?
- What is meant by “nationalist music”?
- What values did Aaron Copland express through his music?
- What is uniquely American about these two composers?

Cole Porter

- Born in Peru, Indiana in 1891
- Attended Yale University
- Wrote approximately 300 songs while there
- Left Harvard Law School to study music
- Moved to New York to begin his career in music
- 1916—First musical, *See America First*, opened on Broadway; closed after two weeks
- Moved to Paris in 1917, served in the French Foreign Legion in during World War I



Cole Porter was one of the most prolific and creative American composers of the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. Many of his melodies were considered unconventional for the time, and his lyrics contained clever rhymes and innuendoes that got his song *Love for Sale* censored from the radio, but they were just what many people wanted during the high-living days of the Roaring Twenties. His music also helped pull people away from the dreariness of life during the Great Depression.

Porter was born in Peru, Indiana and studied piano as a boy. He started writing songs at a young age. At Yale, he was well known as a writer of fight songs for the sports teams and for his work with the Yale Dramatic Association. He wrote musicals for clubs and alumni associations, where he met people who would help him later when he began his Broadway career. Porter's first Broadway effort was a flop, but he was already showing a dexterity with both music and lyrics.

Porter in Paris in the 1920s



- 1918—World War I ended; Porter took an apartment in Paris
- 1919—Married Linda Lee Thomas; studied at Schola Cantorum with Vincent D'Indy
- 1919–1920—Contributed several songs to revue *Hitchy-Koo* and the musical *A Night Out*



Porter was part of an elegant crowd of musicians, artists, and expatriate writers in Paris. His lavish apartment contained a huge music room where he held soirees for his friends. He studied orchestration and counterpoint at the Schola Cantorum, a conservatory founded as an alternative to the Paris Conservatoire, which emphasized operatic music. Although Porter was homosexual, in 1919 he married Linda Lee Thomas, a wealthy woman from Kentucky who had divorced her abusive husband. She was aware of his homosexuality, but the marriage worked for them both. Linda benefited from Porter's social position and supported his musical career, while the marriage offered Porter a heterosexual façade he could present to the public in an age when homosexuality was not openly acknowledged or accepted.

Broadway and Film Success

- *Kiss Me Kate*
- *Can-Can*
- *The Gay Divorcee*
- *Anything Goes*
- *Wake Up and Dream*
- *Red, Hot, and Blue*
- *Silk Stockings*
- *High Society*



Ed Sullivan and Porter on the TV show Toast of the Town

Porter is best known for his sophisticated melodies and lyrical agility. He didn't play down to his audiences but didn't use a popular vocabulary, instead making up clever, audacious rhymes. For example, in "Let's Do It," one verse goes: "In shallow shoals English soles do it/Goldfish in the privacy of bowls do it/Let's do it/Let's fall in love." In "You're the Top," he wrote: "You're the top! You're the Coliseum. You're the top! You're the Louvre Museum. You're the melody from a symphony by Strauss. You're a Bendel bonnet, a Shakespeare sonnet, you're Mickey Mouse." His lyrics often were humorous and referenced contemporary popular culture. Melodically, he often changed keys, going from major to minor as in "Night and Day" and from minor to major in "Begin the Beguine." In 1932, Porter's show, *The Gay Divorcee*, starred Fred Astaire in his last stage performance. In 1934, *Anything Goes*, starring Ethel Merman, opened and ran for over a year.

In 1937, while horseback riding in New York with friends, Porter's horse fell and rolled over onto him, crushing his legs. Doctors wanted to amputate his right leg, but Porter refused, even though it meant living in constant pain. His injury did not slow him down, however. During the 1940s, Porter had several hit shows on Broadway, including *Panama Hattie*, *Let's Face It*, and *Mexican Hayride*. He also wrote music for the movies. In 1948, his most successful show, *Kiss Me Kate*, based on the Shakespearean play *The Taming of the Shrew*, ran for almost three years on Broadway and was made into a successful movie. Some of his best known songs come from this show. In the 1950s, he had two more hit shows, *Can-Can* and *Silk Stockings*, both of which were also made into hit movies. In addition, he scored the film *High Society*, which starred Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, and Grace Kelly, three of the biggest stars of the era.

In the late 1950s, Porter's right leg was finally amputated. He lived the rest of his life in seclusion in New York City, traveling to California in the summers. He died of kidney failure in 1964 in Santa Monica, California.

Porter won an Academy Award for Best Song in 1934 ("The Continental" from *The Gay Divorcee*). He won the Tony for Best Musical and Best Score in 1949 for *Kiss Me Kate*. His shows are still revived on Broadway and by theater companies around the world, and his songs have been recorded by many well-known singers, from Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald to Sheryl Crow and Alanis Morissette.

Aaron Copland



Copland as a teenager

- 1900—Born Brooklyn, NY
- 1917–1921—Studied with some of the best music teachers in New York
- 1921–1924—Studied in Paris
- 1927—Began teaching at the New School for Social Research in New York

Aaron Copland was a versatile composer whose influence on American music went far beyond his own compositions. He is best known for his symphonic works, but also wrote music for ballet and films. In the 1920s, Copland lived in New York and met many of the leading artists of the era, including photographer Alfred Stieglitz and his circle, which included Stieglitz’s wife, the painter Georgia O’Keefe. Stieglitz thought that American artists should “reflect the ideas of American Democracy,” a concept that influenced Copland as well as O’Keefe, Ansel Adams (a leading nature photographer), and Walker Evans, whose photographs documented the effects of the Great Depression on the American rural heartland.

During the Great Depression, Copland became politically active in Progressive causes. He worked with the Group Theater, which focused on plays that dealt with contemporary issues. He also joined the Popular Front against Fascism to protest the aid that Hitler was giving to General Franco’s forces in the Spanish Civil War. His leftist political activities would cause him to be called to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1953.

In 1939, Copland wrote the scores for *Of Mice and Men*, based on John Steinbeck’s book about two farmhands, and *Our Town*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Thornton Wilder, which described life in an emblematic turn-of-the-century New England town. In 1950, he won the Academy Award for his score for William Wilder’s film *The Heiress*, which starred Olivia de Havilland and Montgomery Clift.

Copland was classically trained and listed Igor Stravinsky as his model and favorite modern composer. He was also influenced by Ravel, Bartók, Satie, and Prokofiev. He admired jazz and employed some of its elements in his work, yet he developed a distinctly American sound in symphonic music. This included weaving American folk songs into his compositions, such as the use of the Shaker melody in *Simple Gifts* in *Appalachian Spring*.

- 1932—Founded Festival of Contemporary Music at Yaddo, NY
- 1937—Co-founds the American Composers Alliance
- Wrote *Billy the Kid*, his first ballet
- 1942—Composed score for *Rodeo*
- 1942—*Lincoln Portrait*
- *Fanfare for the Common Man*



The 1940s were one of Copland's most productive decades. During these years, he produced many of his most important and well-known compositions.

In 1942, he composed the ballet score for *Rodeo*, which was choreographed by one of America's most famous choreographers of the era, Agnes De Mille (who also created the ballet sequence for Rogers and Hammerstein's Broadway musical *Oklahoma*). The music from one of its sequences, "Hoe Down," has become one of his best known compositions through its use in television, movies, and commercials.

Copland also produced music that aroused patriotism during World War II. His *Lincoln Portrait*, commissioned in 1942, combined music with a text he created from Lincoln's speeches and letters. It was performed often during the war with prominent actors such as Henry Fonda acting as narrator.

In December 1941, the United States entered World War II after being attacked by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. With America suffering many defeats in the Pacific during the first months of the war (including in the Philippines, Guam, and at Wake Island) Copland was commissioned to compose a work that would lift American morale. The result was *Fanfare for the Common Man*, which many saw as a tribute to the millions of Americans serving in the Armed Forces, as well as those working for the war effort at home.

Later Years



Michael Tilson-Thomas

Throughout his career, Copland interwove his own work as a composer and conductor with teaching at the New School of Social Research, Harvard University, and Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood. He wrote several books on music and loved working with young musicians. One of his best known students in composition and conducting was Leonard Bernstein, who recorded many of Copland's works and is considered by many to be the best interpreter of his mentor's compositions. Copland also taught conducting to Michael Tilson-Thomas, who headed the London Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. Tilson-Thomas also recorded much of Copland's music.

Copland kept his personal life discreet, but lived and traveled openly with his male lovers, many of whom were also talented in areas of the arts.

Copland received many honors in his lifetime. In addition to four Academy Awards nominations for his film work (and one win for *The Heiress*), Copland received the New York Music Critics' Circle Award for *Appalachian Spring*. He also won the Pulitzer Prize for that composition. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In the 1980s, he received the National Medal of Arts and the Congressional Gold Medal. In recognition of his decades of work as a teacher, the Music School at Queens College in New York is named after him. He died in New York in 1990, but his work lives on in recordings, performances, and in the generations of musicians, composers, and conductors whom he influenced.

Picture source

- Michael Tilson-Thomas: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Michaeltilsonthomas.jpg>



Bayard Rustin

and the
Civil Rights Movement

“The principal factors which influenced my life are: nonviolent tactics; constitutional means; democratic procedures; respect for human personality; a belief that all people are one.”

—Bayard Rustin

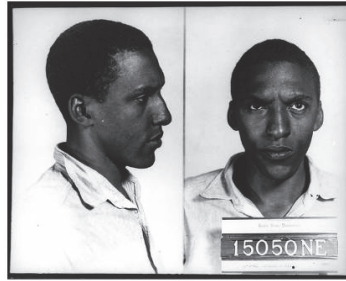
Although he was one of the most important figures in the civil rights movement, most people do not know much about Bayard Rustin. He had excellent organizational skills and worked largely behind the scenes. As he was gay and had been a member of the communist party until 1941, he often avoided the spotlight so as not to discredit the organizations with which he worked. Consequently, his contributions are only today being fully acknowledged, but some of the most iconic moments of the civil rights movement would not have been the same without him. Born in 1912 in Pennsylvania, he was raised in the Society of Friends (Quaker) religion. His life was influenced by the Quaker principles that he took to heart: all human beings are equal, everyone must be treated with kindness and respect, and social activism and nonviolence are of the utmost importance.

Essential Questions

- How did ideas about the place of African Americans in American society change between Reconstruction and the 1950s and 1960s?
- How did Bayard Rustin's homosexuality influence his effectiveness as a civil rights activist?
- How successful was nonviolence as a strategy in the civil rights movement?
- Evaluate Rustin's statement that nonviolence had to be not just a strategy, but an ideology.

1940s

- 1944—Refused to do military service; convicted, he served two years in jail
- 1946—Joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation and took part in a bus trip through the South testing Jim Crow laws; also participated in sit-ins in restaurants
- 1947—Went to India to study passive resistance with Gandhi



Rustin's mugshot after he was arrested for failing to report for his Selective Service physical exam during World War II

As a Quaker, Rustin was eligible to do alternative service rather than serving in the Armed Forces during World War II. However, he felt that he could not do this while other young men who did not belong to a recognized pacifist sect were being sent to prison. Rustin refused to serve when he was drafted and spent 26 months in prison, where he organized protests against the segregation that existed there. When racist guards and fellow inmates attacked or harassed him, he faced their torment with nonviolent resistance. After he was released from prison, Rustin joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an interracial organization dedicated to nonviolence, peace, and justice. He participated in a bus trip with other members through the South to test whether a recent Supreme Court decision mandating integrated seating on interstate transport was being put into practice. In North Carolina, Rustin was arrested and sentenced to 30 days on a chain gang. Again, he stuck to his nonviolent principles when beaten by racist guards.

1950s



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
and Bayard Rustin



Rosa Parks, whose arrest sparked
the Montgomery Bus Boycott

- 1956 – Went to Montgomery, Alabama, to offer Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. advice on how to use Gandhi's methods of nonviolence in the bus boycott
- 1957 – Helped organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

In 1953, Rustin was arrested in California for “sex perversion” because homosexual acts were criminal offenses not just there, but in all 50 states. He served 60 days in jail. Rustin had neither flaunted nor denied his homosexuality, but after his conviction it became an issue. The Fellowship of Reconciliation fired him. He then worked at the American Friends Service Committee, helping to compile a book of pacifist essays. He also worked with the War Resisters League.

In 1956, Rustin went to Montgomery, Alabama, where a group of ministers—including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. —were organizing a boycott to protest segregation of the Montgomery bus system. At the time, Dr. King had not yet become dedicated to passive resistance. When Rustin arrived at Dr. King's house, he found men with guns standing guard to protect King and his family. Rustin persuaded King to commit himself and the boycott to complete nonviolence, including dismissing the armed guards. He then trained the boycott's leaders in the tactics he had learned from Gandhi. After the boycott's successful conclusion, he helped King and other ministers from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to dedicate themselves to fighting discrimination and segregation through nonviolent means.

1960s

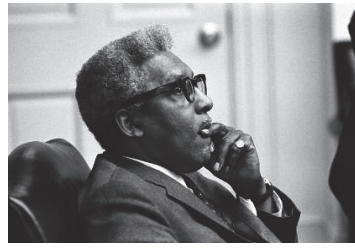


August, 1963—Organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom that brought 250,000 people to Washington, D. C. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech there

When civil rights leaders began discussing a march to Washington, D. C., A. Philip Randolph, who knew Rustin from working with him previously, recommended that Rustin be appointed as chief organizer of the march. The marchers urged President Kennedy and the Congress to pass a Civil rights bill. Kennedy was assassinated a few months later in November, but his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, pushed both a civil rights bill and a voting rights bill through Congress. After these bills passed, Rustin proposed that civil rights activists move from direct action in the streets to greater political involvement, including forging closer ties to the Democratic Party. Rustin was committed to an interracial society; therefore he rejected both the Black Power movement and its more radical offshoots, such as the Black Panthers and the Nation of Islam. He felt that these black nationalist movements alienated those white people who also believed in social justice. Rustin wanted whites to work with African Americans to achieve a mutual goal of a better, more just society. As a pacifist, Rustin advocated negotiations to end the Vietnam War, and protested against the bombing of civilians in North Vietnam.

1970s

- Founded and became Director of A. Philip Randolph Institute
- Co-chair of Socialist Party
- Organized Black Americans in Support of Israel; worked to free Soviet Jews
- Served on the Board of Trustees of Notre Dame University
- Served as a global human rights and elections observer for Freedom House



During the 1970s, Rustin continued to work both for civil rights for blacks and for social and economic justice for all people. He pushed for more attention to conditions in the North, where blacks often lived in segregated neighborhoods and could not get good jobs because of their lack of education. Rustin wanted to pursue a broad strategy that included working with religious groups and unions to address economic concerns that all working people—black and white—had in common. He founded and became the director of an institute named after A. Philip Randolph, an early labor organizer who formed the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to unionize porters on trains, who were all African American. Rustin had worked with Randolph in the 1940s, and as the director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute he oversaw work on voter registration drives and coordinated with the AFL-CIO's workers to promote civil rights and economic justice. He also served as co-chairman of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, and became the national chairman of the American Socialist Party. In an era of tension between African Americans and Jews, Rustin took a firm stand in support of Israel's right to defend itself, despite his own pacifism. He identified with the discrimination and prejudice that Jews faced in the Soviet Union regarding employment and education. Jews who wanted to leave the Soviet Union were denied permission to do so. Rustin worked with Senator Henry Jackson of Washington, who was pushing legislation that tied U. S. relations with the Soviet Union, to allow Jews to emigrate. Rustin also served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Freedom House, an organization dedicated to encouraging human rights around the world. He traveled to Zimbabwe, El Salvador, and Grenada in order to monitor elections.

1980s



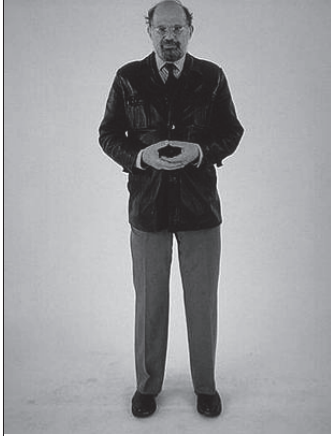
- Became an advocate for gay rights
- Testified on behalf of New York's Gay Rights Bill
- Gave speech: "The New Niggers Are Gays," which claimed that gay rights should be the new focus for civil rights activists
- Died in New York City after a trip to monitor human rights in Haiti

In the late 1970s and 1980s, Rustin became increasingly involved in the fight for gay rights. He testified before the New York City Council on behalf of legislation that would give gays protection in their housing and their jobs. Rustin was friends with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to serve on the court. Daniel Richman, a former clerk for Marshall, credited Rustin's openness about his sexuality with opening Marshall's eyes to the problems gay people faced in society. Marshall consequently dissented from the majority decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, which upheld Georgia's laws against sodomy. In 1985, he was awarded an honorary degree from Haverford University. Rustin's legacy lives on after his death. The town of West Chester, PA, his birthplace, named the new high school after him. In July 2007, a group of African American leaders in the LGBT community formed the Bayard Rustin LGBT Coalition to promote his legacy and carry on his life's work by urging community participation in politics and human rights.

“The barometer of where one is on human rights questions is no longer the black community. It’s the gay community, because it is the community which is most easily mistreated.”

Bayard Rustin, 1987





Allen Ginsberg

and the
Beat Movement

“The only thing that can save
the world is the reclaiming of
awareness of the world.
That’s what poetry does.”

—Allen Ginsberg

Essential Questions

- What events led to the emphasis on conformity in the late 1940s and 1950s?
- What were the specific features of American society that the Beat Movement protested against?
- What is the function of art in an era of conformity?
- Is censorship of art ever justified?

The 1950s: The Age of Conformity



Conformity made people feel safe in the Cold War era, when nuclear war seemed not only possible but imminent

The Beat Movement arose in the wake of World War II, when there were two superpowers remaining after the conflict: the United States and the Soviet Union. These two nations waged a “Cold War” that centered not only around military threats but political and social values as well. America had a two-party political system; the Soviet Union had only one, the Communist Party. Americans were profoundly religious in the 1950s, with over 60% attending weekly services. The Soviet Union was officially atheist and actively persecuted those who engaged in religious practices. The American economy was a free-market capitalist system; the Soviet Union had a planned, state-run economy in which no private enterprise was allowed. As the Soviets began to establish influence over the countries of eastern Europe after the war, the United States feared that the USSR had ambitions to conquer the democracies of western Europe and, ultimately, all of the Western Hemisphere. When the Soviet Union exploded its own atomic bomb in 1949, the United States feared that its military superiority was at risk. The government planned civil defense measures and recommended that people build bomb shelters for their families. No longer did communism pose a threat to American values—it also now threatened their very lives. These fears led people to focus on things that made them feel secure, particularly home and family.



Emphasis on:

- Family togetherness
- New consumer products



In the 1950s, pent-up spending power from wartime employment translated into a booming economy fueled by the needs of new families for homes and consumer goods. Suburban townships such as Levittown in Pennsylvania grew, offering houses that returning soldiers could afford with mortgage help under the G. I. Bill (Servicemen's Readjustment Act). Products that hadn't been made during wartime such as cars, refrigerators, and washing machines became available again, along with new inventions such as television. Magazines, movies, and television shows all reinforced the value of family and the joys of materialism.

Picture source:

- Kitchen Aid photo: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:KitchenAid_Model_K.jpg

The Beat Movement

Movement of poets and writers:

- Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, Gregory Corso, Gary Snyder, Lawrence Ferlinghetti



Poets Peter Orlovsky and Allen Ginsberg



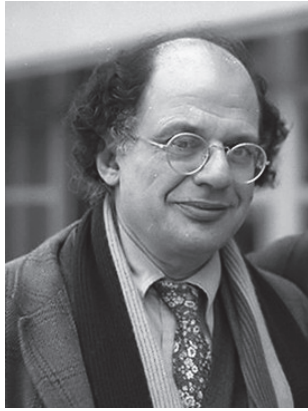
William S. Burroughs

Beat poets and writers broke new ground in both subject matter and style. They rejected the dominant American values of conformity, materialism, consumerism, and militarism. Jack Kerouac, whose book *On the Road* was a seminal text of the Beat Movement, told of his travels around America. He had no goal except to follow the road wherever it took him. William Burroughs, in *Naked Lunch*, wrote in a matter-of-fact way about his heroin addiction, which he had no plans to overcome. Poets such as Kenneth Rexroth, Kenneth Patchen, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti recited their work in coffeehouse, often accompanied by jazz musicians. In addition, Ferlinghetti opened City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco, which served as a gathering place for his friends. He also put out books by many of the Beat poets who had encountered problems getting their work published by more traditional publishers. Many of the Beats experimented with drugs—particularly marijuana and other hallucinogens. Many of them were also attracted to eastern religions, especially Buddhism. They were concerned with resisting authority, artistic and personal freedom, and celebrated the sexual, aesthetic, and spiritual. They rejected the classical and modernist forms of writing in favor of free verse, stream of consciousness, and an authentic personal voice. They were influenced by earlier writers and poets such as William Blake, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Henry David Thoreau.

Picture sources:

- William S. Burroughs: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_S._Burroughs_at_the_Gotham_Book_Mart.jpg
- City Lights Bookstore: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:City_lights_sf.jpg

Allen Ginsberg



- Influenced by the poets Walt Whitman, William Blake, and William Carlos Williams.
- Experimented with form
- Addressed topics not usually found in American Poetry including drug use and his own homosexuality

Allen Ginsberg, considered by many to be the premier poet of the Beat Generation, was born in New York in 1926. Ginsberg's father, Louis, was also a poet. Ginsberg attended Columbia University for a while, but dropped out to focus on his own work. He traveled around the United States and was friends with Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady, the inspiration for the character of Dean Moriarty in *On the Road*. Ginsberg also moved in Beat circles with other poets such as Gregory Corso, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Diane Di Prima, Gary Snyder, and Michael McClure. He had several love affairs with other writers (including William Burroughs) before he met Peter Orlovsky, who would remain his partner for the rest of his life.

Picture source:

- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Allen_Ginsberg.jpg

Ginsberg gained national fame with his poem “Howl”

“I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed
by madness, starving hysterical naked,
dragging themselves through the negro streets at
dawn looking for an angry fix,
angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient
heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the
machinery of night”

In his epic poem “Howl,” published in 1955, Ginsberg depicted a world that had betrayed democracy and the American dream. He used poetic images to protest censorship and celebrate erotic love, including his own homosexual love affairs.

Poetry in Trial

- 1956—Lawrence Ferlinghetti published “Howl”
- 1957—Ferlinghetti prosecuted for publishing an “obscene” book
- Judge Clayton Horn ruled the book was not obscene because it had “redeeming social value.”



Lawrence Ferlinghetti

“Would there be any freedom of press or speech if one must reduce his vocabulary to vapid innocuous euphemisms?”

—Judge Horton

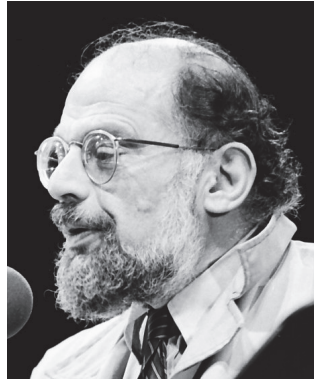
Although the prosecution described “Howl” as “filthy, vulgar, [and] obscene,” nine literary experts testified as to the poem’s importance as social commentary and its artistic achievement. If the book was declared obscene and Ferlinghetti was convicted, the San Francisco police were prepared to raid dozens of bookstores to remove other controversial books as well. At the time, most states and cities had censors who restricted books and movies that did not conform to the majority’s values. Judge Horton’s decision in the “Howl” trial set a new standard for freedom of artistic expression.

Picture source:

- <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CaptureD37.jpg>

Later Years

- 1979—Inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters
- 1984—Won the National Book Award for poetry for *Fall of America*
- 1993—French government awarded him the *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres* (Knight of Arts and Letters)
- 1997—Died in New York City



In his later years, Ginsberg won many awards for his work. He also studied Buddhism and Hinduism and became a peace activist, traveling the world, reading his poetry, and demonstrating for the rights of the oppressed.

Picture source:

- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Allenginsberg_cropped.png

Billie Jean King

The Fight for Equality in Sports for Women



Essential Questions

- How do the achievements of women in sports compare with their achievements in other areas?
- What was the relationship between the women's movement in the 1960s and 1970s and other civil rights movements of that era?
- How have the stereotypes about women's abilities changed in the last century and how have these changes affected women's roles in sports?



King in Ireland for the Irish Open
in the early 1960s

- 1943—Billie Jean Moffitt born in Long Beach, CA
- 1961—At 17, she won the women's doubles tournament at Wimbledon with Karen Hantze
- 1965—Married Larry King
- 1966—Won first of six singles titles at Wimbledon
- 1966-1975—Won 12 Grand Slam Singles titles, nine Grand Slams Women's Doubles titles, ten Grand Slam Mixed Doubles titles

Billie Jean Moffitt was born in Long Beach, CA in 1943. She started playing tennis on the public courts at the Los Angeles Tennis Club. She attended California State University, Los Angeles; however, no sports scholarships were available to women at that time. In 1961, the Long Beach Tennis Patrons raised \$2000 to send her to Wimbledon in England, where she won the women's doubles tournament with partner Karen Hantze. After marrying Larry King in 1965, she took his name, becoming Billie Jean King, although she had already made a name for herself as Billie Jean Moffitt. In 1966, she won the first of her six singles tournaments at Wimbledon, where she dominated both women's singles and doubles for the decade. She was a fierce competitor known for rushing the net, as well as her speed and aggression.

The Women's Movement



Betty Friedan

- 1963—Betty Friedan published *The Feminine Mystique*. The book became a bestseller and helped start the modern women's liberation movement.

- Girls and women began to protest for equal rights in education and employment, as well as reproductive rights



As King was winning tennis championships, a book published in 1963 would spark a movement that changed the lives of women in America and around the world. Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* began as a series of interviews the author did in the late 1950s and early 1960s with her fellow graduates of Smith College, one of the most prestigious colleges for women. She found that many were unhappy with the restrictions their roles as wives and mothers put on their lives. Friedan's book documented the many ways in which the media, education, and psychologists dictated that women should find fulfillment only through marriage and motherhood—roles that precluded women from making other choices.

Women were treated unequally in practically every walk of life. There were quotas for admitting women to colleges and graduate schools, especially in law and medicine. Women could not get credit cards or loans in their own names unless their husbands, fathers, or some other man co-signed with them. Newspapers divided employment ads into "Male" and "Female" so that even if a woman were, for instance, a trained architect, she would not be considered for a job if it was advertised for a man. Sandra Day O'Connor, who became the first woman appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court, was third in her class at Stanford University's law school. However, as her male classmates were finding employment at law firms all over the country after graduation, she was only offered work as a legal secretary. Even when women did get jobs, they often earned much less than men; in 1973, women earned 59 cents for every dollar men earned.



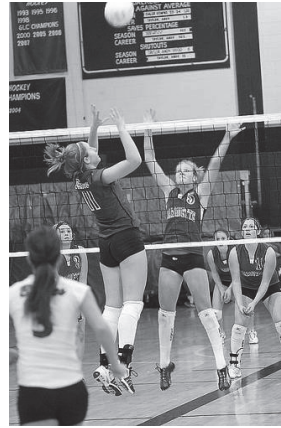
Billie Jean King
at Wimbledon



- 1967—Pushed for tennis to become a professional sport
- 1968—The “open” era in tennis began, with tennis players competing for prize money
- 1968—Argued that men and women should receive equal prize money
- 1970—Helped organize the first professional women’s Tennis tour, sponsored by Virginia Slims
- 1971—Became the first woman athlete to win over \$100,000 in prize money
- 1972—Won the U. S. Open, but earned \$15,000 less than men’s champion Ilie Nastase
- 1973—U. S. Open instituted equal prize money for men and women

King was determined to fight gender inequality in tennis. She saw sports as a vehicle for transforming society. Remembering an incident from her childhood, she said, “Ever since that day when I was 11 years old and I wasn’t allowed in a photo because I wasn’t wearing a tennis skirt, I knew that I wanted to change the sport.” In 1970, she got her chance. Long frustrated by the fact that the tennis world was controlled by men and that women received much less prize money than men, King and eight other women left the U. S. Lawn Tennis Association and signed on to the new Virginia Slims tour, which evolved into the Women’s Tennis Association. In 1972, she broke new ground again when she became the first tennis player and the first woman to be named *Sports Illustrated* magazine’s Sportsman of the Year.

- 1971—Testifies before Congress in support of Title IX, which would give girls more opportunities to play sports in school
- 1972—Congress passed Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- 1975—Department of Health, Education, and Welfare published final regulations for institutions to follow in carrying out Title IX
- 2006—The number of women in college sports had increased by 450%



In 1972, Congress passed an educational amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that came to be known as Title IX. It said that if an institution received federal financial aid, it could not discriminate in any of the school's operations or educational activities, including hiring, promotions, and sports. Schools, colleges, and universities now had to provide women with equal treatment in terms of the number of sports offered to women, scholarships, access to equipment, supplies, and practice time, as well as equal pay for coaches. In 1996, U. S. women competed who had grown up while Title IX was in effect competed for the first time in the Olympics. Women's teams took the gold in basketball, gymnastics, softball, and soccer. Billie Jean coached the women's tennis team, which won gold in both women's singles and doubles.

Title IX has had an impact beyond the playing fields. A 2009 report on Title IX noted that 80% of women executives in Fortune 500 companies had been athletes in school and that girls who got involved in sports were less likely to drink, smoke, or get pregnant and drop out of school.

Picture source:

- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marquette_Senior_High_School_Redettes_Varsity_Volleyball_vs_Gladstone_Braves_-_Marquette,_Michigan_-_October_16,_2007_%282413581445%29.jpg

The Battle of the Sexes

1973—King played against Bobby Riggs in the “Battle of the Sexes.” Riggs, a 55-year-old former champion, claimed that he could beat any of the top women players in the world, yet King defeated him in straight sets.



Billie Jean King



Bobby Riggs

In 1973, King took part in what became one of the most iconic moments in the history of sports and the women’s movement. Bobby Riggs, who had been the number one male tennis player in the world in the late 1940s, belittled women’s accomplishments in tennis and claimed that even at 55, he could defeat any of the top female players. After Riggs defeated Margaret Court (who had won more titles than any other woman tennis player) in two sets, King took up the challenge. She said, “I thought it would set us back 50 years if I didn’t win that match. It would ruin the women’s tour and affect all women’s self-esteem.” The match was scheduled to be played in the Houston Astrodome and became a media spectacle. The television audience was estimated at 50 million people worldwide, many of whom had never watched a tennis match before.

For those who had never seen her play, King’s trademark aggressiveness, speed, and hard-hitting shots proved without a doubt that women had the skill and stamina to play professional tennis at the top level of the game. King’s performance gained respect not only for women’s tennis, but for all women’s sports. Many men came away from that game with a different view of women’s capabilities and potential.

- 1974—Started the Women’s Sports Foundation
- 1982—Became commissioner of World Team Tennis, started by her husband and others in 1974
- 1987—Inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame
- 1990—Received the Arthur Ashe Courage Award
- 2000—Recognized by GLAAD for her work in education and service on the boards of several AIDS organizations
- 2006—National Tennis Center in NY renamed the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center



King (center) in the commentators' box at the 2007 U.S. Open



Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows, NY

As King’s career on the court wound down, she became more involved in the business of tennis and in charity work. In 1974, she founded the Women’s Sports Foundation, an educational organization dedicated to advancing “the lives of girls and women through sports and physical activity.” The Foundation distributes scholarships and grants to individuals, teams, and local organizations. In 1974, King’s husband Larry, along with three others, founded World Team Tennis. Billie Jean became its commissioner in 1982 and an owner of the Philadelphia Freedom team. Elton John later wrote the song “Philadelphia Freedom” in the team’s honor.

In 1993, King was presented with the Phillippe Chatier award, tennis’ highest honor, given only to people who have made major contributions to the advancement of the sport.

In 1987, Billie Jean and Larry King divorced. In 1998, King came out as a lesbian. Rumors had circulated about her sexuality since 1981, when an ex-lover sued her. At that time, King called the affair a “mistake” and denied she was a lesbian because she was not ready to publicly acknowledge it. Later she said that it was hard for her to be outed by the lawsuit and that everyone has to make that decision on her own. King also said that she was not aware of her homosexuality as a youth. “I would never have married Larry if I’d known,” she stated. “I never would have done that to him. I was totally in love with Larry when I was 21.”

King became involved in the Elton John AIDS Foundation and worked with organizations that helped LGBT youth. In 2000, GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) gave her an award for her work in education and with AIDS charities.

In 2006, the National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, NY, where the U.S. Open has been played since 1978, was rededicated as the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. It is the only major sports stadium named for a woman.

In addition to hosting the U. S. open, the Center offers classes and training facilities, including a program on courts designed specially for children under 10.

Picture sources:

- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Commentators%27_Box.jpg
- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:National_Tennis_Center_outside_courts_and_stadium.jpg



2009—President Barack Obama awarded Billie Jean King with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award given by the U.S. government

In 2009, Billie Jean King received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award given to a civilian. The citation read in part: “Through her example and advocacy, Billie Jean Moffitt King has advanced the struggle for gender equality around the world...Her athletic acumen is matched only by her unwavering defense of equal rights. With Billie Jean King pushing us, the road ahead will be smoother for women, the future will be brighter for LGBT Americans, and our nation’s commitment to equality will be strong for all.” President Obama went on to say “We honor...what she did to broaden the reach of the game, to change how women athletes and women everywhere view themselves, and to give everyone—including my two daughters—a chance to compete both on the court and in life.”

The awards are presented annually at the White House. Ironically, while tennis was still an amateur sport, King had decried the lack of respect tennis players got compared to other athletes, saying, “In America, tennis players are...not respected. In England, you’re respected as an artist. In Europe, you’re a person of importance...The Queen [of England] leads the applause. How many times have I been presented at the White House?” In 2009, Billie Jean King got the recognition for which she had worked all her life, and it was not only for her championship titles as a tennis player. She was honored as an athlete, a woman, and a dedicated activist for the rights of all.



Harvey Milk

and the
Gay Liberation Movement

“All men are created equal.
No matter how hard you try,
you can never erase those words.”

—Harvey Milk

Essential Questions

- What are some similarities and differences between the Gay Liberation movement and other liberation movements of the 1960s and 1970s?
- How have ideas about homosexuals changed over the last century?
- Which do you think is a more effective method of achieving social goals: direct action (protests, boycotts, etc.) or political involvement?

Protest Movements of the 1960s



Inspired by the African American civil rights movement, other minorities began to protest for their rights as well during the 1960s. Many African Americans rejected nonviolence and passive resistance, which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had championed during the civil rights movement. Instead, they followed Stokely Carmichael, H. Rap Brown, and the Black Panther Party, who preached “Black Power,” which appealed to racial pride and community development and promised increased political power. Mexican Americans (or “Chicanos,” as they preferred to be called at the time) joined with other Hispanic people (particularly in the southwestern United States) to protest against discrimination in education and jobs. Migrant farm workers, who made up a large contingent of the Hispanic population, undertook boycotts of lettuce and grapes to support their emerging union. Native Americans demonstrated against the years of treaties broken by the U.S. government and demanded more control over their lands and resources. Women also marched and protested, demanding equal pay, equal opportunities in jobs and education, and changes in laws regarding credit, sexual violence, and reproductive issues. The LGBT community, which comprises gay men, gay women (lesbians), bisexuals, and transgender individuals, also began to stand up for fairer treatment.

Picture sources:

- Chicano Power: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chicano_power_flag_of_aztlan.jpg

San Francisco New Communities Emerge



The Castro District became the center of gay life in San Francisco



Thousands of hippies gathered in San Francisco for the Summer of Love in 1967

San Francisco's gay community took root following World War II, when many gay men who had served in the armed forces stayed or moved there upon being discharged from the service. As white residents moved out of the city to the suburbs in Marin County, they left behind many old Victorian houses, which could be rented cheaply by the many hippies who moved to the city in the late 1960s. A nearby neighborhood, The Castro, also had many empty, old houses, and gay men moved into them and upgraded the neighborhood by restoring them. They also opened businesses that helped revitalize the area.



- 1966—Transgender men caused a riot when police tried to arrest them at the Compton Cafeteria in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco for violating the law against men dressing in women's clothes
- 1969—Gay men fought back when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City, and tried to make arrests.
- These events marked the beginnings of the Gay Liberation Movement.

Two important instances in the fight for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people took place in the 1960s: the Compton Cafeteria riot in San Francisco and the Stonewall riots in New York City. It was a time when it was dangerous to be publicly identified as gay. For decades, cities and states had laws that made any kind of homosexual behavior a criminal act. These laws included cross dressing (one sex dressing like the other), soliciting sex from others of the same gender, or “lewd behavior,” which included such acts as dancing with or public displays of affection between members of the same sex. Police periodically raided places such as bars and nightclubs where LGBT people congregated and arrested them for violating these laws. Conviction on such charges often required registration as a sex offender for the rest of the arrestees lives. Newspapers often printed names and photographs in their reports of such raids and people could find themselves fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes, and estranged from friends and family members because of this. In some states, such crimes carried prison sentences.

- 1970s—Many states repealed anti-sodomy laws
- 1972—San Francisco became the first city to pass a gay rights law
- 1973—The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders
- 1975—U. S. Civil Service Commission repealed exclusion of LGBT persons from government employment




Gay Pride Parade in New York

Gay people began to campaign for their rights on many fronts. Many advocated that homosexuals “come out of the closet” —that is, that they no longer hide their sexual orientation but make it known so that people would see that the stereotypes about gay people were wrong. They argued that since LGBT people existed in every walk of life, and with numbers estimating that one out of every ten people were gay, almost everyone would realize that they knew someone who was gay.


Another area of the fight was to decriminalize homosexual behavior between consenting adults. In 1986, the Supreme Court ruled in *Bowers v. Harwick* that state laws against homosexual acts were constitutional. This was a setback for the movement, but by then, several states had done away with their anti-sodomy laws anyway. This decision was overturned in 2003 in the case of *Lawrence v. Texas*.

Discrimination against LGBT people in housing and jobs was widespread, but few cities or states saw this as a problem that needed attention. In order to change laws, gays needed a voice in city and state governments. In 1974, Kathy Kozachenko became the first openly gay person elected to any public office when she was voted in as a city councilperson in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In 1975, Elaine Noble, a lesbian, became a representative to the Massachusetts state legislature. That same year, the U. S. Civil Service Commission, reversing a long-standing policy, opened government employment to LGBT people.

One of the targets of the movement was the American Psychiatric Association. For many years, homosexuality was seen as a mental disorder. Many gay people spent years in psychoanalysis trying unsuccessfully to change their sexual orientation. Sometimes families committed them to mental hospitals in an effort to stop their homosexual behavior. In 1973, however, based on empirical evidence from many studies, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses, noting that homosexuals as a group did not suffer from more psychological disturbance than their heterosexual counterparts. In many statements since, the Association has also come out against therapies designed to change homosexuals’ sexual orientation.



Harvey Milk



Anita Bryant

- 1969—Harvey Milk moved to San Francisco from New York
- 1977—Conservative Christians founded the anti-gay rights organization Save Our Children, led by singer Anita Bryant
- 1977—Milk elected to San Francisco Board of Supervisors and gained national recognition as the first openly gay man elected to public office

Harvey Milk worked as a teacher and an accountant in New York before moving to San Francisco in 1969, where he opened a camera store and became involved in local politics. San Francisco was a city split between an older conservative Italian and Irish Catholic working class and the more liberal young professionals and gay community. In 1976, political progressive George Moscone was elected mayor, replacing conservative incumbent Joseph Alioto. As a state legislator, Moscone had supported repealing California's law against homosexual behavior, and Milk worked hard to help him get elected. In 1977, after three tries, Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office.

At the same time that Milk was running for office in San Francisco, gay activists in Dade County, Florida, pushed through an ordinance that outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation. Gay people began to campaign for their rights on many fronts. Many advocated that homosexuals "come out of the closet"—that is, that they no longer hide their sexual orientation but make it known so that people would see that the stereotypes about gay people were wrong. They argued that since LGBT people existed in every walk of life, and with numbers estimating that one out of every ten people were gay, almost everyone would realize that they knew someone who was gay.

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The response was the creation of Save the Children, an organization dedicated to overturning the ordinance. Anita Bryant headed the organization. She had gained fame as a singer and was a devout Christian fundamentalist. Bryant and her organization collected signatures to place the issue on the ballot for voters to decide. With strong financial backing, Save our Children ran television commercials that portrayed gay men as pedophiles. Gay activists campaigned in support of the measure, but the ordinance was repealed by a 70% vote.

Inspired by the victory in Florida, California State Senator John Briggs put forth Proposition 6, a bill that would prohibit gay men and lesbians from teaching in the state's public schools. As the campaign for the initiative heated up, violence against gays increased in Milk's district around Castro Street, which culminated in the stabbing death of one young man.

Milk helped organize a statewide grassroots movement to oppose the initiative and traveled around the state debating with Briggs. Although early public opinion polls showed a lot of support for Proposition 6, or the Briggs Initiative as it became known, when election day came California voters rejected the bill 58% to 42%.

1978—Milk sponsored a civil rights bill that outlawed any type of discrimination based on sexual orientation



Harvey Milk at work as Supervisor

Milk's first act as a supervisor was to sponsor a civil rights bill that outlawed discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations because of sexual orientation. The *New York Times* called the bill the "most stringent and encompassing in the nation." The *Times* went on to say that the passage of the bill showed the "growing political power of homosexuals."



San Francisco Supervisor
Dan White



Mayor George Moscone

Only one supervisor out of the 11 on the Board opposed the ordinance: Dan White, a former policeman and fireman who represented a working-class district of the city. White gave his resignation to Mayor George Moscone soon after the bill was passed.

Dan White, the only supervisor to vote against the ordinance proposed by Milk, was born and raised in San Francisco. He served in the Vietnam War and worked as a policeman and a fireman before being elected to the Board of Supervisors. He represented a district of predominantly conservative working-class people and was increasingly apprehensive about the growing political power of both moderates and homosexuals in the city government. Although at first he got along with Milk, their relationship declined after Milk voted for several measures with which White disagreed. An aide said later that White felt that Milk and Mayor Moscone represented all that was wrong with the world. White felt marginalized by the vote on Milk's bill and resigned soon after it passed, claiming that he found himself unable to support his family on a supervisor's salary (\$9600 per year). Almost immediately, political supporters urged him to reconsider, and he approached Mayor Moscone about getting his job back. Moscone, however, was urged by Milk and other supervisors not to allow White to return and Moscone agreed to appoint someone else in his place.



- Nov. 27th, 1978—White shoots and kills Milk and Moscone
- May 21st, 1979—White convicted of voluntary manslaughter instead of premeditated murder based on “diminished capacity”
- Outrage at the outcome of the trial leads to riots in San Francisco

On Nov. 27th, 1978, Dan White went to City Hall with a loaded gun. He went first to Mayor Moscone’s office, where the two men argued about Moscone not allowing White to retake his seat on the Board of Supervisors. White then shot the mayor four times, killing him. He next proceeded down the corridor, where he approached Harvey Milk in his office and shot him five times. He left City Hall and turned himself in to the police at the station where he used to work. Some reports claimed that the police cheered him when he walked in.

The people of San Francisco were shocked and grieved. White’s trial illustrated the divide between the city’s growing liberal population and the conservative working-class residents. The police came mostly from the city’s blue-collar Irish community, who had long shown hostility to the city’s gay population. White was treated well by the police and showed no remorse for his actions.

The jury pool for White’s trial excluded those who were gay or from one of the city’s ethnic minorities. The all-white jury was mostly Catholic and showed sympathy for White during the trial. White’s attorney presented a defense based on “diminished capacity”—that White was not responsible for the killings because of stress and depression brought on by his treatment by those at City Hall, especially Milk and Moscone. He further argued that White had binged on junk food the night before the killings, eating nothing but doughnuts, Twinkies, and Coca-Cola, a big change from the healthy diet he usually followed. This “Twinkie defense,” as it became known, resulted in White being convicted only of voluntary manslaughter instead of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to a maximum of seven years and eight months in prison.

Milk’s constituents felt that if Moscone had been the only one killed, White would have been convicted of premeditated murder and possibly been sentenced to death. They argued that because Milk was gay, the jury had devalued his life. Although Acting Mayor Dianne Feinstein and other city officials condemned the verdict, demonstrations of grief turned violent, as people from the Castro District descended on City Hall chanting, “He got away with murder” and ended up vandalizing the building and setting fire to police cars. Police later responded by randomly beating people in the Castro district. The White Night Riots, as they came to be called, went on for several hours. By morning, over 150 people had been hospitalized for injuries, including 60 policemen. Damages to city property and a bar in the Castro District were estimated at over \$1,000,000.

In response to the verdict, California eliminated diminished capacity as a legal defense, although judges and juries could still take it into account when deciding on a sentence.

- Milk's death is remembered with memorials and vigils
- Parks, community centers, and schools have been named in his honor
- At the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, K–5 students celebrate diversity and study tolerance and nonviolence



Milk is considered by many as a martyr to the cause of gay rights. The city of San Francisco established Harvey Milk Plaza at the intersection of Market and Castro Streets in honor of him, as well as the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, where elementary students focus on studying diversity, nonviolence, and tolerance. New York City opened a Harvey Milk High School to provide a safe educational setting for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students who faced harassment because of their sexuality. Randy Shilts wrote a biography of Milk called *The Mayor of Castro Street*. A documentary film based on the book *The Times of Harvey Milk* won an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. In 2008, the film *Milk* was released, directed by Gus Van Sant and starring Sean Penn, who won the Academy Award as Best Actor for his portrayal of Harvey Milk.

Other tributes followed Milk's death. *Time* magazine named him one of its "100 Heroes and Icons of the 20th Century" for being "a symbol of what gays can accomplish and the dangers they face in doing so." In August 2009, President Barack Obama awarded Milk the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously and California governor designated May 22 as "Harvey Milk Day." That same year, Milk's nephew Stuart started the Harvey Milk Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting equal rights for all people and building coalitions worldwide to work toward that goal.

Picture source:

- Harvey Milk Plaza: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Harvey_Milk_Plaza_2008.jpg



Out of the Closet and Into the Streets!

**The Stonewall Uprising
and the Fight for LGBT Rights**



On the night of June 27th, 1969, New York City police tried to raid the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. Instead of acquiescing to the arrests, as usually happened, the gay men and women in the bar resisted. The protests that followed for several days marked the beginning of the gay rights movement in the United States.

Picture source:

- Stonewall Inn: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Stonewall_Inn_1969.jpg

Essential Questions

- What common stereotypes about homosexual men and women did many people in society hold?
- What laws did communities use to restrict homosexual activity?
- How did the Stonewall Uprising affect the LGBT community?
- How has the gay liberation movement affected attitudes toward and beliefs about LGBT people?

Against the Law



Advertisement for public baths that were "Men Only"



Coded advertisement for a gay bar in Westport, Connecticut

Gay life was hidden for much of America's history. Gay men and lesbians grew up largely in isolation, concealing their sexual orientation. Psychiatrists listed homosexuality as a sociopathic personality disorder; it was thought to be rare and treatable. Some homosexuals were committed to mental asylums, treated with aversion therapy (given electric shocks while shown erotic pictures of the same-sex), and even subjected to lobotomies.

During the 1920s, as societal norms began to change some gay men and lesbians began to come to cities where greater anonymity and less regimented social standards permitted greater freedom to express their sexuality. During World War II, gay men and women served their country and met others like themselves. After the war, many settled in port cities: gay communities began to coalesce in San Francisco's Barbary Coast, New Orleans' French Quarter, and New York City's Greenwich Village. By the 1950s, these cities and others had a growing underground gay culture consisting of clubs, bars, and public baths where gay men and women could meet. Even in these places, however, gays faced discrimination, police harassment, and even violence.

Because of social disapproval and the consequences of being known as gay, most LGBT people kept their sexual identities hidden from their families and co-workers. They referred to this hidden life as being "in the closet." Revealing one's sexuality was called "coming out of the closet."

The 1950s



Frank Kameny, fired in 1958 from his government job for being gay



Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, organizers of the Daughters of Bilitis, at their 2004 wedding



A scene from the film of Lillian Hellman's play *The Children's Hour*, in which a rumor of lesbianism destroys two women's lives

In the 1950s, homosexuals were considered by society to be mentally ill and/or criminal deviants. The majority of the public thought of gay men as effeminate and lesbians as women who dressed and acted like men. The government and groups such as Citizens for Decency through Law put out literature and public service announcements warning people—especially adolescents—to beware of such “sick” individuals who might try to entice them into dangerous and psychologically damaging acts.

In 1950, Harry Hay and several other gay men formed the Mattachine Society, which dedicated itself to educating the public (and homosexuals themselves) about homosexuality and to fighting against the oppression of gays. In 1955, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, who had been together as a couple for several years, founded the Daughters of Bilitis, an organization for lesbians. They published a journal, *The Ladder*, which provided lesbians with a means for sharing their stories and experiences at a time when most were isolated from other women like themselves.

During the Cold War and the McCarthy era, the federal government deemed homosexuals as security risks because they were vulnerable to blackmail. Executive Order 10450 declared that homosexuals could not have top-secret clearances and thousands were dismissed from government jobs. Frank Kameny, who worked for the Army Mapping Service, was fired from his job in 1958. He sued the Civil Service Commission over his firing, but lost his case in 1961, when the Supreme Court ruled against him. He became a campaigner for gay rights, later forming the Gay Activist Alliance in 1971.

Against the Law



Booking photos for a woman
arrested for being a lesbian



Gay man being arrested by police

States considered homosexuals as criminals and used a wide range of laws to persecute them, charging them with anything from lewd behavior and public indecency to dressing as the opposite sex (as many performers known as “drag queens” did). Police would go so far as to dress up in women’s clothing to attract men looking for drag queens or hang out in public bathrooms to entrap gays. Newspapers printed the names of those arrested, along with their home addresses, which often resulted in these people losing their jobs and alienating their families. Many homosexuals from the 1940s through the 1960s married because of social pressure to conform to society’s values; when they were caught in these police roundups, they often were cut off by their families, as were those whose parents only learned of their child’s sexuality by reading it in the newspapers.

Gay bars were the epicenter of gay life. Because even one known homosexual customer could cause a bar to lose its liquor license, many bars that catered to gay men and lesbians were owned by organized crime. The money they made from liquor sales, cigarette machines, and jukeboxes made it easy and profitable for them to pay off police and make deals that allowed for some raids and arrests, but also allowed the bars and clubs to stay open.

Still, every year in New York about 300 were arrested for “crimes against nature” and another 3000–6000 were cited for loitering or “lewd behavior.”

June 28th, 1969



Police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village, New York City. Patrons of the bar resisted, and a riot ensued.



At 1:30 a.m. on June 28th 1969, New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. The Stonewall Inn was one of New York's seedier gay bars. Its patrons ranged from young gay kids from the streets to drag queens, lesbians, and middle-class people. It was a place where gays could dance and show affection without feeling ashamed.

Police raids were nothing unusual. Usually, raids were conducted early in the evening and on weeknights, when the bars were not so busy. On this Friday night, six policemen entered the bar and told everyone that they were all under arrest and to have identification out as they exited the building.

The Stonewall had been raided just a few nights before, and patrons were tired of the harassment. Instead of going along as they usually did, many resisted. A crowd gathered outside, intrigued by the commotion. One lesbian was pulled out for resisting arrest and policemen started beating her with their nightsticks. This enraged the crowd, which reacted by chanting "pigs" (a negative slang term for policemen) and throwing things. The police retreated into the bar, barricading themselves inside waiting for help to arrive.

By this time, several thousand people had gathered outside the Stonewall. When the riot police arrived and started to force the crowd back, the people pushed back against them. Drag queens started dancing in a kick line, taunting the police. When the police beat them with their clubs, the crowd turned violent, slashing tires on police cars and breaking windows. Outnumbered, the police withdrew, but the confrontations between gay men and women and the police continued for two more nights.

Reaction

First gay protest march in New York City following the Stonewall Uprising



Many in the gay community felt that they had found their voices at Stonewall: as one participant put it, “We discovered a power we didn’t know we had.” They decided to build on the moment and called for a march up 6th Avenue to call attention to their demand: an end to police entrapment and harassment. The march started out at Christopher Street with only a few people, but it grew as it continued and by the time they reached Central Park, over 2000 people had joined what was in essence the first “Gay Pride” parade. People who had hidden in the shadows and lied about their lives for years marched in the open. In the years that followed, the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising became the date for Gay Pride parades worldwide.

Coming Out

In support of gay rights,
more LGBT people
made their sexual
orientation public



Congressman
Barney Frank



Eugene Robinson,
Episcopal Bishop



Greg Louganis,
Olympic Diver



Ellen DeGeneres

The Gay Rights movement that started with the Stonewall Uprising encouraged LGBT people to come out to their friends, family, co-workers, and, in the cases of famous people, the public. In 1997, Ellen DeGeneres, a comedian, had her character come out on her situation comedy show, *Ellen*. She herself came out as a lesbian at the same time. Although the coming-out episode earned high ratings, after her revelation ratings dipped and the show was eventually cancelled. In 1998, the comedy *Will and Grace* premiered. Although the comedy series *Soap* (1977–1981) featured a gay character, in *Will and Grace*, two of the three main characters were gay. Other celebrities began coming out, too, including Rosie O'Donnell, the comedian and talk-show host, and Neil Patrick Harris, who played a straight “ladies’ man” on the situation comedy *How I Met Your Mother*. Gay men and women in other walks of life stopped hiding their identities. Barney Frank, who served as a congressman from Massachusetts, revealed that he was gay. Eugene Robinson was installed as the Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire, despite protests from many in the Anglican community over the issue of his sexuality; Robinson was supported by the Episcopal churches in New Hampshire, who had known him for years. Greg Louganis, a gold-medal-winning Olympic diver, also made his homosexuality public.

Picture sources:

- Ellen DeGeneres: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ellen_DeGeneres_at_Emmys.jpg
- Eugene Robinson:
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bishop_Gene_Robinson_portrait_2005.png
- Greg Louganis: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Greglouganis.jpg>

Changing Attitudes



In 2010, a CBS News poll showed that in 1992 only 42% of people knew someone who was gay or lesbian. By 2010, that number had increased to 77%. As more LGBT people came out to people they knew, the public discovered that the negative stereotypes characterizing male homosexuals as pedophiles and naturally promiscuous were not true. As more people learned that some of their family members, co-workers, neighbors, and friends were gay, attitudes about homosexual relationships began to change. In 2010, a survey by Gallup, one of the oldest and most respected polling organizations in the country, showed that more people now felt that 52% felt that LGBT relationships were morally acceptable while only 43% disapproved.

Picture source:

- Women kissing: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kiss_at_Gay_Pride_2005.JPG

The Fight for Marriage Equality

- LGBT couples demand recognition of their relationships on equal terms with heterosexual couples
- 1993—Hawaii’s State Supreme Court ruled that same--sex marriage should be legal; the decision was later overturned by a popular vote
- 1989–2003—Denmark, Canada, Croatia, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Argentina, France, Finland, Germany, and other countries legalized some form of same--sex marriage
- 2004—Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same--sex marriages
- By 2011, six states had legalized same--sex marriage, and four others recognized civil unions



Pro-gay marriage marchers in San Francisco

One area of particular concern to gay couples was recognition by state and federal governments of their relationship status. Not being officially married caused many problems for gay couples. If one became ill, the partner could be barred from visiting because he or she was not technically a family member. Same-sex partners did not qualify to share healthcare or retirement benefits, as a heterosexual spouse would. In addition, inheritance matters were also complicated. If one partner died and a house or lease was in his or her name, the other often would have to find another place to live, something that was difficult—particularly for the elderly. Same-sex couples also could not file joint tax returns or collect each other’s Social Security survivor benefits.

In 1984, the city of Berkeley, CA became the first in the U. S. to recognize “domestic partnerships” that applied to both same-sex and heterosexual couples who were living together without being married. These couples could register and receive some of the benefits of married couples, such as the right to make hospital visits when a partner was ill. In 1993, the State Supreme Court of Hawaii ruled that unless the government could present a “compelling state interest” why same-sex couples should not be allowed to marry, the ban was unconstitutional.

The court decision in Hawaii set off a storm throughout the United States because of Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, also known as the Full Faith and Credit clause. This article says that “full faith and credit shall be given in these states to the records, act, and judicial proceedings of the courts...of every other state.” In other words, the Constitution mandates that legal proceedings recognized in one state (including divorces, adoptions, and marriages) would have to be recognized in all the states. Therefore, if a same-sex couple were legally married in Hawaii, that marriage would have to be recognized in all other states.

Opponents of same-sex marriage called for a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as between a man and a woman. The Clinton Administration, wary of such an amendment, worked out a compromise, called the Defense of Marriage Act. DOMA, as it was called, held that states did *not* have to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Between 2003 and 2009, five more states legalized same-sex marriage either through legislative action or court order. In 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled that laws barring same-sex marriage violated the equal protection clause of the California state constitution; gay couples began marrying, but in November of that year Californians overturned the court’s ruling by passing Proposition 8, an amendment to the state constitution that prohibited such marriages. Two couples sued in U. S. District Court, claiming that Proposition 8 violated their due process and equal protection rights. The Court agreed with them, but was appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which in 2012, upheld the District Court’s ruling, but on very narrow grounds. Supporters of Proposition 8 indicated they would appeal the decision to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The first couple to be married in California was Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, who had founded the Daughters of Bilitis in 1953. They had been together for 55 years when they said their vows. Del Martin died six weeks later.

Picture source:

- Pro-gay marriage marchers: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:San_Francisco_pro_gay_marriage_protest.jpg

Fighting Discrimination



People protesting “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

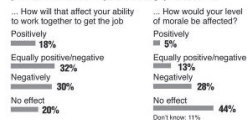


Lt. Dan Choi, West Point graduate and gay rights activist

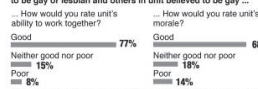
Study: Gays in the military

Gays and lesbians could begin openly serving with minimal risk to U.S. military readiness, according to a long-awaited study by the Pentagon.

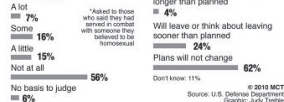
If Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) is repealed, and someone in your immediate unit says he/she is gay or lesbian ...



Asked to those who said they served with leader they believed to be gay or lesbian and others in unit believed to be gay ...



How much did the belief that a service member was gay or lesbian affect the unit's combat performance?



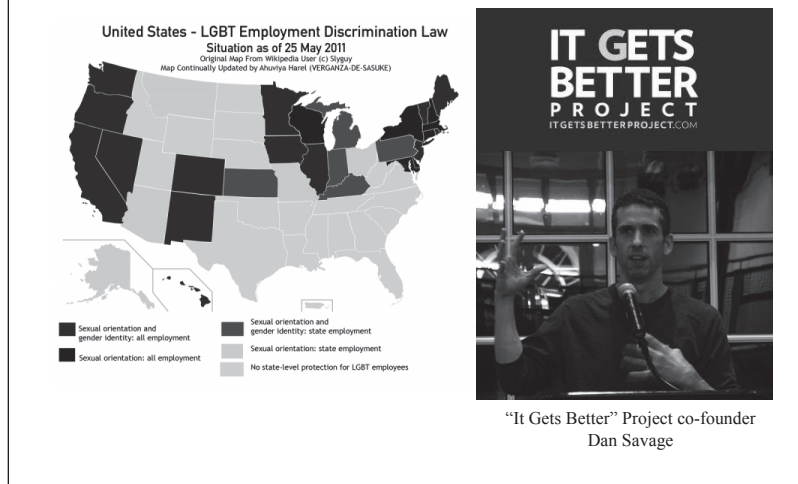
© 2010 MCT
Source: U.S. Defense Department
Graphic: Jody Treiman

At least since World War I, homosexuality was grounds for exclusion or dismissal from the armed forces of the United States. When he became president in 1992, Bill Clinton, tried to fulfill a campaign promise to allow gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the military. His attempt sparked an uproar of protest from conservatives, some veterans’ groups, and General Colin Powell, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Clinton compromised by instead proposing a new policy that came to be known as “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” (DADT), under which gays could serve in the military as long as they didn’t make their sexual orientation public. This resulted in 14,000 service people being dismissed under Don’t Ask Don’t Tell—more than had been dismissed under the previous regulations. By 2011, attitudes had changed to the point where supporters of repealing DADT felt they could try again. President Barack Obama ordered the military to do a study on how the men and women in the service felt about serving alongside gay people. Most said it would not affect them one way or the other. Colin Powell, who in 1992 as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff had resisted opening the military to gays, now supported eliminating Don’t Ask Don’t Tell. Many gay veterans came forward to attest to their service and display their medals, as did many who had been dismissed from the military because they had been exposed as gay. In September 2011, the policy officially ended. Celebrations and parties were held throughout the gay community, including on military bases.

Picture sources:

- Dan Choi: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dan_Choi_at_Bryant_Park_NYC.JPG
- DADT protest: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dadt.JPG>

The Fight Goes On



Over half the states in America have laws on the books prohibiting discrimination against members of the LGBT community in employment and/or other areas. However, problems still exist—especially for LGBT youngsters. A survey reported that 31% of gay teens reported being bullied in school. In 2010–2011, there was a rash of suicides by teens and pre-teens who had been bullied for being gay. One gay eighth grader, Lawrence King of Oxnard, CA, was shot and killed by a classmate. In response, columnist Dan Savage and Terry Miller started the “It Gets Better” Project, a media campaign to provide support for LGBT youth. They got many celebrities—both gay and straight—to record messages for broadcast. Schools, parents, and student groups began to pay more attention to bullying and finding ways to combat it.

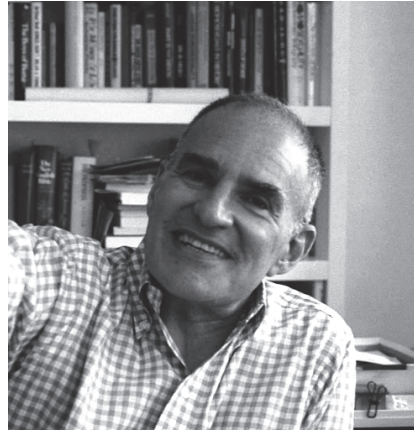
Stonewall started a movement, but the fight for gay rights will not be complete until all LGBT people are given the respect and dignity that all human beings deserve.

One Person Can Make a Difference

Larry Kramer vs. AIDS

“All power is
the willingness to
accept responsibility.”

—Larry Kramer



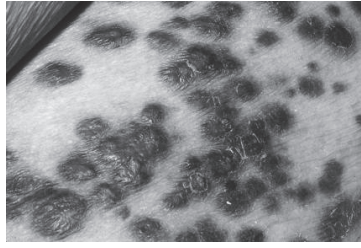
Picture sources:

- Larry Kramer: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%C2%A7Kramer,_Larry_%281935-viv%29_-_foto_di_Massimo_Consoli_1989_VI_New_York.jpg

Essential Questions

- What responsibility does the government have for ensuring the health and welfare of all citizens?
- What responsibility do individuals have for the welfare of others in society?
- How much influence should a government official's personal beliefs have on government policies?

A New Disease



A patient afflicted by Kaposi's Sarcoma

- 1980–1981—The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta received reports of young men in California and New York suffering from Kaposi's Sarcoma and Pneumocystis Pneumonia
- Both diseases hadn't been known to afflict otherwise healthy young men
- The illnesses did not respond to treatments
- The only thing the patients had in common was that they were gay

In 1980, doctors in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco began to see young men, mostly in their 20s and 30s, who were suffering from diseases not usually found in young people who were otherwise healthy. Some of the men suffered from Kaposi's Sarcoma, a cancer that forms dark raised lesions on the skin. It is common among men over 60 of Mediterranean or eastern European Jewish ancestry, but rarely seen in other ethnic groups. Other doctors saw patients who had Pneumocystis Pneumonia, a rare form of the disease that usually only appears in people whose immune systems have been compromised by such things as taking anti-rejection drugs after an organ transplant. Pneumocystis pneumonia almost always responds to a course of antibiotics, but although these young male patients took antibiotics for weeks the pneumonia kept recurring.

Doctors were puzzled by these diseases appearing in otherwise healthy young men and became concerned as their patients began to develop one infection after another. Whatever was causing their condition was fatal, and within a year or two all these men died while their doctors stood by, helpless. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA, which tracks diseases in the United States, discovered that the only thing these men in these different cities had in common was that they were gay. Because of this, the disease was first called Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID).

- 1982—Larry Kramer and several friends formed the Gay Men's Health Crisis organization to provide counseling, legal aid, volunteer assistance, and fundraising for AIDS research
- 1987—Three founding members—Paul Popham, Nathan Fain, and Paul Rapaport—died of AIDS



After seeing many of his friends die of this strange new disease, Larry Kramer, a New York writer, decided that he could not idly stand by anymore. Kramer was a novelist, playwright, and screenwriter who had graduated from Yale University. He held a meeting in his apartment that 80 men attended. All these men were gay and were horrified not only by what was happening in their community, but by the silence of the American government and the medical establishment's inability to offer any real help. Together, they formed the Gay Men's Health Crisis, which started out by offering help to men with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), as the disease was now known. One of the men, Rodger McFarlane, ran a crisis hotline out of his apartment. Others delivered meals to those housebound by the disease. They accompanied men to doctor's appointments and social service organizations, and arranged for legal aid and counseling. What started as a grassroots movement eventually served the needs of over 15,000 men with AIDS. The organization also started raising money for AIDS research. In 1984, the Centers for Disease Control asked for the GMHC's help in organizing conferences on AIDS.

Of the six founding members of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, three died of AIDS in 1987.

The Reagan Years



- 1980—Ronald Reagan elected President
- He was supported by conservatives and fundamentalist and evangelical Christian groups, including the Moral Majority and the Christian Coalition
- He appointed some people from these groups to high-ranking positions in his administration

Ronald Reagan began as a radio, television, and movie actor of the 1940s and early 1950s. He was the President of the Screen Actors Guild during the McCarthy Era and cooperated with the blacklisting of actors who were suspected of being communists or communist sympathizers. He became a spokesman for conservative causes and supported Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater in 1964. In 1967, he successfully ran for governor of California and became famous for his hardline against student demonstrations on college campuses against the war in Vietnam.

In 1976, Reagan ran for the Republican nomination for president, but lost the nomination to incumbent president Gerald Ford. In 1980 he tried again, this time succeeding. Reagan was supported by conservatives who approved of his stance against high taxes, government regulations and spending, and *détente* with the Soviet Union and China. He advocated a strong military and building up the armed forces.

Although he rarely went to church himself, Reagan enjoyed the support of several Christian groups that became politically active in the wake of Supreme Court decisions that challenged many of their strongly held values by outlawing prayer in schools (*Engel v. Vitale*, 1962) and striking down states' laws against abortion (*Roe v. Wade*, 1973). Reagan appointed several avowed conservative Christians to posts in his administration. James Watt, a Dispensationalist Christian, was appointed Secretary of the Interior; Gary Bauer, who later founded the conservative group American Values, served as undersecretary of education and an advisor on domestic policy; Pat Buchanan, a Catholic and hardline conservative who had worked as a speech writer for Richard Nixon, became Reagan's Director of Communications; and Dr. C. Everett Koop, a prominent opponent of abortion, was appointed Surgeon General.

Responses to the Epidemic



- **Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority**
“AIDS is the wrath of God upon homosexuals.”



- **Pat Buchanan, Reagan’s Director of Communications**
“...[Homosexuals] have declared war on nature, and now nature is exacting an awful retribution.”



- **C. Everett Koop, M. D., Reagan’s Surgeon General**
“Most of the people that surrounded Reagan ... believed that anybody who had AIDS ought to die with it. That was God’s punishment for them.”

In the early to mid-1980s, most people believed AIDS only affected gay men. Many religious leaders and conservative politicians condemned the victims of the disease, stating that they had contracted it because of their “immoral” sexual behavior. In 1985, movie star Rock Hudson died of AIDS. Hudson had been a very popular romantic lead in films of the 1950s and 60s, appearing in many films and television shows as the love interest for many of Hollywood’s most glamorous women. The American public was shocked by the news that he was gay. President Reagan, who had been friends with Hudson, stayed silent on the issue of AIDS, not even speaking the word publicly until 1986. In 1987, he gave his first speech addressing the epidemic right before an international conference on AIDS opened in Washington, D. C. The gay community felt that because the most visible victims of AIDS were gay, the government was reluctant to address the crisis. Funds for AIDS research often were among general cuts made in domestic spending. In 1986, with 10,000 cases of AIDS reported, Reagan ordered Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, the nation’s highest health official, to write a report on the disease. Gary Bauer, one of Reagan’s domestic policy advisors, and other conservatives feared that such a report would involve the administration in discussions of sex that would alienate the very people who were the strongest supporters of President Reagan. Koop’s report treated AIDS as a public health issue, not a moral one, and was explicit in its descriptions of risky sexual behaviors and how to stem the spread of AIDS through the use of condoms. Koop also authored a pamphlet titled “Understanding AIDS” that was sent to every home in America, giving accurate information on the disease and dispelling many unfounded rumors about how it could be transmitted. Many conservatives attacked Koop for his frankness and his advocacy of condom use rather than abstinence, but he provided a valuable public health service when the nation badly needed it.

Picture sources:

- Jerry Falwell: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jerry_Falwell_portrait.jpg
- Pat Buchanan: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Patrickjbuchanan.JPG>

Transmission of AIDS



Ryan White: hemophiliac



Earvin "Magic" Johnson:
heterosexual sex



Elizabeth Glaser–blood
transfusion



Intravenous drug users can get AIDS
from sharing contaminated needles

Daughter Ariel–infected
mother-to-child
transmission through
breast feeding

While AIDS first appeared in the United States in the gay community, by the mid-1980s the disease had spread to those who hadn't engaged in gay sex. Ryan White, a 12-year-old hemophiliac, got AIDS from the blood products he used to make his blood clot normally. When he was diagnosed in 1984, his Indiana school expelled him because parents were afraid that their children could catch the disease from him through casual contact. His parents sued the school to get him readmitted and White's fight made national headlines. He became a spokesman for better education about the disease. He died in 1990, a month before Congress passed the Ryan White Care Act, which gave financial assistance to AIDS patients who had exhausted all their other resources.

Elisabeth Glaser, wife of actor Paul Michael Glaser, became infected with AIDS through a blood transfusion she had when giving birth to her daughter. In the period before she was diagnosed, she had unknowingly transmitted the disease to her daughter Ariel through breastfeeding and to her son Jake while she was pregnant with him. She founded the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation when she found out that the antiviral drugs given to adults with AIDS had not been tested or approved for their effectiveness or safety when used by children. She and her husband testified before Congress on the need for more drug trials aimed at children and she also spoke at the 1992 Democratic Convention, calling for more federal funds for research and more compassion for those with the disease. She died of AIDS in 1994.

AIDS was also showing up in people who injected themselves intravenously with illegal drugs such as heroin. From the experiences of people like Ryan White, Elizabeth Glaser, drug users, and others, doctors determined that AIDS could be spread through blood as well as through sexual intercourse.

In 1990, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the popular star point guard of the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team, admitted that he had contracted the AIDS virus through having affairs with a number of women. Johnson's case illustrated that AIDS could be transmitted during heterosexual sex as well.

Picture sources:

- Ryan White: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ryan_White.jpg
- Magic Johnson: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Magic_Johnson.jpg

The Normal Heart

- 1985—Larry Kramer’s play *The Normal Heart* premiered at New York’s Public Theater
- The play focused on the early days of the AIDS epidemic and the impact the deaths of friends and lovers had on a group of gay men
- It also recounted the founding and early days of the Gay Men’s Health Crisis

“*The Normal Heart* was never meant to be a subtle work. Larry Kramer wrote it in 1985 to be a shock to the system, an alarm siren, a blunt instrument to bludgeon Ed Koch’s New York, Ronald Reagan’s Washington, the indifferent press and complacent medical industry into acknowledging the mysterious disease destroying gay men.”

—Newsday review

Kramer turned to art to help people understand the human side of the AIDS epidemic—the people behind the statistics. His autobiographical play *The Normal Heart* opened at the Public Theater in New York City in 1985. The play tells the story of New York writer Ned Weeks and his fight to increase awareness of a mysterious disease that is killing off gay men in New York City. Dr. Emma Brookner, a polio survivor who is confined to a wheelchair, decries the medical profession’s lack of knowledge faced with the new illness, and she encourages gay men to abstain from sex for their own safety, as no one even knows how the disease is spread. Ned forms an organization to deal with the crisis, but as hundreds of men die—including many of Ned’s friends—the press and the city’s government ignore the epidemic. Ned clashes with others in his organization, who find his style too confrontational and fear that he is angering the very people they are trying to get to support their cause. In the meantime, Ned has fallen in love, but his boyfriend, Felix, starts showing symptoms of the disease. Dr. Brookner becomes an activist herself as reports start coming in about the disease appearing in other countries and other groups of people, including heterosexual couples. She delivers a passionate speech against those who stand by while an epidemic takes the lives of homosexuals, already a group seen as outcasts by the government and society. At the end of the play, the numbers of HIV/AIDS deaths are shown as the lights fade out.

The play enjoyed much critical acclaim and was also produced in Los Angeles and London.

Act Up



Scenes from a 1989 ACT UP
“die-in” protest in San Francisco

- 1987—Kramer formed ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) to demand more extensive action against the disease
- 1987—Held several demonstrations to condemn minimal government subsidies for AIDS research and lack of access to experimental drugs
- 1988—Occupied the NY Stock Exchange to protest the high cost of AIDS medication (\$10,000 per year)
- 1988—Shut down the Food and Drug Administration because of its slow process for approving new AIDS drugs
- 1990—“Day of Desperation” held, in which banners were displayed in Grand Central Station in NYC that read “Money for AIDS, not for War” and “One AIDS death every 8 minutes”

In 1984, Dr. Luc Montagnier of France discovered the virus, later named HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), that caused the disease. In the years that followed, blood tests were developed that could detect the virus. These tests allowed people to be diagnosed before they actually got sick from the disease. With the new test, blood that tested positive for the virus could now be isolated from those used for transfusions, or to make blood clotting products for hemophiliacs. As the test became more widely used, there were fewer cases transmitted through contact with infected blood.

Although the discovery of the virus and tests to detect it helped slow the spread of the disease (as did encouraging the use of condoms), progress was much slower on finding treatments, a cure, or a vaccine. One drug, AZT, seemed to slow the development of full-blown AIDS in those infected with HIV, but cost \$10,000 per year, a price most AIDS patients couldn't afford. Larry Kramer, fed up with what he saw as the tyranny of the drug companies and the inaction of the government, formed ACT UP, an organization dedicated to direct action that would bring public attention to the problems faced by those with the disease.

A Letter from Larry Kramer



"Thank you for coming to see our play.

Please know that everything in *The Normal Heart* happened.

These were and are real people who lived and spoke and died...

Four members of the original cast died as well...

Please know that AIDS is a worldwide plague.

Please know that there is no cure.

Please know that after all this time, the amount of money being spent to find a cure is still miniscule...

Please know that here in America case numbers continue to rise in every category. In much of the rest of the world—Russia, India, Southeast Asia, Africa—the numbers of the infected and the dying are so grotesquely high that they are rarely acknowledged.

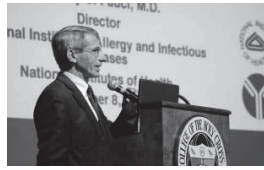
Please know that most medications for HIV/AIDS are inhumanly expensive and that government funding for the poor to obtain them is dwindling and often unavailable.

Please know that an awful lot of people have needlessly died and will continue to needlessly die because of any and all of the above.

Please know that the world has suffered at the very least some 75 million infections and 35 million deaths. When the action of the play that you have just seen begins, there were 41."

In 2001, Larry Kramer was diagnosed with end stage liver failure brought on by a hepatitis B infection he had suffered years before. Because he was infected with the HIV virus (although he did not suffer from full-blown AIDS), he was denied a liver transplant. Kramer protested, claiming that the reason for excluding HIV patients—that they had not long to live in any case—was no longer valid because new drug treatments were extending their lives. In December 2001, Kramer was able to receive a liver transplant. His life and health improved considerably after he recovered from the operation.

In 2011, *The Normal Heart* was revived on Broadway and won the Tony award for best revival of a drama. Kramer continued his fight against the AIDS plague, as he called it, by passing out a letter to audience members in which he reminded them that everything in the play was based on real people and real events.



Dr. Anthony Fauci, Head of AIDS research, National Institute of Health



Kramer at an ACT UP event

“ACT UP put medical treatment in the hands of the patients. And that is the way it ought to be... There is no question in my mind that Larry helped change medicine in this country. And he changed it for the better. In American medicine, there are two eras: Before Larry and After Larry.”

In 1992, Kramer's play *The Destiny of Me* was produced off Broadway. It picked up the story of Ned Weeks where *The Normal Heart* left off. The play was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for drama and won two Obies (the prizes given to off-Broadway productions) as well as the Lortel Award for Outstanding Play of the Year.

In 2009, he was the honorary Grand Marshal of the Gay Pride Parade, in recognition of his work with Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP.

Kramer lives in New York, where he is completing his latest work, *The American People: A History*, which he has been writing since the early 1980s. It is a history of gay people in America.

Kramer's efforts have been credited for increasing public interest in health care policies in this country, how those policies are crafted, and how they affect the lives of ordinary people. His advocacy for HIV/AIDS patients has also changed the way medicine is practiced. As Dr. Anthony Fauci, who clashed with Kramer frequently in the early days of the AIDS epidemic but is close friends with him now said, “In American medicine there are two eras: Before Larry and After Larry.”

Kramer continues to speak out for those with HIV/AIDS. He persists in his battle against governments who do too little to encourage and fund research, a public that seems sometimes to have moved on to other causes, and drug companies that charge too much for drugs and have made little progress on the search for a vaccine.

Handicapped or Handicapable?



Essential Questions

- How do people generally feel about those with physical and mental differences?
- How have the handicapped been treated in previous centuries?
- Why and how have past attitudes toward the handicapped changed?
- How have the actions of individuals affected changes in the way handicapped people are viewed?

What is a Handicap?

A handicap is an aspect of a person's physical or mental state that

- prevents the body from functioning properly
- limits activity or ability to do a certain task
- affects social interaction or ability to learn

A handicap can be the result of a genetic disorder, such as spina bifida; a disease, such as polio, Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis; trauma, such as an accident that results in loss of a limb or ability; disorders that affect the brain, which can be anything from dyslexia to autism or Alzheimer's disease; or psychological or mood disorders, such as depression or schizophrenia. The degree to which a handicap affects a person can vary from individual to individual, even with the same disorder.

The Asylum



Popular Mode of Curing Insanity!
Lizzy Bonner punishing Miss Bidson, on suspicion of taking her key.



A patient kept in a straitjacket



Dorothea Dix

For centuries, people with handicaps were considered incapable of living productive lives in society. In medieval times, people with mental disorders were often considered to be bewitched or witches themselves and persecuted as such. Starting in the 18th century, a new emphasis was placed on finding rational explanations for natural phenomena. Those with genetic disorders, as well as the physically and mentally handicapped, were put away in asylums or hospitals. This practice often occurred simply because their families could not care for them adequately at home. In these institutions, people were often kept locked up or restrained all day. Medical science could do little for people with genetic disorders or mental conditions, or people who developed conditions later in life such as blindness or dementia, so the focus was on keeping the inmates under control. Nothing was done to try to treat their problems or improve their lives.

In the mid-1800s, Dorothea Dix (1802–1887) found that the mentally ill in her home state of Massachusetts were often abused. She wrote to the state legislature: “I proceed, Gentlemen, briefly to call your attention to the present state of Insane Persons confined within this Commonwealth, in cages, stalls, pens! Chained, naked, beaten with rods, and lashed into obedience.” She worked to have state hospitals built with professional staff to care for these people, as well as the blind, deaf, and mute.

The system Dix helped start lasted in most places well into the 20th century, until medical treatments, improvements in technology, and the actions of the handicapped themselves advanced the idea that people needed to be treated with attention to their individual needs and capabilities.

Hellen Keller

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart”

- 1880—Born in Alabama; at 19 months old, a disease left her blind and deaf
- 1887—Anne Sullivan became her teacher; Keller learned language
- 1903—Published her autobiography, *The Story of My Life*
- 1904—Became the first blind person to earn a B. A.— from Radcliffe College
- 1920—Helped found the American Civil Liberties Union
- 1920s—Began work with the American Foundation for the Blind, which she would support for 40 years
- 1964—Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom
- 1968—Died at her home in Connecticut
- 2003—Alabama depicted her on its state quarter



Keller graduating from Radcliffe (top).
Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

One of the first people to demonstrate that having a disability was not the same thing as being disabled was Helen Keller, a lifelong advocate for the blind and deaf. When Keller was 19 months old, she suffered an illness that left her blind and deaf. Although she had not developed language at the time of her illness, Helen made up signs that she used to communicate. The Kellers hired Anne Sullivan, a former student of the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston who was also visually impaired, to be Helen’s teacher.

Sullivan began to teach Helen a manual alphabet, in which letters are formed with the fingers. Helen often became frustrated with the process. One day, Sullivan was running water over Helen’s hand, while spelling “water” into her other hand. Helen described the incident in her autobiography: “As the cool stream gushed over one hand, she spelled into the other the word water, first slowly, then rapidly. I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten—a thrill of returning thought: and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that 'w-a-t-e-r' meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free. There were barriers still, it is true, but barriers that in time could be swept away." Helen learned language at a pace so rapid that Sullivan could hardly keep up with her demand for new words.

Keller’s academic work was so good that she was admitted to Radcliffe College, the women’s division of Harvard University. In 1904, she became the first blind and deaf person to earn a Bachelor’s degree from any college. In 1903, Keller published her autobiography, *The Story of My Life*, in which she described her early years and education. Her writing showed real literary talent and she went on to write 13 more books and many essays.

Keller spoke out for many causes during her life. She was a pacifist and advocated both women’s suffrage and birth control. She became a socialist and supported Eugene V. Debs when he ran for president. In 1920, she helped found the American Civil Liberties Union, which devotes itself to safeguarding the rights guaranteed in the first ten amendments to the Constitution. She also worked for the American Foundation for the Blind, raising funds for the organization for over 40 years, and traveled the world working for better treatment of the blind and deaf in other countries.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

- Jan. 30th, 1882—Born in Hyde Park, New York
- 1905—Married Eleanor Roosevelt, a cousin
- 1910—Elected to New York State Senate
- 1913—Became Assistant Secretary of the Navy
- 1921—Contracted polio, leaving his legs paralyzed
- 1928—Elected governor of New York
- 1929—Stock Market crashed, ushering in the Great Depression
- 1932—Elected President of the United States, offering the people a “New Deal” to recover from the Depression
- 1936—Reelected in a landslide
- 1939—Second World War began in Europe
- 1940—Reelected to a third term; first president to serve more than two terms
- Dec. 7th, 1941—Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor; U. S. entered World War II
- 1942–1945—Met with Allied leaders Josef Stalin (U.S.S.R.) and Winston Churchill (Great Britain)
- 1944—Reelected for a fourth term
- April 12th, 1945—Died in Warm Springs, Georgia



James Cox, the Democratic candidate for President in 1920, chose Franklin Delano Roosevelt for his running mate as vice-president. They lost to Warren G. Harding and the next summer, while vacationing with his family at Campobello Island in Canada, Roosevelt contracted polio, which left his legs paralyzed. He sought treatment to bring back his ability to walk, eventually going to a spa in Warm Springs, Georgia, where he met many other polio patients from all walks of life. In 1926, when the spa was in danger of going under due to financial problems, Roosevelt bought it. He continued to visit Warm Springs for the rest of his life.

Despite his illness, his wife Eleanor encouraged him not to quit politics. Roosevelt wore heavy braces on his legs and could walk a few steps by leaning on the support of aides or his sons. He used a wheelchair in private, but was photographed in it only twice. He feared that if the public knew how disabled he really was, no one would vote for him.

In 1929, the New York stock market crashed, which helped bring on what came to be called the Great Depression. Banks failed, businesses closed, and people lost their jobs, homes, and farms. By 1932, 25% of the workforce was unemployed, and the public was ready for a change. Roosevelt received the Democratic nomination and ran on a platform that offered a “New Deal” for the American people. He won the election. However, foreign affairs required more and more of Roosevelt’s attention. On December 7th, 1941, the Japanese attempted to wipe out the U. S. Pacific Fleet by bombing Pearl Harbor. The next day, Roosevelt asked Congress for a Declaration of War, and the United States entered World War II. He was reelected for an unprecedented fourth term in 1944, but died of a massive stroke the following April while in Warm Springs, Georgia.

Roosevelt’s illness brought him into contact with people who were also suffering. In the Depression, he saw more people suffering not from physical disorders, but from helplessness and hopelessness. He understood what it meant to be helpless. His channeled his compassion into programs to help rebuild the nation. Few presidents have faced the challenges he did, including an economic crisis and a two-front war. While it is true that Roosevelt did not publicize the extent of his paralysis, he often met with other polio patients to encourage them not to lose hope and to make the most of what abilities they still had.

Temple Grandin

- 1947—Born in Massachusetts
- 1950—Diagnosed with autism
- 1966—Graduated from Hampshire Country School
- 1970—Earned a B. S. in psychology from Franklin Pierce College
- 1975—Earned an M. S. in animal science
- 1986—Published *Emergence: Labeled Autistic*
- 1989—Earned a Ph.D. in animal sciences from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
- 1996—Published *Thinking in Pictures: and Other Reports from My Life with Autism*
- 1990—Became a professor of animal science at Colorado State University



Temple Grandin was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. Autism is a disorder that affects the brain's ability to develop social and communication skills. People with the condition vary greatly in their cognitive and communication abilities. Many suffer from "sensory overload" —extreme sensitivity to sounds, light, textures, and touch. Grandin did not speak until she was four, but her mother hired teachers and insisted that her daughter learn to function in society, as well as learn academics. Grandin attended Hampshire Country School in Rindge, New Hampshire, where she developed an interest in science and animals. Grandin has written extensively about her experiences as an autistic person. In the mid-1980s, she began a career as a much-sought after speaker to organizations and conventions about autism. She has written books aimed at helping those with autism and Asperger's Syndrome. Grandin first came to national attention when Dr. Oliver Sachs, a neurologist, wrote about her in his book *An Anthropologist on Mars*. Since then, she has made several appearances on television and was the subject of two documentary films. In 2010, HBO made a film based on her life that won five Emmy awards, including Outstanding Television Movie and Best Actress in a Drama.

Grandin maintains a website that offers advice to those with autism and other related conditions. One person wrote to her: "I live in South Africa and am now 30 years old. I never dreamt of getting a qualification or even being able to function in an adult world that I find so difficult." Through her courage and perseverance, Temple Grandin has demonstrated to the world what people with autism can accomplish, and has served as an inspiration to others around the world.

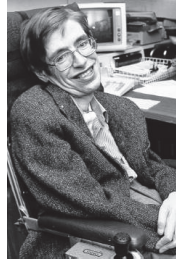
Picture source

- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Temple_Grandin_at_TED.jpg

Stephen Hawking

"My goal is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all."

- 1942—Born in Oxford, England
- 1962—Received a B. A. from Oxford University
- 1963—Diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a disease that destroys the nerves that control muscles. Doctors gave him two years to live.
- 1966—Earned Ph.D. from Cambridge; despite doctors' diagnosis, married Jane Wilde
- 1968—Inducted into Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge
- 1969—Started using a wheelchair
- 1974—Demonstrated that radiation can escape black holes, a new discovery that countered previous scientific thinking
- 1979—Named Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge
- 1985—Lost the ability to speak and started using a voice synthesizer to communicate
- 1988—Published *A Brief History of Time*, which sold 25 million copies
- 2009—Retired from teaching at Cambridge



Stephen W. Hawking was born in 1942 in Oxford, England. As a boy, he was always interested in science; he went on to major in physics at University College, Oxford, where he also was the coxswain of a rowing team. After earning his Bachelor's degree, Hawking went to Cambridge to pursue a doctorate. While in his first year at Cambridge, Hawking underwent several tests to determine the cause of some physical problems he was having. He had noticed that he would occasionally trip and fall or slur his speech. The doctors told his family that he had Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a disease in which the nerves that control muscle function stop working. People with the disease lose the ability to walk, talk, and care for themselves. Eventually, they can no longer breathe and they die. Hawking's doctors said he had about two and a half years to live. This news horrified Hawking and his family, but he refused to give up on life. He went on with his studies and even married in 1965. He worked hard to complete his Ph.D., thinking that he had very little time left. Although ALS limited him physically, it did not affect his ability to think.

By 1969, Hawking was confined to a wheelchair, but the course of the disease seemed to have slowed a bit. He continued to study and publish. His first book, *Large Scale Structure of Space Time* (1975), was aimed primarily at other scientists, but he also had a knack for explaining complicated cosmological and astronomical concepts to the general public. During this time, ALS gradually robbed him of the ability to do many things for himself, including speak. By the late 1970s, his speech was so slurred that only those who knew him best could understand him. In 1985, he lost the ability to speak altogether. Hawking might have been left unable to communicate if not for a California computer programmer who developed software that allowed Hawking to communicate through a speech synthesizer. Hawking would choose words that appeared on a screen with a clicker he was able to operate with one finger, and the synthesizer would read them aloud. With the help of this program, Hawking continued to write and give talks at scientific conferences. He also appeared on many television shows that have been shown on PBS, as well as the Discovery and History Channels.

In 1979, Cambridge University named Hawking the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, a position that was once held by Isaac Newton. In 1988, Hawking published *A Brief History of Time*, which aimed to explain the origins of the universe and cosmology to the general reader. It spent over two years on the *New York Times* bestseller list for nonfiction and sold more than 25 million copies worldwide. However, as Hawking himself noted, more people probably bought it than actually read it because the material it covered was still highly complex. To address this problem, in 2001, Hawking wrote *The Universe in a Nutshell*, which made for easier reading; this book was followed by *A Briefer History of Time*, which attempted to be even easier for the general reader to understand.

Hawking has long been a proponent of space exploration, and believes that life on earth will be endangered or extinguished by global warming, nuclear war, or some other cataclysmic event. He feels that the future of human beings depends on being able to travel and colonize beyond earth. In 2007, Hawking boarded a specially built Boeing 727 which, by flying in steep climbs and dives, is able to create a weightlessness for a few minutes such as one astronaut's experience in space travel. "The zero-G part was wonderful," Hawking said of the experience. "I could have gone on and on." He has reserved a seat on Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic spaceflight, which is due to lift off in 2013 and fly to the edge of space, 70 miles above the earth.

Today, Hawking continues to do research and publish. The ALS has progressed to the point where he can no longer use the clicker to operate his speech synthesizer and has to rely on a sensor attached to a cheek muscle. In a 2010 conference at California Institute of Technology, Hawking spoke of the effect ALS has had on his development as a scientist. Because he could not write out equations he had to do mental math, which increased his ability to picture spatial relationships. This ability proved crucial in his groundbreaking work on the early moments of the creation of the universe. He said that if it were not for his disease, he might never have made the discoveries that he has.



Bethany Hamilton

- 1980—Born in Kauai, Hawaii
- 1988—Entered first surfing competition
- 2003—Lost an arm due to a shark attack
- 2004—Returned to surfing competition; placed fifth in Open Women's Division
- 2005—Won first place, National Championships; received Courage Award from U. S. Sports Academy
- 2007—Turned professional
- 2008—Founded Friends of Bethany Foundation to aid shark attack victims
- 2009—Won second place in World Junior Championships



Jim Abbott

- 1967—Born in Flint, Michigan without a right hand
- 1986—Won the U. S. Sports Academy's Courage Award
- 1987—Won James E. Sullivan Award as best amateur athlete
- 1988—Won gold medal in baseball demonstration event at Summer Olympics
- 1989—Joined California Angels
- 1993—Threw no-hitter against Cleveland Indians while playing for the NY Yankees
- 1999—Retired with career 4.25 ERA

Bethany Hamilton entered her first surfing competition when she was only eight years old and won both the longboard and shortboard events. On October 31st, 2003, while surfing with friends off Kauai's north shore, Hamilton was attacked by a tiger shark. She lost her left arm and had to go through several surgeries. She was determined not to let the loss of her arm deter her from her goal of becoming a professional surfer. In January 2004, she entered her first surfing competition since the shark attack. She placed fifth in the women's division. She continued to enter competitions, and in 2005 she won her first national title, as well as the Mildred Babe Dirdrikson-Zacharias Courage Award from the U.S. Sports Academy.

In 2007, she turned pro. She has participated in competitions both in the United States and around the world. At the age of 19, she won second place in the Association of Surfing Professionals Junior World Championships. She told her story in an autobiography, *Soul Surfer*, which was published in 2004 and then made into a movie in 2011. She has written several books on faith, including *Devotions for the Soul Surfer* and the *Soul Surfer's Bible*, as well as several novels. Friends of Bethany, a foundation started by her family and friends, raises money to help other victims of traumatic amputation and shark attacks.

In 1967, Jim Abbott was born with no right hand. As a boy, he longed to play baseball, so he taught himself how to bat, catch, and throw with one hand. His father helped him invent a way to catch the ball with his glove on his left hand, quickly remove the glove from that hand, and then throw the ball. He would either drop the glove on the ground or tuck it under his other arm. He also taught himself to bat.

The Toronto Blue Jays drafted him in the 36th round of the 1985 draft, but he decided to go to college and improve his skills playing baseball at the University of Michigan. In 1988, South Korea hosted the Summer Olympics in Seoul; Abbott went there to pitch for the U. S. baseball team, although baseball was only a demonstration sport that year. In that same year, he was drafted by the California Angels and joined them at spring training. He lost the first two games he pitched, but he improved and ended his rookie year with a 3.92 ERA (earned run average). In 1992, he not only had a successful year as a pitcher but completed the season without a single fielding error—something not many two-handed players manage to do. Perhaps the highlight of his career came in 1993, when, pitching for the New York Yankees, he threw a no-hitter against the Cleveland Indians.

Since retiring from baseball, he has worked as a pitching coach for the Los Angeles Angels and as a motivational speaker. He published his autobiography, *Imperfect: An Improbable Life*, in 2012. He has also worked with the Department of Labor on programs to encourage businesses to hire people with disabilities.

Americans with Disabilities Act



President George H. W. Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act, July 26, 1990

July 26th, 1990—President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, which:

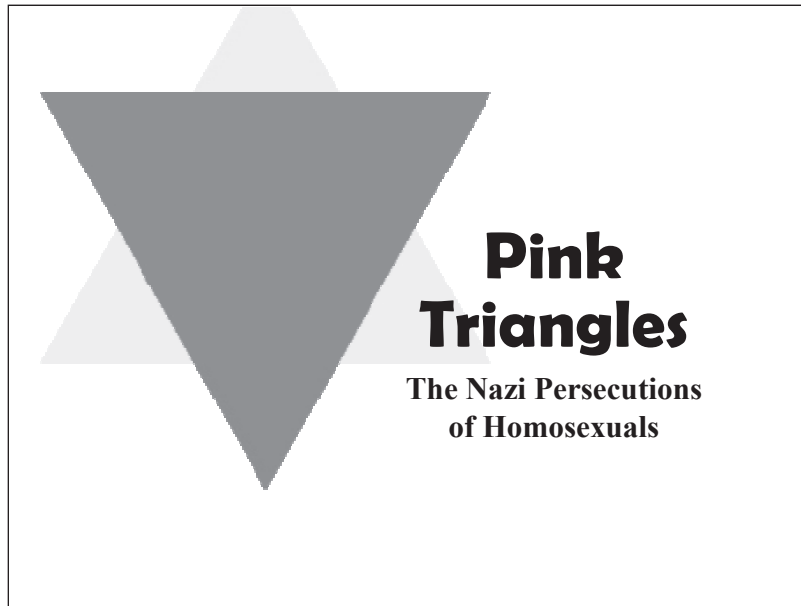
- prohibited discrimination against people with “physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity”
- required making accommodations for the disabled in public transportation and in buildings
- Prohibited employers from discriminating against people with disabilities

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination against anyone based on race, religion, gender, and/or ethnicity. However, it did not recognize discrimination against people who were often overlooked when it came to employment, and who couldn’t even use public transportation or enter many buildings because of structural obstacles.

Lex Frieden, a Professor at the University of Texas at Houston, and Mitchell J. Rappaport of the Center for People with Disabilities, proposed legislation to remedy this. It was introduced as a Senate bill by Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa. The goal was to make sure that Americans with disabilities would not be excluded from the mainstream of American life and to give them access to jobs and facilities that at the time were often closed to them. The bill excluded poor eyesight that could be corrected by prescription lenses and current drug abusers.

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, cities, states, and companies had to refurbish their buildings by putting in bathrooms that were accessible to the handicapped, as well as ramps and elevators to help them get around. Handicapped parking spaces sprouted in parking lots, and workplaces had to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities who worked for them.

Because of the Americans with Disabilities Act, people who are handicapped or disabled can still live productive, fulfilling lives and achieve many of their dreams.



Picture source:

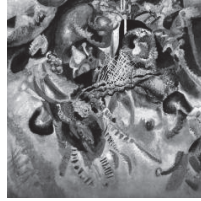
- Pink Triangle: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pink_triangle_jew.svg

Essential Questions

- Why was Weimar culture tolerant of homosexuals?
- What historical events led to the rise of the Nazis to power?
- What parts of Nazi ideology made them particularly repressive towards homosexual men?
- How were homosexuals treated compared to other persecuted groups?

Weimar Culture

- 1919—The Democratic parliamentary republic was founded in Weimar, Germany, following the end of World War I
- Culture of this period was one of the richest in art, film, theater, architecture, design, literature, and music
- German Expressionism dominated art and film
- Modernism, an artistic movement, emphasized new forms of writing, painting, architecture, and film
- Advancements were also made in science, technology, and philosophy



Wassily Kandinsky, *Fugue*



Metropolis, a film by Fritz Lang



Bauhaus School of Architecture and Design



Poet and playwright Bertolt Brecht

At the end of the First World War in 1918, Kaiser Wilhelm II, the ruler of Germany, stepped down as leader. A new, democratic parliamentary government was established and first met in Weimar, Germany in 1919; historians refer to it as the Weimar Republic. This government signed the Versailles Treaty that the Allied leaders drafted at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. It was a very unpopular treaty in Germany because it made the country accept all the blame for the war, pay enormous reparations, and give up all its colonies and some of its territory.

During the period of the Weimar Republic, the arts flourished, especially in Berlin. Modernism, a movement that had begun in the late 19th century, encouraged artists to throw off the old conventions in painting, sculpture, architecture, film, theater, and music. Realism was out, and expressionism was in. The German Expressionist movement in art did away with realistic representations; artists focused on expressing moods or emotions through colors and shapes. Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky were among the painters who taught at the Bauhaus School of Art, Architecture, and Design. New forms for architecture were put forth by Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe, who emphasized that form and function must work together. Their designs were much simpler than those of the highly decorative Victorian and Edwardian periods. Gropius said that a new architectural style was needed for a new era.

German Expressionism also made its mark on film. Directors Fritz Lang (*M*, *Metropolis*), F. W. Murnau (*Nosferatu*), and Robert Weine (*The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*) all used shadows and sharp angles in their sets and cinematography in order to create an atmosphere of suspense or horror.

In literature, authors such as Erich Maria Remarque (*All Quiet on the Western Front*) and Thomas Mann (*Buddenbrooks*, *The Magic Mountain*) gave a voice to postwar cynicism and a record of what they saw as the decline of German society. More radical writers, such as Bertolt Brecht, made no secret of their strongly anti-war views or communist sympathies.

Many discoveries in the new field of quantum mechanics were made in Weimar Germany. Physicist Werner Heisenberg developed his Uncertainty Principle during this period and worked with fellow physicists Max Born and Pascual Jordan to define quantum physics and its basic tenets.

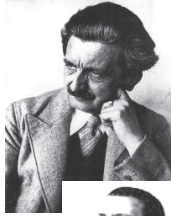
In all, the Weimar era in Germany blazed new paths in the arts that influenced painters, writers, and filmmakers around the world. The scientific discoveries made during this period would help lead to the development of the atomic bomb during World War II.

Picture source:

- Bertolt Brecht: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-W0409-300,_Bertolt_Brecht.jpg

Gay Culture in Weimar Germany

Adolf Brand



Magnus Hirschfeld,
Institute of Sex Research



Hannah Hoch, *Cut with the
Kitchen Knife*

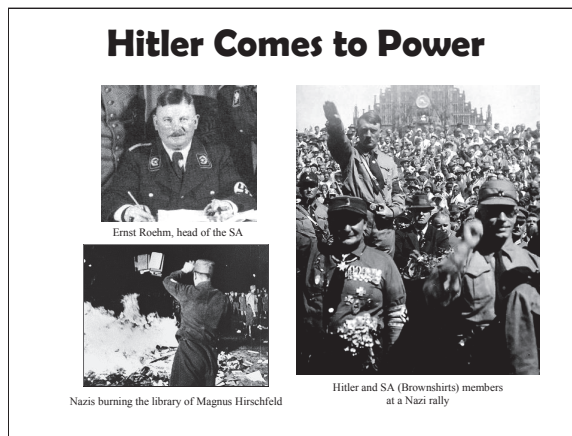
Hannah Hoch, artist



Christopher Isherwood
(left) and poet W.H. Auden

In this artistic cauldron, gay life thrived. Many gay men and women were involved in the arts, including artists Richard Grune and Hannah Hoch; Robert Odeman, a musician, actor, and cabaret owner; and writers Hans Heinz Ewers and Erika Mann. Magnus Hirschfeld, a homosexual, headed the Institute of Sex Research, where he studied human sexuality—including homosexuality. Adolf Brand published the first gay journal in Germany, *Der Eigene* (Self-Owner). He used the journal to call for political activism, particularly the abolition of Paragraph 175, which made homosexual acts a criminal offense. Brand and Hirschfeld were members of the Scientific Humanitarian Committee, which was founded in 1897 and was dedicated to gay rights. The Committee arranged speaking tours and exhibits to educate the public about homosexuality. Because of their efforts, gay rights became a big topic of public discourse in the 1920s. Nightclubs and cabarets put on shows in which men dressed as women and sang and danced. According to historian Frank Rector, there were more gay bars and gay publications in Berlin in 1920 than there were in New York in 1980. Many gay men lived openly with partners, despite the threat of arrest. They did this in part because many policemen in Berlin and other cities looked the other way and adopted a “live and let live” attitude toward homosexuals. However, some men did get arrested and faced criminal charges and imprisonment.

Christopher Isherwood, an English writer, lived in Weimar Berlin for many years and wrote about life there. He described his own homosexual encounters as well as a wide cast of nightlife characters in his book *The Berlin Stories*. These stories formed the basis of the musical *Cabaret*, which was also made into an Academy Award–winning motion picture.



With the country economically crippled by huge reparations and high inflation, the Weimar government lost the support of the German people. In 1933, Nazi Party leader Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and was granted sweeping powers. Nazi ideology idealized strong male images; homosexual men were stereotyped and reviled as weak and effeminate. However, many gay men joined the Nazi Party because they felt Hitler had the best plan for getting Germany back on its feet. For a while, homosexuals felt that they would not be bothered since one of Hitler's closest associates, Ernst Röhm, was a known homosexual. Hitler had even stated that one's personal life should not be an issue in politics.

Nazi ideology, however, was not tolerant of homosexuality. One of the first targets was Magnus Hirschfeld. In May 1933, soon after Hitler took power, Hirschfeld's Institute of Sex Research was ransacked and his library burned. (The writings of Hitler's political opponents, as well as the works of Jewish writers, were burned as well.) Hirschfeld was abroad at the time and never returned to Germany. He died in France in 1935.

Things got worse for homosexuals when Röhm fell out of favor with Hitler. Röhm had headed the SA, a paramilitary organization that had served as Hitler's shock troops while the Nazis built themselves up as a political power. This group, also known as the Brownshirts, beat up virtually anyone who was a political opponent of the Nazis: communists, socialists, labor organizers, and others. They also persecuted Jews and marched publicly to demonstrate the Nazis' power. After Hitler became chancellor, however, Röhm's ambitions soon conflicted with those of the Führer.

Röhm wanted to combine the SA and the German Army and put both under his control. The leaders of Germany's military viewed Röhm and his men as thugs and wanted no part of them. They would not stand for Röhm being elevated to a level above career officers, many of whom came from Germany's upper class. Although Röhm had fought bravely in World War I, the military leadership did not believe him qualified in any way to take over Germany's army.

Hitler needed the support of the German officer corps if he was going to be able to pursue his ambitions to extend Germany's power over countries to the east, including Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the USSR. To prevent Röhm from becoming too much of an impediment to his plans, Hitler gave orders for "Operation Hummingbird." On June 30th, 1934, the SS (*SchutzStaffel*), another Nazi paramilitary organization that served as Hitler's personal guards, began a round-up of SA men. Over the next two days, more than a thousand people were arrested and at least 85 were killed, including Röhm, although several historians say that the actual death toll might have been several hundred.

Hitler used Röhm's homosexuality as a justification for what had happened. In the wake of the "Night of the Long Knives," as the purge came to be known, homosexuals were targeted by the Gestapo, the German secret police. They entrapped gay men by inviting them to sexual encounters and then arresting them. Nazi ideology preached that every Aryan man and woman was supposed to marry and have children to repopulate the Master Race. Anyone who was not married was immediately suspect. People were encouraged—or even paid—to inform on friends, co-workers, tenants, relatives, and others. Homosexuals began to face arrest and detention in one of the growing number of concentration camps the Nazis had begun to build.

Ironically, Nazi persecution did not extend to lesbians unless they came to the attention of the police for other reasons, such as working with the resistance. Nazis believed that lesbians could be "converted" to heterosexuality. Only a very few lesbians were incarcerated for being gay.



- 1933–1945—approximately 100,000 men arrested for being homosexuals; 50,000 were convicted
- Not known exactly how many were sent to concentration camps
- In the camps, homosexuals had a 60% death rate, compared to 35% for Jehovah's witnesses and 40% for political prisoners

Not all gay men who were arrested ended up in concentration camps. Subject to torture during interrogation, men could escape incarceration if they named other gay men. Even then, they risked being rearrested if they were caught again. Many gay men married lesbian friends in order to mislead the police. Another way to avoid being sent to prison or a concentration camp was to accept being castrated. Of the men who were sent to concentration camps, many suffered the worst treatment of any inmates except for Jews. They were put on the hardest work details, given the least amount of food, and were frequently tortured, raped, or sodomized by the guards, in addition to other abuses. Moreover, homosexual inmates often suffered mistreatment by their fellow inmates who were not homosexuals. If they got sick, they were not allowed to go to the clinic but simply left to die.

Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS, was obsessed with “curing” homosexuality, so in the camps SS doctors performed experiments on these men, hoping to find a homosexuality gene. One doctor inserted capsules of testosterone into gay inmates’ bodies to see if additional quantities of the hormone would make them more “manly.”



Richard Grune



Albrecht Becker

Albrecht Becker was born in Thale, Germany, in 1906. From a young age, he knew he was homosexual. When he was 18, he fell in love with an older man and lived with him for over a decade. In 1935, he was arrested for violating laws against homosexuality. Becker was lucky in that he was sent to a regular prison, not a concentration camp. When he got out of prison, Becker enlisted in the army because, as he said in an interview, he wanted to be around men. He was careful not to have any homosexual affairs while in the army. After the war, Becker made his living as a production designer and worked on over 100 motion pictures. He died in Hamburg in 2002.

Artist Richard Grune was born in Flensburg, Germany in 1903. He studied at the Bauhaus school in Weimar and was a student of painters Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky. He moved to Berlin in February 1933, shortly after Hitler became Chancellor of Germany. He was arrested in 1934 in a general roundup of men accused of being homosexuals. Under torture, Grune confessed that he was gay. He was tried for violating Paragraph 175, the part of the German Criminal Code that outlawed homosexual acts. He was convicted and sentenced to prison. After he was released from prison, the Gestapo arrested him again and sent him to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. In 1940, he was transferred to Flossenbürg concentration camp. He was put to hard labor in the quarry and subject to sadistic treatment by the guards.

In 1945, as allied armies closed in on Flossenbürg, Grune and the camp's other prisoners were evacuated and began a march to the Dachau concentration camp. During the march, he escaped and fled to his sister's home in Kiel.

After the war, Grune published a set of lithographs titled *Passion of the Twentieth Century* that depicted his experiences in the concentration camps. He used his artistic talent to leave a record of what life had been like in Sachsenhausen and Flossenbürg.

Grune spent most of his later life in Spain, but returned to Germany and died there in 1983.

Klaus and Erika Mann



Klaus Mann in the U. S. Army



Erika Mann

Klaus and Erika Mann were children of Thomas Mann, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1929. Erika, the oldest of Mann's six children, was also a writer as well as an actress. She was a lesbian, although she had a brief marriage in the 1920s to actor Gustaf Gründgens. Klaus Mann was also a writer and also homosexual. He and Erika were very close as children, and this closeness continued when they went to Berlin in 1923. Klaus, who had started writing stories while still a child, got a job as a theater critic and Erika became an actress with Max Reinhardt's theater company. She appeared in the 1931 film *Mädchen in Uniform* and several theater productions.

In 1933, when Hitler came to power, Thomas Mann and his wife were in Switzerland. Klaus left Berlin, thinking that he would return in a few months. When that did not happen, he went to Amsterdam, where he published a literary magazine that included works by some of the best writers in Europe. His uncle, Heinz Mann, contributed an incendiary essay against the Nazis. Klaus also found a publisher who agreed to publish books that had been banned in Germany. For this activity, Klaus's German citizenship was revoked, something he considered a "badge of honor." Klaus had several relationships with men, but never found a lasting partner. He never understood how the German people could be so enamored of Hitler and it left him disillusioned and often depressed. He became addicted to morphine, which he likened to a "little death." Erika was the last of the Mann family to leave Germany. After Hitler came to power, she too left Berlin and returned to Munich, where she had been born. There was less Nazi influence in Munich, and Erika and several friends put together a cabaret called "The Peppermill" in which, through fables and metaphors, they issued a warning about the Nazi regime that Erika directed. Erika also took care of her father's papers after he left the country so that they would not be destroyed by the Nazis. Eventually, Munich also became unsafe and Erika, with most of her company, left for Switzerland. She put on "The Peppermill" there, too, but the Swiss pro-Nazi party attacked the theater and Erika had to leave the country. She contacted W. H. Auden, the English poet, who was also homosexual, and suggested a "lavender marriage" (one in which both the man and the woman were gay, but marry for convenience) —in this case to make Erika eligible for a British passport. He agreed and she went to England. They stayed married for the rest of Erika's life, although they did not live together.

Drawing on the life of his ex-brother-in-law, Gustaf Gründgens, Klaus wrote *Mephisto*, a novel about a German actor who, despite the Nazis' oppression of political opponents, Jews, and free expression, becomes a favorite within Nazi circles in order to further his career. In September, 1936, Erika and Klaus went to America. Erika became a lecturer and writer; and published a book, *School for Barbarians*, which exposed the Nazis' use of propaganda in the German education system. She lectured around the country about the dangers posed by Nazi Germany. When France fell in 1940, Erika went back to England to help in the war effort there.

When America entered the war in 1941, Klaus enlisted in the American army, writing propaganda leaflets that were dropped by planes over Germany and served as an interpreter. Erika covered the Nuremberg trials and after the war served as her father's interpreter on his lecture tours. Klaus felt let down by his countrymen. While still in the army, he had visited his childhood home in Munich and discovered that the SS had taken it over and turned it into a Lebensborn house. The Lebensborn program was designed by Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS. Young women volunteered to go to these homes and become impregnated with children of SS men in order to breed more Aryan children. Appalled and feeling let down by his countrymen, he returned to the United States, but found himself unable to write, convinced that he could not express himself in English as well as in German. He killed himself in 1949.

Erika was forced to leave the United States when her political opinions and lifestyle caused her to become a target of the FBI. She returned to Europe and worked to get her brother's works published in Germany, dying in 1969. Klaus's novel *Mephisto* later became a bestseller and a highly successful film, winning the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1981.

Postwar Period



Robert Jackson delivers the opening speech in Nuremberg, Germany at the first trial for war crimes



Berlin memorial to homosexual victims of the Nazis. The inscription reads "Struck Dead, Hushed Up."

After the Allies' victory in World War II, they tried top Nazi officials for war crimes and crimes against humanity—specifically the Nazis' attempted extermination of the Jews of Europe and their treatment of political opponents, Roma people (Gypsies), and Jehovah's Witnesses. The Nazis' war on homosexuals was not mentioned because these men had been considered criminals under Germany's laws predating the Nazi regime. Unlike other concentration camp prisoners, they were not eligible for reparations or state pensions for injuries they had suffered during their imprisonment. Neither were those who had been castrated eligible for compensation.

Under the Allies' military occupation of Germany, many of these men were transferred to ordinary prisons to serve out their sentences, with no recognition of the time they had been in concentration camps. They also were arrested and imprisoned after the war ended, again, for violating Germany's criminal code.

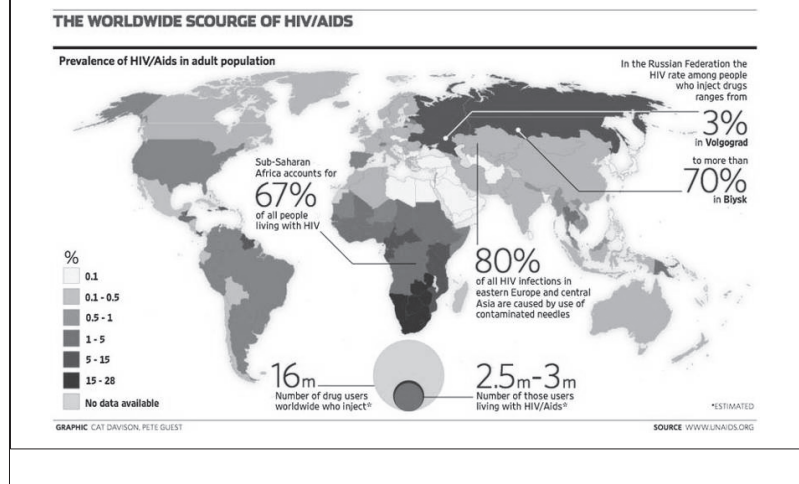
Both East Germany and West Germany kept versions of Paragraph 175 in their criminal codes until 1968 and 1969, respectively. In 1994, a reunited Germany reaffirmed that homosexual activity would not be considered a crime.

In 2002, Germany finally issued a formal apology for the actions against homosexuals during the Nazi era. Many countries have erected monuments to gay victims, including Germany.

Picture source:

- Berlin Memorial: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gedenktafel_Homosexuelle_Opfer_Nollendorfplatz_Berlin_2.jpg

AIDS: A Worldwide Plague



AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Virus. It is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). HIV-AIDS is a worldwide plague that claimed over 26 million lives between 1980 and 2009, making it one of the deadliest diseases in world history. This figure is probably an understatement, too, because many of these deaths occurred in developing parts of the world where medical recordkeeping is haphazard. Approximately 1.5 millions AIDS deaths and 2.7 new HIV infections occur each year. One estimate by population experts predicts that by 2030, 75 million people will have died of AIDS.

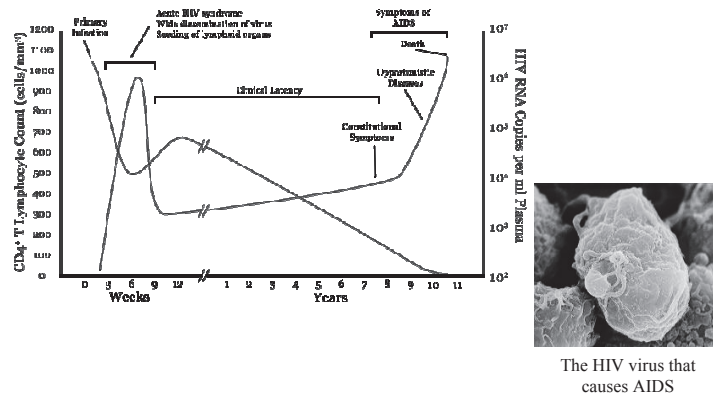
In comparison, the influenza pandemic of 1918 killed approximately 20 million people around the world, but it was gone by the end of 1919. The Black Death—the bubonic plague that ravaged Europe from 1349–1351—killed between one-third and one-half of the people of Europe (an estimated 75 million deaths). It returned throughout the years until the 19th century, but never with the virulence it had the first time.

AIDS, on the other hand, has existed for over 30 years and will still pose a major health problem for decades to come. Because a person can be infected with the AIDS virus (HIV) for a decade or more before showing symptoms of the disease itself, one person can pass the virus on to many other people before becoming aware that he or she is sick. This makes preventing the spread of the virus one of the highest health priorities in the world.

Essential Questions

- What causes AIDS?
- How is AIDS transmitted?
- Why has AIDS been viewed differently than other epidemics?
- What accounts for the different ways in which countries have responded to this disease?
- Do the wealthier countries of the world have an obligation to help poorer countries deal with AIDS?

The AIDS Virus



AIDS is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which was identified in 1983 by researchers both in the United States and in France. HIV is a lentivirus, a subgroup of the retrovirus family. Unlike most viruses, it does not go away. Once infected with HIV, there is no cure, and as of 2012 no vaccine against it had been found. It has been difficult to develop drugs and vaccines against HIV and AIDS because the virus builds up tolerance to drugs over time and often mutates.

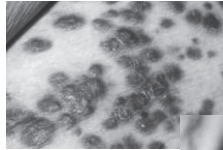
The most common way to become infected with HIV is through the transmission of bodily fluids during sex, exposure to infected blood that then enters the body through a cut or orifice, or an infection passed from a pregnant mother to her fetus or through breast milk after the child is born. AIDS cannot be caught through casual physical contact.

Once in the bloodstream, the AIDS virus attacks the cells of the immune system, known as CD4 cells, which help our bodies fight infection. These cells act as a host for the virus. All cells have surface proteins called receptors. HIV is able to attach itself to the receptors of the CD4 cells. After it has attached itself to the cell, HIV injects its RNA into the cell's fluids (cytoplasm). The RNA then does what is called "reverse transcription"—it designs a DNA strand that mimics the RNA sequence. When this is accomplished, the DNA strand is inserted into the host cell's DNA. The cell then begins producing many copies of the viral RNA. Once the copies have been made, they are released through "buds" on the host cell's surface that then break off and go infect other cells.

Image source:

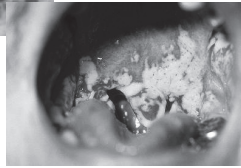
- <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hiv-timecourse.png>

Symptoms of AIDS



Kaposi's Sarcoma lesions

- Kaposi's Sarcoma
- Pneumocystosis Pneumonia Carinii (PCP)
- Oral candidiasis (Thrush)



Oral candidiasis, or Thrush

HIV works by destroying the body's immune system, which leaves it vulnerable to what are called opportunistic infections—ones that seldom cause disease in people with normally functioning immune systems, but can be deadly to those whose immune systems have been weakened or destroyed.

Some of the opportunistic infections that were first detected in the early days of the AIDS epidemic were Kaposi's Sarcoma, Pneumocystosis Pneumonia Carinii (PCP), and oral candidiasis. Kaposi's Sarcoma is a form of skin cancer that produces purple and red-colored spotty lesions. It is usually found only among older men of Mediterranean heritage. When young, otherwise healthy men began showing up in physicians' offices with these lesions, doctors were mystified as to the cause. PCP can be easily treated by antibiotics, but when it attacks someone with a weak immune system these drugs will do no good. Many early AIDS patients died of PCP. Oral candidiasis, or "thrush," is a yeast infection. The fungus is normally found in the human body, but a functioning immune system keeps it under control. While thrush is not usually dangerous, if it proliferates in the throat and esophagus it can interfere with breathing and swallowing. Like antibiotics, in cases of advanced AIDS most anti-fungal drugs are not very effective. Another disease that has made significant inroads into the HIV-infected population—especially in developing countries and among poor population groups—is tuberculosis. This disease has caused hundreds of thousands of AIDS patients to die.

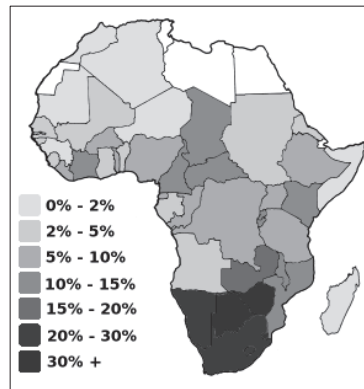
HIV also leaves those infected at risk for developing several neurological disorders which can affect their ability to function. Toxoplasmosis is a disease that results from a parasite. It can cause headaches, confusion, and seizures. It can also lead to encephalitis, a brain infection which can be fatal. The most common neurological disease that affects AIDS patients is cryptococcal meningitis. This disease can start out with a stiff neck and headaches, but can progress to confusion, sensitivity to light, vomiting, seizures, and psychosis. Cryptococcal meningitis can also lead to increased pressure on the brain, which can result in moving brain tissue, blood vessels, and cerebral spinal fluid from their normal locations in the skull. Another complication of this condition is papilledema, in which there is increased pressure on the optic nerve; this can lead to severe headaches and blindness. Cryptococcal meningitis is always fatal if left untreated and in AIDS patients, with their compromised immune systems, normal treatments do not work.

Many medical treatments for disease work because they rally the body's immune system and make it work more effectively. Vaccines contain a small dose of a dead virus, such as smallpox or influenza, which the body then produces antibodies against so that if the person is exposed to that disease, his or her immune system will fight it off. Once the immune system has been damaged, drugs that can easily cure these diseases are ineffective.

No one dies of HIV infection. The destruction of the immune system is what kills, because it leaves the body vulnerable to a variety of diseases that are usually not fatal in people whose immune systems are operating normally.

Some antiviral drugs have been developed that can stop HIV from attaching itself to cells. People afflicted with the virus who take these drugs can slow down the development of the infection into AIDS and more successfully fight off infections.

Out of Africa



Percentage of people ages 15-49 with HIV/AIDS

- Scientists have traced AIDS to a virus that developed in chimpanzees in central Africa
- The virus jumped to humans, probably through contact with or eating infected chimpanzees, in the late 19th or early 20th century
- Since HIV takes a long time to develop into full-blown AIDS, people can have the virus for as much as a decade without becoming sick
- The earliest known case of HIV infection was discovered in a plasma sample taken in 1959 from an adult man who lived in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Where did the AIDS virus come from? After years of study, the consensus among scientists is that HIV developed from the SIV (Simian Immunodeficiency Virus) that developed in monkeys and apes around 32,000 years ago. (Scientists can determine how long a virus has been around by analyzing its DNA.) However, monkeys and apes that carry SIV do not develop any disease comparable to AIDS.

Contact with animals can lead to viruses crossing from one species to another. This has happened with influenza, which can originate in pigs or birds, and smallpox, which is related to cowpox, a mild disease from which the first smallpox inoculations were derived. Scientists believe that sometime in the late 19th or early 20th century, the SIV virus crossed from monkeys and apes to humans (probably through eating the meat of infected animals) and then mutated to HIV once inside the human body.

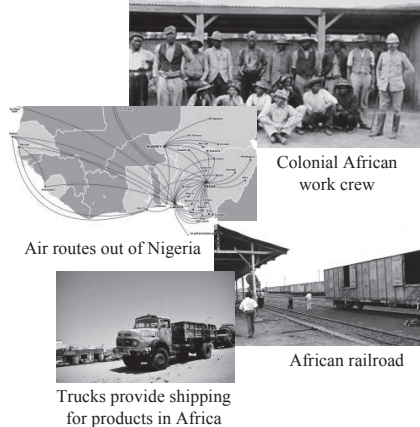
In the early days of the disease developing in humans, many things prevented it from becoming an epidemic. One thing was simply low life expectancies. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Africans could expect to live approximately 35–40 years. The HIV virus takes so long to develop into AIDS that many who became infected probably died before they started showing any signs of the disease. Others died before passing on the infection to their children. Furthermore, the disease was confined to small villages. People from central Africa did not travel widely before European countries started colonizing that area.

Picture source:

- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Africa_HIV-AIDS_300px.png

How did AIDS Spread Beyond Africa?

- Colonization of Africa probably helped the virus to spread from its central African origins
- Increased urbanization
- Population migration for work crews
- Food supply
- Malnutrition
- Increased travel within Africa
- Modern travel by air, railroad, and trucks



Several theories about the spread of AIDS cite European colonization as a major contributing factor. As countries such as France, the United Kingdom, and Belgium colonized areas of Africa, they built cities, railroads, and seaports. They used men recruited from small villages as laborers. These men were concentrated in work camps and spent months away from their families. This weakening of traditional family structures led to more use of prostitutes who, once they became infected, spread the disease to multiple sex partners. Colonial authorities also provided “bush meat” (wild game that sometimes included chimpanzees) to their workers, which probably gave the virus to many more men than would have otherwise caught it, since bush meat was not an everyday food source for villagers. In addition, Europeans took food from villages to feed workers, which left the women, children, and old men in the villages malnourished and more susceptible to disease.

As railroads and roads proliferated within Africa, people were able to move about the continent more easily. This led even more people to migrate in search of jobs in the cities, where they often lived in unsanitary conditions. Prostitution was also more common in the cities, as was contact with other people from different areas.

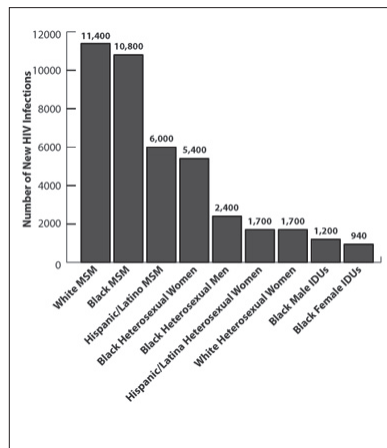
Air travel made this trend worse, as did the arrival of transportation by automobile and truck. With airplanes, people with the virus could not only travel within Africa but to other continents as well. Within Africa, increased dependence on trucks to transport goods from place to place created a new mode of transmission for the virus, since long-distance truckers have frequent contact with prostitutes, become infected, and then pass the virus to their wives upon their return.

African workers have also traveled to other continents in search of jobs and the AIDS virus has traveled with them.

Picture sources:

- Air routes out of Nigeria: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ArikAirRoutes.png>
- African railroad: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Uganda_railways_assessment_2010_-_Flickr_-_US_Army_Africa_%2822%29.jpg
- African truck: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:African.truck.jpg>

The United States



Dr. Robert Gallo, one of the discoverers of the AIDS virus



Surgeon General C. Everett Koop



Dr. Anthony Fauci of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia

AIDS first came to the attention of doctors in the United States in the early 1980s. Physicians in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco were seeing young male patients who were suffering from rare opportunistic infections such as Kaposi's Sarcoma and Pneumocystosis Pneumonia Carinii. These infections did not respond to treatment with antibiotics or other treatments. The only thing the young men had in common was that they were gay. In 1981, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta reported on the condition for the first time in its weekly mortality newsletter. It was the first official recognition that the men in question were suffering from a common syndrome. By 1982, hundreds of cases were being reported from 20 states; although the majority of those who were sick were gay men. Because of this, the disease was first called Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID). Some intravenous drug users had also developed the disease.

In July 1982, doctors at a conference gave the disease a name: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS. In addition to gay men and intravenous drug users, cases appeared that year for the first time in heterosexual hemophiliacs, all of whom had used a clotting product made from donated blood. In addition, the CDC received reports (largely from Florida) of cases among immigrants from Haiti.

Because the disease seemed concentrated among gay men and IV drug users, social disapproval of these groups made support for research and AIDS education made many in President Reagan's administration uncomfortable speaking about the subject. Even some doctors were embarrassed discussing their patients' sex lives with them.

In 1984, two doctors—Robert Gallo of the U. S. National Cancer Institute and Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Louis Pasteur Institute in France—each discovered a virus they believed caused AIDS. The two viruses were the same, and were soon named the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

The number of AIDS cases and deaths from the disease kept rising. By 1985, over 15,000 people in the United States had AIDS. In that same year, a blood test to detect the virus was developed, but by that time it is estimated that thousands of hemophiliacs had contracted the virus.

Despite reluctance on the part of the Reagan administration, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report which recommended measures to prevent the spread of AIDS, including educating children about the disease.

In the late 1980s the U. S. Food and Drug Administration approved AZT, an antiviral drug, for use in HIV positive and AIDS patients. AZT was also found to prevent pregnant women from passing the virus to their babies in the womb or afterward through breastfeeding. However, a year's supply of AZT cost over \$7000 and few AIDS patients had sufficient funds or health insurance to cover the costs of the drug. Many felt that the FDA was slow to approve new drugs to fight the disease, and ACT UP, an organization founded by gay writer Larry Kramer, staged several protests against the agency and pharmaceutical companies, which they accused of profiting off people's deaths.

Combating AIDS

- 1990—Congress passes Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act
- Prevention measures
- AIDS walks and AIDS quilts
- New drugs made AIDS more of a chronic condition rather than a fatal disease



This red ribbon became a symbol of AIDS awareness



Panels of the AIDS quilt at a rally in Washington, D.C.

By 1989, in the 25–44 age group AIDS was the second leading cause of death for men and the sixth leading cause for women. By 1990, over 100,000 people had died of the disease in the United States.

In 1990, Congress passed the Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act, which was designed to improve access to healthcare for poor people and those lacking health insurance who suffered from HIV/AIDS. By this time, the public had become much more aware of the disease and understood that it did not only affect homosexuals and drug abusers. Many cities started holding AIDS walks that raised millions for research. The AIDS Memorial Quilt Project also raised awareness and commemorated those who had died of the disease. People created individual 3-by-6-foot panels celebrating a friend or relative who had died from AIDS. The quilt was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, and represents the largest community art project ever created. Together, the quilt's panels form an unforgettable display designed to ensure that the victims of the disease won't be forgotten.

A study done in the early 1990s showed that free condom distribution and handing out sterile needles and bleach were successful in decreasing new cases of HIV infection, but no federal money was available to sponsor such programs. Cities therefore often did it on their own, handing out thousands of condoms and needles. Such programs helped decrease the number of new AIDS patients in those cities. Advertising programs also encouraged people to use condoms and get tested for HIV.

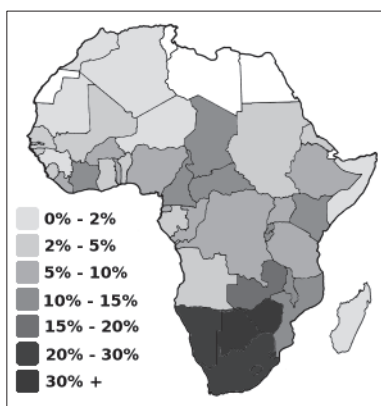
By 1997, testing and condom use had helped decrease the number of deaths from AIDS significantly in the United States, particularly among gay white males and hemophiliacs. However, infection rates and new cases of AIDS were still prevalent in the African American community; most of those infected were IV drug users, along with their partners and children.

Although by 2010 new drugs were developed that, particularly taken in combination with other anti-AIDS drugs, could suppress HIV by 99 %, the costs of these drugs and access to them limited their effectiveness in certain high-risk populations, such as African Americans and Hispanics who were IV drug users.

In 2010, Congress passed the Affordable Care Act, which was designed to require health insurance companies to provide coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, including HIV and AIDS. It was hoped that as more people can get access to new drugs, the death rate would continue to drop.

There is still no cure for AIDS, but new drugs developed between 2000–2010 have, for many, made it more of a chronic condition that can be controlled. How long these drugs will stave off the development of AIDS remains to be seen.

AIDS in Africa



- Of the world's total number of HIV infected people and those suffering from AIDS, two-thirds live in sub-Saharan Africa
- The rates of HIV and AIDS prevalence vary from country to country, from under 1% of the adult population in Senegal to 26% in South Africa
- Over 14.8 million children in Africa are AIDS orphans, having lost either one or both of their parents to AIDS
- Unlike the United States, in Africa the primary modes of transmission are heterosexual sex and in-utero infection
- HIV-AIDS has ravaged Africa's economic and social systems in addition to the impact upon healthcare

AIDS originated in sub-Saharan Africa, which has the world's largest number of people living with HIV—approximately 23 million in 2010. In that same year, there were 1.2 million deaths from AIDS and 1.9 million new infections. The main modes of transmission of the virus are heterosexual and homosexual sex. In North Africa, where the vast majority of people are Muslims, religious strictures against sex between men and premarital sex seems to have kept the number of cases of AIDS and HIV infection lower than those on the rest of the continent.

Although the rates of HIV infection and AIDS differ between countries, the nations of sub-Saharan Africa share some features that make the fight against HIV-AIDS more difficult than it is in some areas of the world. These factors include poverty, struggling economies, poor health and education infrastructures, scarcity of health workers and medical supplies, scarcity of teachers, stigmatizing of groups at risk (such as sex workers and male homosexuals), and, in some cases, slow response by governments to the epidemic.

HIV-AIDS has also ravaged many countries' economies. Most African countries have struggled economically, and HIV-AIDS has hurt the productivity of these economies because AIDS deaths have decreased the overall labor force and increased absenteeism by sick workers. Skilled workers (such as engineers, teachers, and healthcare workers) are not easily replaced. Businesses in those countries that have the highest rates of infection reported that as of 2009, the epidemic had decreased profits for 40% of companies. Economists have estimated that the countries most affected have Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that has decreased by about 1.5% per year; at that rate, the economies in these nations will have been reduced by almost a third by 2015.

This decrease in the economies also results in lower taxes collected by governments at a time when more funds are needed to fight the epidemic. It is a cycle that threatens what progress has been made so far.

HIV-AIDS has put an enormous strain on the healthcare systems of the area. Some countries have lost as much as 17% of their health care workers to AIDS, and a study in South Africa showed that 40% of midwives were infected with HIV, which can put the mothers and infants under their care at risk. Most hospital care is only available in the cities, which lessens the amount of people who can be treated as well as distribution of antiviral drugs that can slow down the progression of HIV into AIDS. In addition, over 50% of all hospital beds are occupied by AIDS patients; many of these people don't get to the hospital until they are extremely ill, so when they are hospitalized it means they need more intensive care and stay hospitalized for longer periods of time.

Picture source:

- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Africa_HIV-AIDS_300px.png

The Effect of AIDS on African Families

- Financial
- AIDS orphans
- Education
- Loss of key members of a village's community



AIDS orphans, Malawi

Perhaps the most heartbreaking effects of HIV-AIDS are the ones on families. The poorer a family, the more severe the consequences of the illness can be. In Africa, men are usually the primary income providers for the family. In rural areas, men are responsible for raising cash crops (coffee, tea, sugar, cocoa) and women grow the grains and yams that make up much of the rural African's diet; women are also responsible for caring for their children. When a man dies, his wife often has to try to earn a living, leaving her children unsupervised. This often leads to children dropping out of school, either because the family cannot afford the school fees or because an older child has to take care of younger ones while the mother works. Furthermore, having a sick parent in a household eats up income that would otherwise go to necessities—even food. When a family member suffers from AIDS, almost 50% of households end up lacking an adequate amount of food at least some of the time. In addition to lost income, families have more expenses when someone gets sick with AIDS because of the money they have to pay for healthcare. They often lose everything of value as they sell anything they can to raise money—even their tools and land. They are often destitute by the time a family member dies, and funeral expenses can then drive them further into debt.

Almost 15 million children have lost parents to AIDS. These deaths often lead to the breakup of families if the remaining parent cannot care for them. Children are also sometimes farmed out to relatives who have economic and/or health concerns of their own. Some children are simply abandoned, and it is not unusual to find one child—perhaps as young as 10 or 12—responsible for the total support of younger siblings. Finally, there are some orphanages that take care of these children, but this is not an ideal solution either for survivors of severe emotional trauma, as is often the case with AIDS orphans. Children raised in orphanages—particularly if they enter at a very young age—often develop problems as they grow older because they have not been socialized to the society they will enter as adults. In addition, babies in orphanages rarely get the nurturing they need in order to be able to form loving, trusting attachments to others as they grow older. Children raised in these circumstances often have difficulty learning, which limits their ability to succeed later in life.

AIDS also has a negative effect on education. In many countries, AIDS has severely decreased the number of teachers, who were already in short supply. In rural areas, village schools often have only one or two teachers. If one or both of them contracts the disease, children's education gets disrupted or ends entirely. In addition, teachers often play an important role in educating the public about HIV-AIDS; with fewer teachers, the community loses an important source of information on how to combat the disease.

Picture source:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Malawi_AIDS_Orphans.jpeg

African Governments' Response to AIDS



President Thabo Mbeki
of South Africa



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
of Uganda

The actions a country's government takes can have an enormous impact on how it deals with the epidemic. Two countries offer prime examples of this: South Africa and Uganda.

From 1999 to 2008, South Africa was headed by President Thabo Mbeki, who doubted that AIDS was caused by a virus. He felt that AIDS was due to poverty, malnourishment, and unsanitary living conditions. His health minister, Manto Tashabalala, doubted the efficacy of antiviral drugs and at one point, Mbeki prohibited public hospitals from distributing them to HIV-AIDS patients. Instead, the health minister recommended eating beetroot and garlic to fight the infection. The long delay in taking measures to prevent further spread of the disease probably cost thousands of South Africans their lives.

Mbeki resigned in late 2008. By 2009, almost six million South Africans had become infected with HIV or had developed AIDS—the highest number of people in any sub-Saharan country, with over 300,000 AIDS deaths occurring that year. The government that took power after Mbeki committed itself to combating the epidemic through mass testing for HIV, educating the public, and distributing condoms. The percentage of people receiving antiviral drugs increased from Mbeki's days to 55% by the end of 2010, and the government made it a goal to soon reach 80% of people. Between February 2010 and May 2011, the number of people receiving antivirals had grown from 923,000 to 1.4 million.

Still, many problems have to be overcome. Rape is rampant in South Africa and with the high rate of HIV infection in men, rape victims often get infected as a result. Obtaining enough antiviral drugs is still difficult, and efforts to increase education about AIDS need to be increased as well. The country has made great strides since the Mbeki days, but as Health Minister Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi said in 2010, "If we stop [doing] anything, we will just reverse all our gains."

In contrast, Uganda started fighting HIV-AIDS aggressively much sooner than South Africa did. In the early 1980s, many people began dying of what was being called the "slim disease," which was recognized as AIDS in 1982. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni came to power in 1986 and immediately recognized that an epidemic was sweeping the country; 29% of urban dwellers were infected with the virus. The major form of transmission was heterosexual sex, particularly between men and female sex workers; the men would then infect their wives, who in turn could pass the virus on to their unborn children.

In 1987, Uganda began to make concerted efforts to control the spread of the disease. It focused on educating the public as to safe sex practices (abstaining, monogamy, and condom use), making sure that the virus was not present in the blood supply so that people could not get it from transfusions, and encouraging a grassroots effort in rural areas to provide medical care and other support to those infected with the virus. As a result of these efforts, by 2001 the number of adults in Uganda with HIV fell from its 1991 high point of 15% to around 5%.

Uganda has dedicated a lot of money to fighting HIV-AIDS, some of it from the government and much of it from international donations. This money allowed the country to supply antiviral drugs free to HIV-AIDS patients since 2004. These drugs have helped cut the transmission of HIV from mothers to their children.

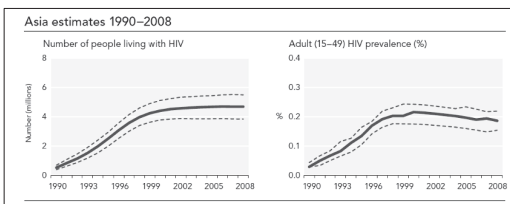
In 2010 over 200,000 people in Uganda received antivirals, but that still was under half the amount needed. One reason for the shortfall is that the world's supply cannot keep up with the need. To counter this problem, Uganda started manufacturing generic forms of the drugs in 2009. Another reason more people are not receiving the drugs has to do with the stigma attached to being identified as having HIV or AIDS, which leads people to avoid treatment for fear of being ostracized by their community. The country has also used almost every form of communication (even including music to billboards) to spread the message not only about changing behavior, but to fight the stigma and prejudice those with the disease often face.

Uganda was also the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to start offering free voluntary AIDS testing, not only in the cities but through a door-to-door campaign in the rural areas. In addition, all patients who visit any healthcare facility—no matter the reason—are tested for HIV unless they "opt out." Only 5% of people told about the test chose not to have it done.

The experience of Uganda shows what can be done when a government puts its full support behind programs designed to prevent the spread of HIV-AIDS and treat those who are already ill.

AIDS in Asia

- 4.79 million HIV-positive people live in Asia
- Asia is home to two of the world's most populous countries: India and China
- Even though infection rates in these countries are relatively low compared to sub-Saharan Africa, millions of people are still affected
- Rates of HIV prevalence vary according to country.
- Main ways the virus spreads: unprotected sex, intravenous drug use, mother-to-child transmission



AIDS came later to Asia than to other parts of the world. The first cases were not discovered until almost a decade after the disease appeared in the west, but by the end of the 20th century the virus had started to appear in many Asian countries.

By 2010, Asia had accounted for more AIDS-related deaths than any other part of the world except sub-Saharan Africa. Some countries have made a lot of progress fighting the disease (such as Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand) while in others such as Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam, the number of people affected continues to rise.

HIV-AIDS has spread in Asia primarily through unprotected heterosexual and homosexual sex, IV drug use, and mother-to-child transmission. Sex tourism is widespread in certain Asian countries such as Thailand and the Philippines; it is possible that the virus entered the continent through such tourists. Moreover, many men in Asia visit sex workers regularly and then transmit the virus to their wives and girlfriends.

IV drug use is the predominant mode of transmission in China, India, Malaysia, and Vietnam. Over 50% of infected people in China are IV drug users. Drug use is common among sex workers, who often take their earnings and buy IV drugs. At the end of 2010, almost 160,000 children were HIV positive; most of them got the virus from their mothers.

As in Africa, countries in Asia have taken different approaches to dealing with the spread of HIV-AIDS.

The first cases of AIDS that appeared in China in 1985 involved people who had traveled abroad. The government responded by refusing to allow students from outside the country to enroll in schools unless they submitted to an HIV test. Until 1989, when cases involving drug users were identified in Yunnan, China refused to believe that AIDS was a domestic problem. By 1998, all of China's 31 provinces had reported cases of HIV infection.

The new century brought forth a new attitude on the part of the government. To fight infection among drug users, it sponsored massive needle-exchange programs in the provinces most affected by AIDS. In 2004, China tried to fight drug use by opening methadone treatment centers. This pilot program resulted in a decrease in drug use and led to more than 600 treatment centers being opened by 2010. Although China's legal system treats drug users harshly, which discourages many of them from coming forward for treatment, programs are in place that try to provide sufficient antiviral drugs to all who need them and to educate the public about safer sex practices.

Thailand's aggressive approach to preventing the spread of HIV-AIDS can serve as a model for all nations, especially in the developing areas of the world. AIDS made its first appearance in Thailand in the mid-1980s; most of the people who developed the disease were sex workers, IV drug users, and sex tourists from abroad. By 1991, HIV prevalence had risen to 40% among IV drug users and 44% among sex workers. These people belonged to groups who were looked down on by most of Thai society, but Prime Minister Anand Panyatachun's government made AIDS prevention a priority. Radio and television stations aired anti-AIDS ads every hour and AIDS education was required in all schools.

One of the biggest sources of HIV infection was sex tourism. The government responded by distributing free condoms to all businesses that catered to the sex trade and insisting that sex workers use them. Follow-up inspections took place later, and any business that ignored the directives was closed down. Without this step, health experts say, the rate of infection among sex workers and their customers would probably be ten times what it is today. Between 1992 and 1996, the government also spent more than \$80 million dollars on its AIDS prevention programs each year. Thailand also made it a priority to provide antiviral drugs to pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

All of these measures reduced the prevalence of HIV in the Thai population, but in recent years some complacency has set in and the government has cut funding for these programs. Health officials are worried that there may be a second wave of infection looming in the future.

AIDS in the Caribbean and Latin America



Patients at a clinic in Haiti



UNAIDS Director Michel Sidibé visits Brazilian children afflicted with AIDS

- As of 2009, the Caribbean islands had a higher rate of HIV infection than anywhere else in the world outside sub-Saharan Africa, but rates varied from country to country
- Heterosexual sex is the main form of AIDS transmission in the Caribbean
- In 2008, Latin America had more people living with HIV than the United States, Canada, Japan, and the United Kingdom combined, but countries have different rates of infection
- Homosexual sex and IV drug use are the main forms of transmission in Latin America

The Caribbean is made up of several island nations with different cultures, languages, political systems and economic conditions. All of these factors affect both the prevalence of HIV in the population and the countries' ways of handling the epidemic. Predominant modes of transmission also differ from country to country; overall though, heterosexual sex is the most common throughout the region.

One example of how geography has affected a nation's response to HIV-AIDS is Haiti. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the poorest in the world. It also has one of the highest infection rates in the region. Before 2010, the country was making progress in reducing the number of new infections by promoting safe sex methods. Training in AIDS education was provided to teachers and volunteers, who would then pass on the information to others. In January 2010, however, a very powerful earthquake centered in the capital, Port-au-Prince, struck the island nation. Since then, efforts to restrict the spread of the disease have been undermined by the country's damaged infrastructure (including roads, airfields, and hospitals) a displaced population, and the diversion of funds for anti-AIDS programs to rebuilding projects help the country recover from the earthquake. Haiti depends greatly on donations from abroad to supply it with antiviral drugs.

Brazil provides another example. The largest country in South America discovered its first AIDS case in 1982 while it was still under a dictatorship. However, a consortium of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and citizen groups demanded not only that Brazil move towards democracy, but that the disease not be ignored. In 1985, Brazil became a democracy and the government set up a program that focused on gay men, the group in which the disease had first occurred. In 1988, Brazil passed a new constitution, which included legal protection against discrimination for people with HIV and asserted their right to free healthcare. Anti-AIDS education continued along with free condom distribution. When antiviral drugs became available, Brazil made them available for free. Since this policy went into effect, the annual death rate from AIDS dropped from 9.6 per 100,000 in 1996 to 6.1 in 2008. In an act that caused tensions with the United States, Brazil contracted with a private drug company to violate the patent on an AIDS drug and produce it on its own. Brazil's public health system also provides free HIV treatment; the process includes counseling and since antiviral drugs became widely available, more people have come forth to be tested.

One advantage Brazil has over other countries in the region is its culture portrays sex not as something to be ashamed about, but as something that can be discussed openly. This has made it easier to educate people about safe sexual behavior. A program to increase condom use has had a great impact on sexual behavior. In 2008, the country opened its first condom factory and, in 2009 almost half a billion condoms were distributed. Condoms are handed out during the carnivals that are celebrated around the country before Lent, when tourism is also high. Brazil has also used celebrities and media to pass along messages about preventing HIV. One of the most innovative uses involves inserting messages into popular soap operas. These shows now feature characters who have HIV. The media campaign also targets sex workers and encourages them to take care in their trade. In Brazil, prostitution is legal. This has resulted in the government being able to approach these workers and establishments without them being afraid of arrest.

Brazil's success has resulted from strong government leadership; effective links between the government, civic groups and NGOs; the promotion of condoms; testing and free treatment; and a strong commitment to overcome the stigma often associated with those affected by HIV-AIDS.

AIDS in Europe

- In Russia and eastern Europe, most of HIV and AIDS patients are intravenous drug users
- In western Europe, most cases of AIDS and HIV infection come both from men having sex with men and from intravenous drug use
- In western Europe, where universal health care is provided by governments, treatment is available to all at little or no cost
- In Russia and eastern Europe, treatment availability is uneven, and social stigma attaches to those who have the virus or the disease



HIV Prevalence in Russia's provinces



A poppy field in Afghanistan

A wide disparity exists between the HIV-AIDS epidemic in the nations of western Europe and those of eastern European countries and the Russian Federation.

As of 2010, about 1.5 million people in eastern Europe, Russia, and central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, etc.) have HIV. More than 90% of those affected live in Russia and the Ukraine. Since 2001, the rate of HIV infections in this region increased by about 250% while sub-Saharan Africa and Asia saw their rates of infection fall.

The most common form of transmission of HIV comes through intravenous drug use. Much of southern Russia borders on Afghanistan and other opium-producing areas. Drug trafficking is rampant throughout the region. Eastern Europe and central Asia are home to more than 3.5 million people who inject drugs; about 25% percent of these people are infected with HIV. Only 70 needle exchange programs exist in Russia, which has over two million IV drug users. Sexual contact accounts for many of the new cases as well. This includes both heterosexual and homosexual sex; one out of every ten new infections afflicts an inmate in prison. Prisoners, drug users, and homosexuals are all regarded with seen as disreputable by eastern European and Russian societies; many education efforts have often been stymied by prejudice.

Distribution of antiviral drugs in these regions falls behind that of several countries that have a much higher percentage of HIV-AIDS sufferers. Part of this is the result of reluctance of drug users to be identified because they may face incarceration. In addition, Russia does not produce its own antiviral drugs, as do India and Brazil, so it remains dependent on imports from other countries. Sometimes the supply is not adequate to fill the need.

In Western Europe, Portugal has the highest rate of HIV infection, at 0.6% of the population. Central European countries generally have the lowest rates, around .01%. The primary mode of transmission of HIV-AIDS in western Europe is through men having sex with other men, while in Central Europe heterosexual sex is the most common means. Western Europe is composed of countries that have strong economies and state-of-the-art, government-run healthcare systems. Both western and central Europe have been most successful in reducing infections passed from mothers to children by testing all pregnant women and putting the ones with HIV on antiviral drugs, thus reducing the number of children born with the virus. In addition, because the healthcare system is well-funded, hospitals do not have to reuse hypodermic needles (as is often the case in Africa) and healthcare workers are well-supplied with the equipment they need to protect themselves from accidental transmission from patients. European countries have also made strong efforts to set up needle exchanges to cut down the incidents on virus transmission in injection drug users. Another problem that still needs to be more effectively addressed is the fact that most European countries have large numbers of immigrants from countries where HIV-AIDS is more prevalent. Often these groups are marginalized within the larger society; language barriers and cultural differences also lead to difficulty in contacting people within these groups. Some countries now offer voluntary counseling, testing, and information leaflets in a variety of languages for immigrants.

However, the very success in fighting the epidemic in Europe has left many complacent, according to virologist François Barré-Sonoussi. "They see HIV-AIDS as a chronic disease—not as one that can kill." This feeling has led to an increase in unsafe sexual behavior, particularly among homosexual men. If this attitude of complacency continues, Europe might see an increase in the number of new cases of HIV-AIDS.

Prevention and Treatment

Drugs That Fight HIV

Giving clean needles to intravenous drug users

Volunteers distributing condoms at Carnival in Brazil

There still is no cure for AIDS. Antiviral drugs are successful in keeping the AIDS virus from proliferating in the body as rapidly (particularly in those diagnosed early), which means that people who have the virus are living healthier and longer lives. Several means of preventing the spread of the virus are also available: treating HIV-infected mothers so that they don't pass the virus to their unborn children, using condoms during sex, distributing clean needles to IV drug users, testing, and circumcision, which lessens the chance of transmission during sex by 60%.

The wide disparity in the way countries deal with this pandemic depends greatly on wealth and the availability of comprehensive healthcare. Countries have to work together to fight this plague.

Picture sources:

- Needles: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Needle_exchange_supplies.jpg
- Condom distribution: Evane Manco

The Harlem Renaissance



Essential Questions

- What were some of the stereotypes whites had of African Americans in the 1920s?
- How did the Harlem Renaissance affect the views whites held about African Americans as well as those that African Americans held about themselves?
- What events sparked the Harlem Renaissance?
- What significant contributions did the artists, writers, and musicians of the Harlem Renaissance make to American culture?

The Harlem Renaissance

- 1920s movement centered in Harlem, an African American neighborhood of New York City
- Included artists, musicians, activists, intellectuals, novelists, playwrights, and poets



The New Negro



Marcus Garvey

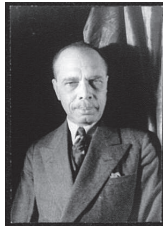
- New black identity
- Racial pride
- Black nationalism
- Marcus Garvey's United Negro Improvement Association
- Urban League

The Harlem Renaissance in Literature

- Countee Cullen
- Langston Hughes
- Claude McKay
- James Weldon Johnson
- Zora Neale Hurston



Claude McKay



James Weldon Johnson



Zora Neale Hurston

Countee Cullen (1903–1946)

"INCIDENT" (1926)

Once riding in old Baltimore,
Heart-filled, head-filled with glee
I saw a Baltimorean
Keep looking straight at me.

Now I was eight and very small,
And he was no whit bigger,
And so I smiled, but he poked out
His tongue, and called me, "Nigger."

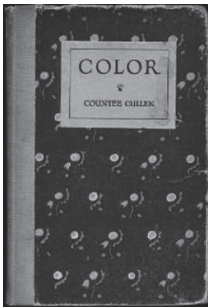
I saw the whole of Baltimore
From May until December;
Of all the things that happened there
That's all that I remember.





1928—Cullen married Yolande Du Bois, daughter of W. E. B. Du Bois, a leading African American intellectual and civil rights activist

“Yet Do I Marvel” from Color



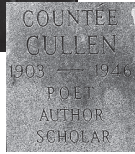
I doubt not God is good, well-meaning, kind,
And did He stoop to quibble could tell why
The little buried mole continues blind,
Why flesh that mirrors Him must some day die,
Make plain the reason tortured Tantalus
Is baited by the fickle fruit, declare
If merely brute caprice dooms Sisypheus
To struggle up a never-ending stair.
Inscrutable His ways are, and immune
To catechism by a mind too strewn
With petty cares to slightly understand
What awful brain compels His awful hand.
Yet do I marvel at this curious thing:
To make a poet black, and bid him sing!

Excerpt from “Heritage”

What is Africa to me:
Copper sun or scarlet sea,
Jungle star or jungle track,
Strong bronzed men, or regal black
Women from whose loins I sprang
When the birds of Eden sang?
*One three centuries removed
From the scenes his father loved,
Spicy grove, cinnamon tree,
What is Africa to me?*



Arna Bontemps



- 1934—Published *One Way to Heaven*, his first novel
- 1935—Published *The Medea and Other Poems*, the first translation of a classical work by an African American writer
- 1940, 1942—Published *The Lost Zoo* and *My Lives and How I Lost Them*, two novels for children
- 1946—Died in New York at the age of 43



Giants of American Music

Essential Questions

- What was distinctive about Cole Porter's music?
- How did Cole Porter's music both reflect and add to the culture of the 1920s?
- What is meant by "nationalist music"?
- What values did Aaron Copland express through his music?
- What is uniquely American about these two composers?

Cole Porter

- Born in Peru, Indiana in 1891
- Attended Yale University
- Wrote approximately 300 songs while there
- Left Harvard Law School to study music
- Moved to New York to begin his career in music
- 1916—First musical, *See America First*, opened on Broadway; closed after two weeks
- Moved to Paris in 1917, served in the French Foreign Legion in during World War I



Porter in Paris in the 1920s



- 1918—World War I ended; Porter took an apartment in Paris
- 1919—Married Linda Lee Thomas; studied at Schola Cantorum with Vincent D'Indy
- 1919–1920—Contributed several songs to revue *Hitchy-Koo* and the musical *A Night Out*



Broadway and Film Success

- *Kiss Me Kate*
- *Can-Can*
- *The Gay Divorcee*
- *Anything Goes*
- *Wake Up and Dream*
- *Red, Hot, and Blue*
- *Silk Stockings*
- *High Society*



Ed Sullivan and Porter on the TV show *Toast of the Town*

Aaron Copland



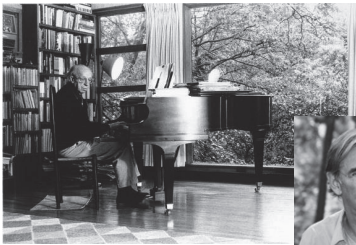
Copland as a teenager

- 1900—Born Brooklyn, NY
- 1917–1921—Studied with some of the best music teachers in New York
- 1921–1924—Studied in Paris
- 1927—Began teaching at the New School for Social Research in New York


- 1932—Founded Festival of Contemporary Music at Yaddo, NY
- 1937—Co-founds the American Composers Alliance
- Wrote *Billy the Kid*, his first ballet
- 1942—Composed score for Rodeo
- 1942—*Lincoln Portrait*
- *Fanfare for the Common Man*



Later Years



Michael Tilson-Thomas



Bayard Rustin

and the
Civil Rights Movement

“The principal factors which influenced my life are: nonviolent tactics; constitutional means; democratic procedures; respect for human personality; a belief that all people are one.”

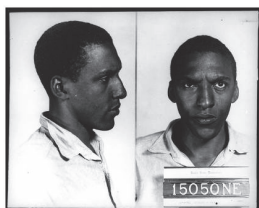
—Bayard Rustin

Essential Questions

- How did ideas about the place of African Americans in American society change between Reconstruction and the 1950s and 1960s?
- How did Bayard Rustin’s homosexuality influence his effectiveness as a civil rights activist?
- How successful was nonviolence as a strategy in the civil rights movement?
- Evaluate Rustin’s statement that nonviolence had to be not just a strategy, but an ideology.

1940s

- 1944—Refused to do military service; convicted, he served two years in jail
- 1946—Joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation and took part in a bus trip through the South testing Jim Crow laws; also participated in sit-ins in restaurants
- 1947—Went to India to study passive resistance with Gandhi



Rustin’s mugshot after he was arrested for failing to report for his Selective Service physical exam during World War II

1950s



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
and Bayard Rustin



Rosa Parks, whose arrest sparked
the Montgomery Bus Boycott

- 1956 – Went to Montgomery, Alabama, to offer Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. advice on how to use Gandhi's methods of nonviolence in the bus boycott
- 1957 – Helped organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

1960s



August, 1963—Organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom that brought 250,000 people to Washington, D. C. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech there

1970s

- Founded and became Director of A. Philip Randolph Institute
- Co-chair of Socialist Party
- Organized Black Americans in Support of Israel; worked to free Soviet Jews
- Served on the Board of Trustees of Notre Dame University
- Served as a global human rights and elections observer for Freedom House



1980s

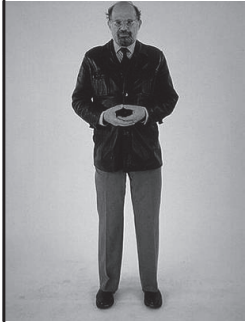


- Became an advocate for gay rights
- Testified on behalf of New York's Gay Rights Bill
- Gave speech: "The New Niggers Are Gays," which claimed that gay rights should be the new focus for civil rights activists
- Died in New York City after a trip to monitor human rights in Haiti

"The barometer of where one is on human rights questions is no longer the black community. It's the gay community, because it is the community which is most easily mistreated."

Bayard Rustin, 1987





Allen Ginsberg and the Beat Movement

“The only thing that can save
the world is the reclaiming of
awareness of the world.
That’s what poetry does.”

—Allen Ginsberg

Essential Questions

- What events led to the emphasis on conformity in the late 1940s and 1950s?
- What were the specific features of American society that the Beat Movement protested against?
- What is the function of art in an era of conformity?
- Is censorship of art ever justified?

The 1950s: The Age of Conformity



Conformity made people feel safe in the Cold War era,
when nuclear war seemed not only possible but imminent



- Emphasis on:
- Family togetherness
 - New consumer products



The Beat Movement

Movement of poets and writers:

- Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, Gregory Corso, Gary Snyder, Lawrence Ferlinghetti

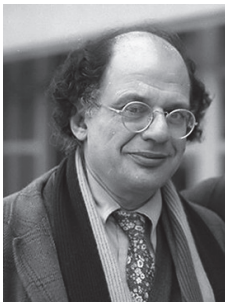


Poets Peter Orlovsky and Allen Ginsberg



William S. Burroughs

Allen Ginsberg



- Influenced by the poets Walt Whitman, William Blake, and William Carlos Williams.
- Experimented with form
- Addressed topics not usually found in American Poetry including drug use and his own homosexuality

Ginsberg gained national fame with his poem “Howl”

“I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked,
dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn looking for an angry fix,
angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the machinery of night”

Poetry in Trial

- 1956—Lawrence Ferlinghetti published “Howl”
- 1957—Ferlinghetti prosecuted for publishing an “obscene” book
- Judge Clayton Horn ruled the book was not obscene because it had “redeeming social value.”



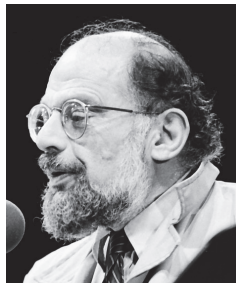
Lawrence Ferlinghetti

“Would there be any freedom of press or speech if one must reduce his vocabulary to vapid innocuous euphemisms?”

—Judge Horton

Later Years

- 1979—Inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters
- 1984—Won the National Book Award for poetry for *Fall of America*
- 1993—French government awarded him the *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres* (Knight of Arts and Letters)
- 1997—Died in New York City



Billie Jean King

The Fight for Equality in Sports for Women



Essential Questions

- How do the achievements of women in sports compare with their achievements in other areas?
- What was the relationship between the women's movement in the 1960s and 1970s and other civil rights movements of that era?
- How have the stereotypes about women's abilities changed in the last century and how have these changes affected women's roles in sports?



King in Ireland for the Irish Open
in the early 1960s

- 1943—Billie Jean Moffitt born in Long Beach, CA
- 1961—At 17, she won the women's doubles tournament at Wimbledon with Karen Hantze
- 1965—Married Larry King
- 1966—Won first of six singles titles at Wimbledon
- 1966-1975—Won 12 Grand Slam Singles titles, nine Grand Slams Women's Doubles titles, ten Grand Slam Mixed Doubles titles

The Women's Movement



Betty Friedan

- 1963—Betty Friedan published *The Feminine Mystique*. The book became a bestseller and helped start the modern women's liberation movement.

- Girls and women began to protest for equal rights in education and employment, as well as reproductive rights



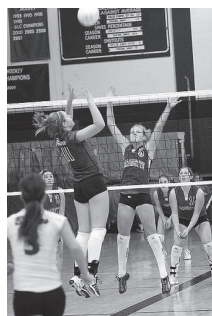


Billie Jean King at Wimbledon



- 1967—Pushed for tennis to become a professional sport
- 1968—The "open" era in tennis began, with tennis players competing for prize money
- 1968—Argued that men and women should receive equal prize money
- 1970—Helped organize the first professional women's Tennis tour, sponsored by Virginia Slims
- 1971—Became the first woman athlete to win over \$100,000 in prize money
- 1972—Won the U. S. Open, but earned \$15,000 less than men's champion Ilie Nastase
- 1973—U. S. Open instituted equal prize money for men and women

- 1971—Testifies before Congress in support of Title IX, which would give girls more opportunities to play sports in school
- 1972—Congress passed Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- 1975—Department of Health, Education, and Welfare published final regulations for institutions to follow in carrying out Title IX
- 2006—The number of women in college sports had increased by 450%



The Battle of the Sexes

1973—King played against Bobby Riggs in the “Battle of the Sexes.” Riggs, a 55-year-old former champion, claimed that he could beat any of the top women players in the world, yet King defeated him in straight sets.



Billie Jean King



Bobby Riggs

- 1974—Started the Women’s Sports Foundation
- 1982—Became commissioner of World Team Tennis, started by her husband and others in 1974
- 1987—Inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame
- 1990—Received the Arthur Ashe Courage Award
- 2000—Recognized by GLAAD for her work in education and service on the boards of several AIDS organizations
- 2006—National Tennis Center in NY renamed the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center



King (center) in the commentators’ box at the 2007 U.S. Open



Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows, NY



2009—President Barack Obama awarded Billie Jean King with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award given by the U.S. government



Harvey Milk and the Gay Liberation Movement

“All men are created equal.
No matter how hard you try,
you can never erase those words.”

—Harvey Milk

Essential Questions

- What are some similarities and differences between the Gay Liberation movement and other liberation movements of the 1960s and 1970s?
- How have ideas about homosexuals changed over the last century?
- Which do you think is a more effective method of achieving social goals: direct action (protests, boycotts, etc.) or political involvement?

Protest Movements of the 1960s



San Francisco New Communities Emerge



The Castro District became the center of gay life in San Francisco



Thousands of hippies gathered in San Francisco for the Summer of Love in 1967



- 1966—Transgender men caused a riot when police tried to arrest them at the Compton Cafeteria in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco for violating the law against men dressing in women's clothes
- 1969—Gay men fought back when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City, and tried to make arrests.
- These events marked the beginnings of the Gay Liberation Movement.

- 1970s—Many states repealed anti-sodomy laws
- 1972—San Francisco became the first city to pass a gay rights law
- 1973—The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders
- 1975—U. S. Civil Service Commission repealed exclusion of LGBT persons from government employment



Gay Pride Parade in New York



Harvey Milk



Anita Bryant

- 1969—Harvey Milk moved to San Francisco from New York
- 1977—Conservative Christians founded the anti-gay rights organization Save Our Children, led by singer Anita Bryant
- 1977—Milk elected to San Francisco Board of Supervisors and gained national recognition as the first openly gay man elected to public office

1978—Milk sponsored a civil rights bill that outlawed any type of discrimination based on sexual orientation



Harvey Milk at work as Supervisor



San Francisco Supervisor
Dan White



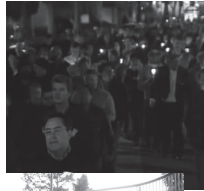
Mayor George Moscone

Only one supervisor out of the 11 on the Board opposed the ordinance: Dan White, a former policeman and fireman who represented a working-class district of the city. White gave his resignation to Mayor George Moscone soon after the bill was passed.



- Nov. 27th, 1978—White shoots and kills Milk and Moscone
- May 21st, 1979—White convicted of voluntary manslaughter instead of premeditated murder based on “diminished capacity”
- Outrage at the outcome of the trial leads to riots in San Francisco

- Milk’s death is remembered with memorials and vigils
- Parks, community centers, and schools have been named in his honor
- At the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, K–5 students celebrate diversity and study tolerance and nonviolence





Out of the Closet and Into the Streets!

The Stonewall Uprising
and the Fight for LGBT Rights



Essential Questions

- What common stereotypes about homosexual men and women did many people in society hold?
- What laws did communities use to restrict homosexual activity?
- How did the Stonewall Uprising affect the LGBT community?
- How has the gay liberation movement affected attitudes toward and beliefs about LGBT people?

Against the Law



Advertisement for public baths that were "Men Only"



Coded advertisement for a gay bar in Westport, Connecticut

The 1950s



Frank Kameny, fired in 1958 from his government job for being gay



Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, organizers of the Daughters of Bilitis, at their 2004 wedding



A scene from the film of Lillian Hellman's play *The Children's Hour*, in which a rumor of lesbianism destroys two women's lives

Against the Law



Booking photos for a woman arrested for being a lesbian



Gay man being arrested by police

June 28th, 1969



Police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village, New York City. Patrons of the bar resisted, and a riot ensued.



Reaction

First gay protest march in New York City following the Stonewall Uprising



Coming Out

In support of gay rights, more LGBT people made their sexual orientation public



Eugene Robinson,
Episcopal Bishop



Congressman
Barney Frank

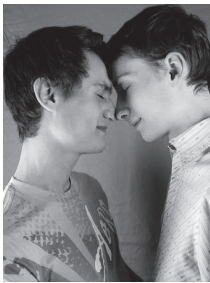


Greg Louganis,
Olympic Diver



Ellen DeGeneres

Changing Attitudes



The Fight for Marriage Equality

- LGBT couples demand recognition of their relationships on equal terms with heterosexual couples
- 1993—Hawaii's State Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage should be legal; the decision was later overturned by a popular vote
- 1989–2003—Denmark, Canada, Croatia, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Argentina, France, Finland, Germany, and other countries legalized some form of same-sex marriage
- 2004—Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same-sex marriages
- By 2011, six states had legalized same-sex marriage, and four others recognized civil unions



Pro-gay marriage marchers in San Francisco

Fighting Discrimination



People protesting "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"



L.T. Dan Choi, West Point graduate and gay rights activist

Study: Gays in the military

Gays who maintain closet begin openly serving with regular rise to U.S. military readiness, according to a long-awaited study by the Pentagon.

If Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) is repealed, and someone in your immediate unit says he/she is gay or lesbian...

... How will that affect your ability to work together to get the job done?

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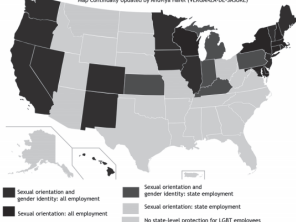
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The Fight Goes On

United States - LGBT Employment Discrimination Law

Situation as of 25 May 2011
Original map from Wikipedia User: G. Lavery
Map Continually updated by Allyson Hale (@WORLDGLOBE)



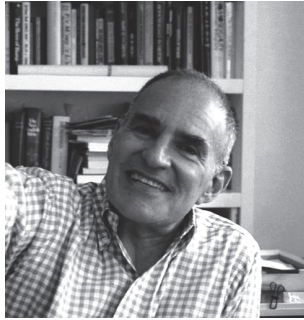
"It Gets Better" Project co-founder Dan Savage

One Person Can Make a Difference

Larry Kramer vs. AIDS

“All power is
the willingness to
accept responsibility.”

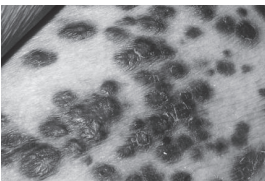
—Larry Kramer



Essential Questions

- What responsibility does the government have for ensuring the health and welfare of all citizens?
- What responsibility do individuals have for the welfare of others in society?
- How much influence should a government official's personal beliefs have on government policies?

A New Disease



A patient afflicted by Kaposi's Sarcoma

- 1980–1981—The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta received reports of young men in California and New York suffering from Kaposi's Sarcoma and Pneumocystis Pneumonia
- Both diseases hadn't been known to afflict otherwise healthy young men
- The illnesses did not respond to treatments
- The only thing the patients had in common was that they were gay

- 1982—Larry Kramer and several friends formed the Gay Men's Health Crisis organization to provide counseling, legal aid, volunteer assistance, and fundraising for AIDS research
- 1987—Three founding members—Paul Popham, Nathan Fain, and Paul Rapaport—died of AIDS



The Reagan Years



- 1980—Ronald Reagan elected President
- He was supported by conservatives and fundamentalist and evangelical Christian groups, including the Moral Majority and the Christian Coalition
- He appointed some people from these groups to high-ranking positions in his administration

Responses to the Epidemic



- **Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority**
“AIDS is the wrath of God upon homosexuals.”



- **Pat Buchanan, Reagan's Director of Communications**
“...[Homosexuals] have declared war on nature, and now nature is exacting an awful retribution.”



- **C. Everett Koop, M. D., Reagan's Surgeon General**
“Most of the people that surrounded Reagan ... believed that anybody who had AIDS ought to die with it. That was God's punishment for them.”

Transmission of AIDS



Ryan White: hemophiliac



Earvin "Magic" Johnson:
heterosexual sex



Elizabeth Glaser—blood
transfusion



Intravenous drug users can get AIDS
from sharing contaminated needles

Daughter Ariel—infected
mother-to-child
transmission through
breast feeding

The Normal Heart

- 1985—Larry Kramer's play *The Normal Heart* premiered at New York's Public Theater
- The play focused on the early days of the AIDS epidemic and the impact the deaths of friends and lovers had on a group of gay men
- It also recounted the founding and early days of the Gay Men's Health Crisis

"*The Normal Heart* was never meant to be a subtle work. Larry Kramer wrote it in 1985 to be a shock to the system, an alarm siren, a blunt instrument to bludgeon Ed Koch's New York, Ronald Reagan's Washington, the indifferent press and complacent medical industry into acknowledging the mysterious disease destroying gay men."

—Newsday review

Act Up



Scenes from a 1989 ACT UP
"die-in" protest in San Francisco

- 1987—Kramer formed ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) to demand more extensive action against the disease
- 1987—Held several demonstrations to condemn minimal government subsidies for AIDS research and lack of access to experimental drugs
- 1988—Occupied the NY Stock Exchange to protest the high cost of AIDS medication (\$10,000 per year)
- 1988—Shut down the Food and Drug Administration because of its slow process for approving new AIDS drugs
- 1990—"Day of Desperation" held, in which banners were displayed in Grand Central Station in NYC that read "Money for AIDS, not for War" and "One AIDS death every 8 minutes"

A Letter from Larry Kramer



"Thank you for coming to see our play.
Please know that everything in *The Normal Heart* happened.
These were and are real people who lived and spoke and died...
Four members of the original cast died as well...
Please know that AIDS is a worldwide plague.
Please know that there is no cure.
Please know that after all this time, the amount of money being spent to find a cure is still miniscule...
Please know that here in America case numbers continue to rise in every category. In much of the rest of the world—Russia, India, Southeast Asia, Africa—the numbers of the infected and the dying are so grotesquely high that they are rarely acknowledged.
Please know that most medications for HIV/AIDS are inhumanly expensive and that government funding for the poor to obtain them is dwindling and often unavailable.
Please know that an awful lot of people have needlessly died and will continue to needlessly die because of any and all of the above.
Please know that the world has suffered at the very least some 75 million infections and 35 million deaths. When the action of the play that you have just seen begins, there were 41."



Dr. Anthony Fauci, Head of AIDS research, National Institute of Health



Kramer at an ACT UP event

"ACT UP put medical treatment in the hands of the patients. And that is the way it ought to be... There is no question in my mind that Larry helped change medicine in this country. And he changed it for the better.
In American medicine, there are two eras: Before Larry and After Larry."

Handicapped or Handicapable?



Essential Questions

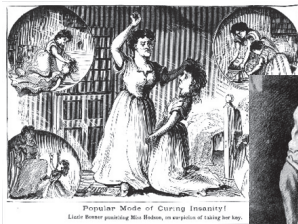
- How do people generally feel about those with physical and mental differences?
- How have the handicapped been treated in previous centuries?
- Why and how have past attitudes toward the handicapped changed?
- How have the actions of individuals affected changes in the way handicapped people are viewed?

What is a Handicap?

A handicap is an aspect of a person's physical or mental state that

- prevents the body from functioning properly
- limits activity or ability to do a certain task
- affects social interaction or ability to learn

The Asylum



A patient kept in a straitjacket



Dorothea Dix

Hellen Keller

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart”

- 1880—Born in Alabama; at 19 months old, a disease left her blind and deaf
- 1887—Anne Sullivan became her teacher; Keller learned language
- 1903—Published her autobiography, *The Story of My Life*
- 1904—Became the first blind person to earn a B. A.—from Radcliffe College
- 1920—Helped found the American Civil Liberties Union
- 1920s—Began work with the American Foundation for the Blind, which she would support for 40 years
- 1964—Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom
- 1968—Died at her home in Connecticut
- 2003—Alabama depicted her on its state quarter



Keller graduating from Radcliffe (top).
Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

- Jan. 30th, 1882—Born in Hyde Park, New York
- 1905—Married Eleanor Roosevelt, a cousin
- 1910—Elected to New York State Senate
- 1913—Became Assistant Secretary of the Navy
- 1921—Contracted polio, leaving his legs paralyzed
- 1928—Elected governor of New York
- 1929—Stock Market crashed, ushering in the Great Depression
- 1932—Elected President of the United States, offering the people a “New Deal” to recover from the Depression
- 1936—Reelected in a landslide
- 1939—Second World War began in Europe
- 1940—Reelected to a third term; first president to serve more than two terms
- Dec. 7th, 1941—Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor; U. S. entered World War II
- 1942–1945—Met with Allied leaders Josef Stalin (U.S.S.R.) and Winston Churchill (Great Britain)
- 1944—Reelected for a fourth term
- April 12th, 1945—Died in Warm Springs, Georgia



Temple Grandin

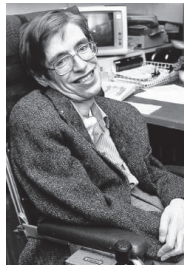
- 1947—Born in Massachusetts
- 1950—Diagnosed with autism
- 1966—Graduated from Hampshire Country School
- 1970—Earned a B. S. in psychology from Franklin Pierce College
- 1975—Earned an M. S. in animal science
- 1986—Published *Emergence: Labeled Autistic*
- 1989—Earned a Ph.D. in animal sciences from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
- 1996—Published *Thinking in Pictures: and Other Reports from My Life with Autism*
- 1990—Became a professor of animal science at Colorado State University



Stephen Hawking

"My goal is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all."

- 1942—Born in Oxford, England
- 1962—Received a B. A. from Oxford University
- 1963—Diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a disease that destroys the nerves that control muscles. Doctors gave him two years to live.
- 1966—Earned Ph.D. from Cambridge; despite doctors' diagnosis, married Jane Wilde
- 1968—Inducted into Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge
- 1969—Started using a wheelchair
- 1974—Demonstrated that radiation can escape black holes, a new discovery that countered previous scientific thinking
- 1979—Named Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge
- 1985—Lost the ability to speak and started using a voice synthesizer to communicate
- 1988—Published *A Brief History of Time*, which sold 25 million copies
- 2009—Retired from teaching at Cambridge





Bethany Hamilton

- 1980—Born in Kauai, Hawaii
- 1988—Entered first surfing competition
- 2003—Lost an arm due to a shark attack
- 2004—Returned to surfing competition; placed fifth in Open Women's Division
- 2005—Won first place, National Championships; received Courage Award from U. S. Sports Academy
- 2007—Turned professional
- 2008—Founded Friends of Bethany Foundation to aid shark attack victims
- 2009—Won second place in World Junior Championships



Jim Abbott

- 1967—Born in Flint, Michigan without a right hand
- 1986—Won the U. S. Sports Academy's Courage Award
- 1987—Won James E. Sullivan Award as best amateur athlete
- 1988—Won gold medal in baseball demonstration event at Summer Olympics
- 1989—Joined California Angels
- 1993—Threw no-hitter against Cleveland Indians while playing for the NY Yankees
- 1999—Retired with career 4.25 ERA

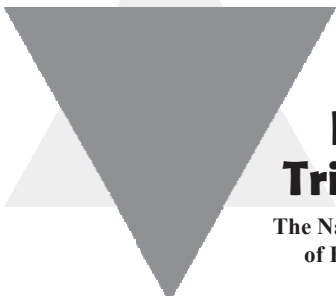
Americans with Disabilities Act



President George H. W. Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act, July 26, 1990

July 26th, 1990—President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, which:

- prohibited discrimination against people with “physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity”
- required making accommodations for the disabled in public transportation and in buildings
- Prohibited employers from discriminating against people with disabilities



Pink Triangles

The Nazi Persecutions of Homosexuals

Essential Questions

- Why was Weimar culture tolerant of homosexuals?
- What historical events led to the rise of the Nazis to power?
- What parts of Nazi ideology made them particularly repressive towards homosexual men?
- How were homosexuals treated compared to other persecuted groups?

Weimar Culture

- 1919—The Democratic parliamentary republic was founded in Weimar, Germany, following the end of World War I
- Culture of this period was one of the richest in art, film, theater, architecture, design, literature, and music
- German Expressionism dominated art and film
- Modernism, an artistic movement, emphasized new forms of writing, painting, architecture, and film
- Advancements were also made in science, technology, and philosophy



Wassily Kandinsky, *Fugue*



Metropolis, a film by Fritz Lang



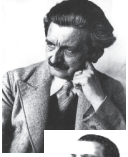
Bauhaus School of Architecture and Design



Poet and playwright Bertolt Brecht

Gay Culture in Weimar Germany

Adolf Brand



Hannah Hoch, artist



Hannah Hoch, *Cut with the Kitchen Knife*



Magnus Hirschfeld,
Institute of Sex Research



Christopher Isherwood
(left) and poet W.H. Auden

Hitler Comes to Power



Ernst Röhm, head of the SA



Nazis burning the library of Magnus Hirschfeld



Hitler and SA (Brownshirts) members
at a Nazi rally



- 1933–1945—approximately 100,000 men arrested for being homosexuals; 50,000 were convicted
- Not known exactly how many were sent to concentration camps
- In the camps, homosexuals had a 60% death rate, compared to 35% for Jehovah's witnesses and 40% for political prisoners



Richard Grune



Albrecht Becker

Klaus and Erica Mann



Klaus Mann in the U. S. Army



Erica Mann

Postwar Period



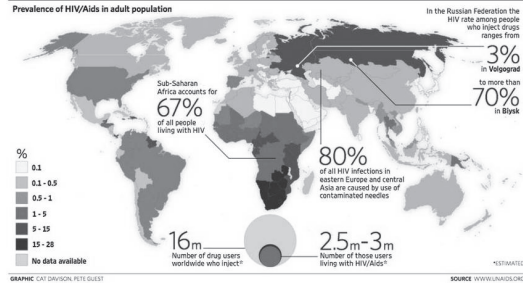
Robert Jackson delivers the opening speech in Nuremberg, Germany at the first trial for war crimes



Berlin memorial to homosexual victims of the Nazis. The inscription reads "Struck Dead, Hushed Up."

AIDS: A Worldwide Plague

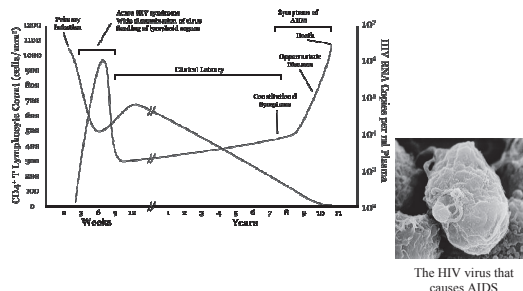
THE WORLDWIDE SCOURGE OF HIV/AIDS



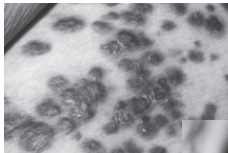
Essential Questions

- What causes AIDS?
- How is AIDS transmitted?
- Why has AIDS been viewed differently than other epidemics?
- What accounts for the different ways in which countries have responded to this disease?
- Do the wealthier countries of the world have an obligation to help poorer countries deal with AIDS?

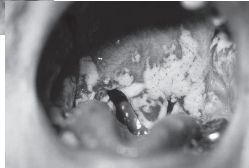
The AIDS Virus



Symptoms of AIDS



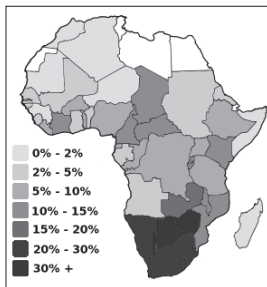
Kaposi's Sarcoma lesions



Oral candidiasis, or Thrush

- Kaposi's Sarcoma
- Pneumocystosis Pneumonia Carinii (PCP)
- Oral candidiasis (Thrush)

Out of Africa

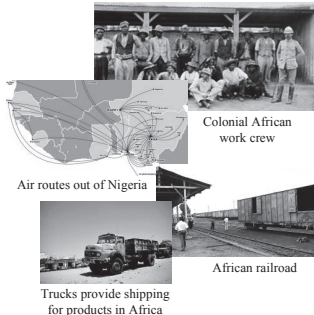


Percentage of people ages 15-49 with HIV/AIDS

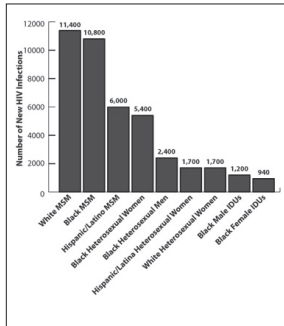
- Scientists have traced AIDS to a virus that developed in chimpanzees in central Africa
- The virus jumped to humans, probably through contact with or eating infected chimpanzees, in the late 19th or early 20th century
- Since HIV takes a long time to develop into full-blown AIDS, people can have the virus for as much as a decade without becoming sick
- The earliest known case of HIV infection was discovered in a plasma sample taken in 1959 from an adult man who lived in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo

How did AIDS Spread Beyond Africa?

- Colonization of Africa probably helped the virus to spread from its central African origins
- Increased urbanization
- Population migration for work crews
- Food supply
- Malnutrition
- Increased travel within Africa
- Modern travel by air, railroad, and trucks



The United States



Dr. Robert Gallo, one of the discoverers of the AIDS virus



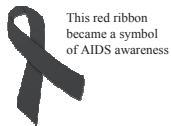
Surgeon General C. Everett Koop



Dr. Anthony Fauci of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia

Combating AIDS

- 1990—Congress passes Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act
- Prevention measures
- AIDS walks and AIDS quilts
- New drugs made AIDS more of a chronic condition rather than a fatal disease

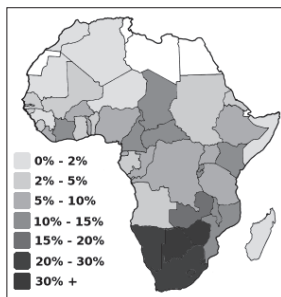


This red ribbon became a symbol of AIDS awareness



Panels of the AIDS quilt at a rally in Washington, D.C.

AIDS in Africa



- Of the world's total number of HIV infected people and those suffering from AIDS, two-thirds live in sub-Saharan Africa
- The rates of HIV and AIDS prevalence vary from country to country, from under 1% of the adult population in Senegal to 26% in South Africa
- Over 14.8 million children in Africa are AIDS orphans, having lost either one or both of their parents to AIDS
- Unlike the United States, in Africa the primary modes of transmission are heterosexual sex and in-utero infection
- HIV-AIDS has ravaged Africa's economic and social systems in addition to the impact upon healthcare

The Effect of AIDS on African Families

- Financial
- AIDS orphans
- Education
- Loss of key members of a village's community



AIDS orphans, Malawi

African Governments' Response to AIDS



President Thabo Mbeki
of South Africa

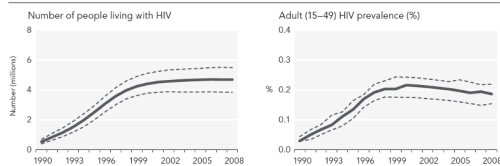


President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
of Uganda

AIDS in Asia

- 4.79 million HIV-positive people live in Asia
- Asia is home to two of the world's most populous countries: India and China
- Even though infection rates in these countries are relatively low compared to sub-Saharan Africa, millions of people are still affected
- Rates of HIV prevalence vary according to country.
- Main ways the virus spreads: unprotected sex, intravenous drug use, mother-to-child transmission

Asia estimates 1990–2008



AIDS in the Caribbean and Latin America



Patients at a clinic in Haiti



UNAIDS Director Michel Sidibé visits Brazilian children afflicted with AIDS

- As of 2009, the Caribbean islands had a higher rate of HIV infection than anywhere else in the world outside sub-Saharan Africa, but rates varied from country to country
- Heterosexual sex is the main form of AIDS transmission in the Caribbean
- In 2008, Latin America had more people living with HIV than the United States, Canada, Japan, and the United Kingdom combined, but countries have different rates of infection
- Homosexual sex and IV drug use are the main forms of transmission in Latin America

AIDS in Europe

- In Russia and eastern Europe, most of HIV and AIDS patients are intravenous drug users
- In western Europe, most cases of AIDS and HIV infection come both from men having sex with men and from intravenous drug use
- In western Europe, where universal health care is provided by governments, treatment is available to all at little or no cost
- In Russia and eastern Europe, treatment availability is uneven, and social stigma attaches to those who have the virus or the disease

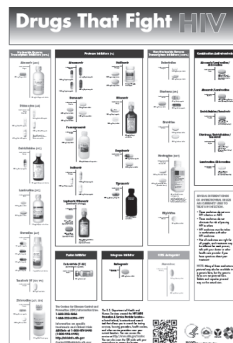


HIV Prevalence in Russia's provinces



A poppy field in Afghanistan

Prevention and Treatment



Giving clean needles to intravenous drug users



Volunteers distributing condoms at Carnival in Brazil
