

## **Ch 30 Section 3 A Nation Divided**

### **The Working Class Goes to War**

#### **A “Manipulatable” Draft**

- Selective Service System, **draft**, calls men 18–26 to military service
- Thousands look for ways to avoid the draft
- Many—mostly white, affluent—get college deferment
- 80% of U.S. soldiers come from lower economic levels

#### **African Americans in Vietnam**

- African Americans serve in disproportionate numbers in ground combat
- Defense Dept. corrects problem by instituting draft lottery in 1969
- Racial tensions high in many platoons; add to low troop morale

#### **Women Join the Ranks**

- 10,000 women serve, mostly as military nurses
- Thousands volunteer: American Red Cross, United Services Organization

### **The Roots of Opposition**

#### **The New Left**

- **New Left**—youth movement of 1960s, demand sweeping changes
- **Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), Free Speech Movement (FSM):**
  - criticize big business, government; want greater individual freedom

#### **Campus Activism**

- New Left ideas spread across colleges
- Students protest campus issues, Vietnam war

### **The Protest Movement Emerges**

#### **The Movement Grows**

- In 1965, protest marches, rallies draw tens of thousands
- 1966, student deferments require good academic standing
  - SDS calls for civil disobedience; counsels students to go abroad
- Small numbers of returning veterans protest; protest songs popular

#### **From Protest to Resistance**

- Antiwar demonstrations, protests increase, some become violent
- Some men burn draft cards; some refuse to serve; some flee to Canada

### **War Divides the Nation**

- **Doves** strongly oppose war, believe U.S. should withdraw
- **Hawks** favor sending greater forces to win the war
- 1967 majority of Americans support war, consider protesters disloyal

#### **Johnson Remains Determined**

- LBJ continues slow escalation, is criticized by both hawks and doves
- Combat stalemate leads Defense Secretary McNamara to resign