

Ch 30 Section 4 1968: A Tumultuous Year

The Tet Offensive Turns the War

A Surprise Attack

- 1968 villagers go to cities to celebrate Tet (Vietnamese new year)
- Vietcong among crowd attack over 100 towns, 12 U.S. air bases
- **Tet offensive** lasts 1 month before U.S., S. Vietnam regain control
- Westmoreland declares attacks are military defeat for Vietcong

Tet Changes Public Opinion

- Before Tet, most Americans hawks; after Tet, hawks, doves both 40%
- Mainstream media openly criticizes war
- LBJ appoints **Clark Clifford** as new Secretary of Defense
- After studying situation, Clifford concludes war is unwinnable
- LBJ's popularity drops; 60% disapprove his handling of the war

Days of Loss and Rage

Johnson Withdraws

- Senator **Eugene McCarthy** runs for Democratic nomination as dove
- Senator **Robert Kennedy** enters race after LBJ's poor showing in NH
- LBJ announces will seek peace talks, will not run for reelection

Violence and Protest Grip the Nation

- Riots rock over 100 cities after Martin Luther King, Jr. is killed
- Kennedy wins CA primary; is fatally shot for supporting Israel
- Major demonstrations on over 100 college campuses

A Turbulent Race for President

Turmoil in Chicago

- Vice-president **Hubert Humphrey** wins Democratic nomination
- Over 10,000 demonstrators go to Chicago
- Mayor Richard J. Daley mobilizes police, National Guard
- Protesters try to march to convention; police beat them; rioting
- Delegates to convention bitterly debate antiwar plank

Nixon Triumphs

- Nixon works for party for years, wins 1968 Republican nomination
- Campaign promises: restore law and order, end war in Vietnam
- Governor **George Wallace** is third-party candidate
- Champions segregation, states' rights; attracts protest-weary whites
- Nixon wins presidency