1968 Democratic National Convention

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Exhibit
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While choosing our topic, our team was immediately drawn to a moment in history that not only marked a significant turning point but also affected the challenges seen in today's world. Initially, we searched for historical events that were famous and well-known. However, we quickly realized that while many of these events were significant, they were not very relevant to the issues society faces today. This led us to choose an event that has long-lasting impacts and can be related to our current society. The event we chose was the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. This event stood out as a representation of a society and world in chaos, consisting of resistance to the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and widespread demands for economic justice. During this era, various groups from hippies to civil rights activists to college students protested and fought for what they believed in.

Our approach to researching this event was extensive. We reviewed primary sources such as newspapers and speeches from the time, which offered insights into the emotional atmosphere and firsthand experiences of individuals directly impacted by the events. Then, we researched scholarly articles and books which gave us a broader understanding of the event's impact on American society. This blend of primary sources and academic perspectives helped us to present both analyses and the emotion and chaos of the convention.

Choosing to present our findings on an exhibit board was a choice that allowed us to enhance the visual impact of our research. This format enabled us to vividly showcase key aspects of the event, especially highlighting the harsh reality of police brutality and the widespread public outcry it sparked. We also selected headlines and powerful images in order to craft a visual story that would engage viewers and encourage them to consider the historical importance of the protests as well as the event’s relevance to today's ongoing discussions about police brutality and political polarization.

This project is a 'Turning Point in History,' as it shows a period when America was extremely politically divided, and also the first time when police brutality was enacted against people from all sorts of backgrounds. The deep rifts within American society were also exposed by the protests at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. This foreshadowed many of the issues we still confront today, such as political division, the influence of media on public opinion, and most importantly, police brutality. This project allowed us to personally connect the past to the present and witness prolonged issues that occurred in the past and still occur today.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

"Antiwar Protesters in Chicago Riots, 1968." In *The Vietnam Era*. American Journey. Woodbridge, CT: Primary Source Media, 1999. Gale in Context: U.S. History.
This image was used to represent the protestors and show their anger toward the situation such as the Vietnam war by raising their fists toward the sky.

Catholic Church. Archdiocese of Miami, and FL Miami. "The Voice, August 23, 1968." *JSTOR*. https://jstor.org/stable/community.15589313.
This image of a newspaper article provided insights into how the media covered the demonstrations, protests, and convention. It also showed us news and the events happening during that time.

"Chicago: A Post-Mortem." In *American Decades Primary Sources*, edited by Cynthia Rose, 412-16. Vol. 7. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2004. Gale eBooks.
I used this book to understand the conflicts at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, focusing on the clashes between protesters and police. It provided insights into how these events influenced public opinion and media coverage during a pivotal moment in American political history.

C-Span. Aired August 21, 1996 (first broadcast August 21, 1996), on C-Span. https://www.c-span.org/video/?74510-1/1968-democratic-convention
This Newsreel footage from 1968 showed the violence both outside and on the convention floor during 1968. It gave us insights into how violent the protests were

Davis, Rennie. "Letter from Rennie Davis to Potential Recruits, April 30, 1968." In *Gale U.S. History Online Collection*. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2015. Gale in Context: U.S. History.
I used this letter by Rennie Davis to explore the strategies of the Students for a Democratic Society in engaging soldiers during the Vietnam War era. It helped me understand their approach to fostering anti-war sentiment among military personnel through non-confrontational means.

Donna Mickleson, Chu Lai, San Anselmo, Gregory K. Swanson, and Gene Roberts. "The Ally." *JSTOR*, no. 9 (1968,09,01). JSTOR.
This newspaper article provided insights into the perspectives of soldiers and veterans on the Vietnam War and how they opposed it.

Elder, Robert K. "The Vietnam War." *The New York Times*. https://upfront.scholastic.com/issues/2022-23/031323/the-vietnam-war.html?language=english.
We used the image and placed it into our exhibit to show the brutality and the dangers in Vietnam, it shows why so many people were opposed to the war.

From the Archives: Look Back at The 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Performed by NBC Chicago. NBC, 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDwKyoSmhow
This is a video of the convention that we planned to use for a website, however, we decided to change our project to an exhibit.

Kazin, Michael. "What I Saw at the Revolution That Didn't Happen." *Dissent (0012-3846)* 70, no. 3 (2023): 93-110. https://doi.org/10.1353/dss.2023.a906666.
This source gave a first-hand perspective on how politically divided the country was at the time and the politics that were involved at the convention.

Marvin Garson, Marjorie Heins, Beezlebub, Wayne Collins, Julien Sorel, Donna Mickleson, Mark Kleiman, John Ross, Terry Cannon, Todd Gitlin, Julius Lester, Anne Treseder, Vicki Weisman, Kathy Mulherin, Arthur Johnston, Beelzebub, John Hutchison, Stella a.G. freebody, and Anathin. "San Francisco Express Times." *JSTOR* 1, no. 33 (1968,09,04). JSTOR.
This newspaper provided us with photos, cartoons, and an article that reported the events of the 1968 DNC. It also gave us insight into how the media portrayed the events of the convention.

"Mike Wallace Being Escorted / Forced Away from Democratic National Convention, Chicago, 1968." *JSTOR*. https://jstor.org/stable/community.33898386.
This is an image that shows police forcefully escorting journalist Mike Wallace somewhere. It provides insight into how the media was treated during the convention. `

"Nixon, Richard M." In *Vietnam War Reference Library*, 77-94. Vol. 4. Detroit, MI: UXL, 2001. Gale in Context: U.S. History.
This source gives us insight into how President Nixon handled the Vietnam War and provides an excerpt from his “Silent Majority” speech.

Photographers, Magnum. "Tipping Point: The 50th Anniversary of the 1968 Democratic National Convention Riots in Chicago." *Magnus*, August 1968. Magnus.
This image depicts scenes from the protest at the convention. One of many that we might include in the final.

Raymond Depardon Anti-war protestors confront Federal troops in Grant park. Illinois, Chicago. USA. 1968. © Raymond Depardon | Magnum Photos
This image shows federal troops in Grant Park. An image we may use in the final.

"'Remember Chicago, 1968, 1988, Stop the War Now, Democratic National Convention' Black and White Button with Peace Sign and Fist." *JSTOR*.
https://jstor.org/stable/community.35078715.
This image is of a pin from the convention. An image we did not use in the final but was helpful.

Robinson, John P. "Public Reaction to Political Protest: Chicago 1968." *The Public Opinion Quarterly* 34, no. 1 (1970): 1-9. JSTOR.

This source gives us a direct report of the public reaction to the happenings of the 1968 Democratic National Convention. It provides insight into how it affected society during the time.

"Strategy of Confrontation - Chicago and the Democratic National Convention, 1968." U.S. Department of Justice. Last modified September 6, 1968. Accessed December 14, 2023. https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/strategy-confrontation-chicago-and-democratic-national-convention#0-0.
This is an incredibly interesting source that gives insight into the FBI's report on the events of the 1968 DNC. It shows the violence and plans of both sides, not just of the police.

"Vietnam War Spurs Unrest in Chicago." In *The Cold War*, edited by Walter Hixson. American Journey. Woodbridge, CT: Primary Source Media, 2000. Gale in Context: U.S. History.
This is an image of police beating a protestor.

Waxman, Olivia B. "'Violence Was Inevitable': How 7 Key Players Remember the Chaos of 1968's Democratic National Convention Protests." *Time Magazine*, August 28, 2018. Time Magazine.
We used this source for photographs of protestors for our exhibit.

"The Yippies." In *The Sixties in America Reference Library*, edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast, 191-99. Vol. 3. Detroit, MI: UXL, 2005. Gale in Context: U.S. History.
This source gives us insight into who exactly the Yippies were.

Hautzinger, Daniel. Chicago's Forgotten 'Days of Rage'. Photograph. October 8, 2019. wttw.
This is an image of a newspaper headline from the 1968 DNC and riots.

Secondary Sources

"Abbie Hoffman." In *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2nd ed., 437-39. Vol. 7. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2004. Gale eBooks.
This source gave us insights into who Abbie Hoffman was and also information on the Chicago Seven and the Yippies.

Christiansen, Paul. "This Time Vote like Your Whole World Depended on It:." In *Orchestrating Public Opinion: How Music Persuades in Television Political Ads for US Presidential Campaigns, 1952–2016*, 63-72. N.p.: Amsterdam University Press, 2018. JSTOR.
This source showed how the media portrayed the convention and also the extent the protests were televised.

Culbert, David. "Television's Visual Impact on Decision-Making in the USA, 1968: The Tet Offensive and Chicago's Democratic National Convention." *Journal of Contemporary History* 33, no. 3 (1998): 419-49. JSTOR.

This source illustrated how the convention was televised and also listed some of the impacts that occurred after the convention was broadcast.

Elliott, Mai, and James A. Thomson. "The Tet Offensive." In *RAND in Southeast Asia: A History of the Vietnam War Era*, 285-348. N.p.: RAND, 2010. JSTOR.
This source provided more information on the Vietnam War and also revealed to us what the Tet Offensive was.

Flamm, Michael W., and David Steigerwald. *Debating the 1960's: Liberal, Conservative, and Radical Perspectives*. Edited by James T. Patterson. N.p.: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers, n.d.
This source gave us context into what the 1960s was like and allowed us to understand why the events of the 1968 DNC occurred the way that they did.

Gillon, Steven M. "The Revolution That Was 1968." History. Last modified January 31, 2019. Accessed November 30, 2023. https://www.history.com/news/the-revolution-that-was-1968.
This source gave us photographs and an overview of the revolutionary year of 1968.

Hinz, Uta. "'1968' in Context: Protest Movements in the 1960s." *Contemporary European History* 20, no. 2 (2011): 233-42. JSTOR.
This source gave us context of the turbulent decade that the 1960s was, allowing us to better understand the state of the country and society.

Hitlin, Robert. "Support for Changes in the Convention System, 1968." *The Western Political Quarterly* 26, no. 4 (1973): 686-701. https://doi.org/10.2307/447144.
This source gave us information on the convention, allowing us to gain a better understanding and greater context about our event.

Hudson, Lee. "Looking back at the 1968 Democratic National Convention." Politico. Last modified April 11, 2023. Accessed December 14, 2023. https://www.politico.com/news/2023/04/11/looking-back-at-the-1968-democratic-national-convention-00091441.
This source gave us more context and a wide overview of the convention and helped us write about the impacts of the convention.

Isserman, Maurice, and Micheal Kazin. *America Divided: The Civil War of the 1960s*. Sixth ed. Vols. Sixth Edition. N.p.: Oxford University Press, n.d.
This source gave us more insight and analysis of the 1960s and what American society was like during this time.

"Jerry Rubin." In *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2nd ed., 344-46. Vol. 13. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2004. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3404705612/GVRL?u=bullischl&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=f0017eac.

This source gave us information about Jerry Rubin, one of the leaders of the protests and a key figure in this event.

Johnson, Haynes. "1968 Democratic Convention." *Smithsonian Magazine*, August 2008. Smithsonian Primary Sources in U.S. History.
This source gave us an overview of the DNC, providing us with context and summary.

McDONALD, Joseph. "Chicago, 1968: 'Rights in Conflict' and Rights in Conflict." *RQ* 9, no. 2 (1969): 124-27. JSTOR.
This source had information on police brutality and events happening outside of the convention.

McNair, Glenn. "FROM THE EDITOR." *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 103, no. 3 (2019): 171-72. https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=6a35ccd5-6df4-3ae5-84ed-677429a00633.
This source gave us insight into the historical effect of the convention.

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This source showed us what was going on outside of the convection. Police brutality and protesting.

Nelson, Justin A. "Drafting Lyndon Johnson: The President's Secret Role in the 1968 Democratic Convention." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 30, no. 4 (2000): 688-713. JSTOR.
This article had information on the inside of the convention. Had information about Watergate and more of the political side.

"Richard J. Daley." In *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2nd ed., 373-75. Vol. 4. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2004. Gale eBooks.
This source gave us information about the convention and the protest outside.

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This source gave us a broader idea of the convention.

Schmidt, John R., and Wayne W. Whalen. "Credentials Contests at the 1968 -- and 1972 -- Democratic National Conventions." *Harvard Law Review* 82, no. 7 (1969): 1438-70. https://doi.org/10.2307/1339755.
This source provided information on credential disputes and internal Democratic Party reforms and how those disputes and tension led to the convention and protests.

Soule, John W., and James W. Clarke. "Amateurs and Professionals: A Study of Delegates to the 1968 Democratic National Convention." *The American Political Science Review* 64, no. 3 (1970): 888-98. https://doi.org/10.2307/1953470.
This source showed us information from inside the convention and the perspective of the protestors.

Summerlin, Donnie. "'We Represented the Best of Georgia in Chicago': The Georgia Loyalist Delegate Challenge at the 1968 Democratic National Convention." *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 103, no. 3 (2019): 211-53. Academic Search Premier.
This source showed information about the people who attended the protest, their opinions on the convention, and what they did at the riot.

"IN THE BELLY of THE BEAST: BLACK POLICEMEN COMBAT POLICE BRUTALITY in CHICAGO, 1968–1983." *The Journal of African American History* 98, no. 2 (2013): 253-76. https://doi.org/10.5323/jafriamerhist.98.2.0253.
This source gave us lots of information on acts of police brutality happening at the convention. We used this information to help us support our turning point.

"The Trial of the Chicago Seven." In *American Decades*, edited by Judith S. Baughman, Victor Bondi, Richard Layman, Tandy McConnell, and Vincent Tompkins. Vol. 7. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2001.
https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3468302323/GVRL?u=bullischl&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=41c54ad0.
This showed us more information about the Chicago Seven trial and allowed us to see the aftermath of the convention.

Urgo, Joseph R. "Comedic Impulses and Societal Propriety: The Yippie! Carnival." *Studies in Popular Culture* 10, no. 1 (1987): 83-100. JSTOR.
This article showed us information on the Yippie group. This helped us understand how college students were involved.

"Violent Confrontations Mar the Chicago Democratic National Convention, 1968." In *Historic U.S. Events*. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2023. Gale in Context: U.S. History.
This source touched on the police brutality at the convention. We used to for ideas on our turning point.

Westwood, Jean Miles, and Floyd A. O′Neil. "PREPARING for THE 1968 CONVENTION." In *Madame Chair: A Political Autobiography of an Unintentional Pioneer*, by Linda Sillitoe, 55-66. N.p.: University Press of Colorado, 2007.
https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt4cgq53.8.
This source showed us what was going on before the convention. Giving us good background information.

Wilk, Jocelyn. "1968: Columbia in Crisis." Columbia University Libraries.
https://exhibitions.library.columbia.edu/exhibits/show/1968/protests.

This source showed us things happening in 1968 on Columbia's campus for background information.

Willbanks, James H. "Hoffman, Abbie (1936–1989)." In *Vietnam War Almanac*, 481. Facts on File Library of American History: Almanacs of American Wars. New York, NY: Facts on File, 2009. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX1692900070/GVRL?u=bullischl&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=cc441456.
This source gave me more information about the Vietnam War and why the situation was so upsetting to the people at that time.

"William M. Kunstler." In *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2nd ed., 131-33. Vol. 9. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2004. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3404703654/GVRL?u=bullischl&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=ba15e9fe.
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Wills, Matthew. "The Dirtiest Piece of Writing in Print." JSTOR Daily. Last modified August 27, 2018. Accessed December 14, 2023. https://daily.jstor.org/the-dirtiest-piece-of-writing-in-print/.
The 1968 DNC was overshadowed by anti-war demonstrations. The Walker Report describing the events became controversial for the obscenities it contained. This showed us insight into the anti-war demonstrations.

Woods, Randall Bennett. "LBJ, Politics, and 1968." *South Central Review* 16/17 (1999): 16-28. https://doi.org/10.2307/3190073.
This source gave us a background on the political climate during the time, it went in depth about the civil rights movements and the perspective of African Americans as well at the time.