

Nixon - Reactions to Protest Movements, social change, economic change, and the end of the post war boom

Reactions to protest movements and forces of social change

Middle America is tired of protests than 84% of Americans believe student demonstrators were treated to leniently. Protesters disrupted Nixon's inauguration in the autumn of 1969 tens of thousands participated in the largest ever anti war movements a moratorium. In spring 1970, Nixon appeared to be extending the war in Vietnam to that in Cambodia and anti-war protests erupted in over 80% of American universities. In Ohio Kent state students rioted and Fire bombed ROTC building then the National Guard panic during a peaceful protest and four students with shot dead and 11 were wounded. Over half of Americans blame the students but Nixon's comment about ' bombs blowing up the campuses' angered others.

Nixon you several methods to decrease the protests for example:

1. He time to troop withdrawals from Vietnam to forestall popular protest
2. he adjusted then removed the draft
3. he threatened to end federal scholarships and lanes for convicted student criminals or those who had seriously violated campus regulations
4. he ordered surveillance of destructive group
5. took protesters to court for example 100000 in Washington in 1970 which kept protesters busy and broke because of the legal fees incurred

The student movement was running out of steam because:

1. The authorities will not acceding to student demands
2. effectiveness of the authorities was well as stated in 1969 when 28 black panthers were killed by the police and hundreds were imprisoned
3. the student movement was divided some students favoured revolutionary terrorism and others felt politics was a waste of time
4. the prosecution surveillance and ending of the draught distracted and discouraged student protesters

By the end of Nixon's presidency the forces of social and political change she and exhausted

Economic change and the end of the post war boom

Nixon inherited a problematic economy and during 1969 to 71 there still problems:

1. The already massive federal deficit increased greatly
2. inflation and unemployment continue to rise
3. the productivity of American industry continue to decline
4. the flood of Japanese and German imports continue to engage her America's balance of trade which damage the dollar

This LED Nixon to introduce a new economic policy (NEP) in August 1971, wages and prices were frozen and a dollar was devalued. NEP got a 75% approval rating and the

devaluation stimulated exports but another devaluation in 1973 was ineffective and the abandonment of wage price controls resulted in the great inflation of 1973.

There were great underlying problems in the American economy:

1. Foreign products for even cheaper and better than American
2. in the 30 years after the Second World War America went from energy self-sufficiency to an energy deficit. America had 6% of the world's population but consumes 33% of the world's oil. Around 30% of the oil the America used was imported mostly from the middle East
3. Nixon support of Israel in the 1973 Arab Israeli war leading organisation of petroleum exporting countries called opec which then called an embargo on America, after which the price of oil increased by 387% for Americans. Cheap oil had fuelled America's post-war boom but this was now an energy crisis business industry and consumers was suffering from The Rising cost of oil.
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