

History 901  
THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1945

Mr. Kutler  
Fall 1986

William Chafe, THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY, is the basic "text" for the course. In addition, the weekly assignments designated with an asterisk (\*) are required, and are on reserve in either the State Historical Society or the Memorial Library. I have listed additional suggested readings that also are on reserve. You are urged to familiarize yourself with some of these works. In the event you cannot read the assigned material, you might improvise with the suggested readings. Be sure to use Chafe's bibliography for further suggestions.

You will, of course, have written assignments. But your grade largely will be determined by your weekly seminar performances. You are expected to be prepared and to contribute to the discussion. Each week, one of you will be responsible for beginning the session by posing what you think are the basic questions or problems involved in the topic. The questions should be those generated from both the text reading and the specialized assignments. Once again, all of you will participate in the discussion.

The writing assignments are as follows:

1) Each of you will read THE MEMOIRS OF RICHARD NIXON. Then you will select another presidential memoir -- those by Truman, Eisenhower, Johnson, Ford, or Carter -- and compare and contrast the two.

DUE DATE: November 25, 1986

2) Each week, read a contemporary periodical essay relative to our topic. For example, you might select something on McCarthyism from either THE NEW REPUBLIC or THE AMERICAN MERCURY. Try to spread your readings across a broad spectrum of political views. Obviously, you should use your reading in the weekly discussion. But I also want you to keep a log. Briefly summarize each article. You may do so in 50-100 words. Then evaluate the piece for a) its value as a contemporary insight or "document" of the time; b) how the content and/or interpretation of the essay has been sustained over time. The latter can be done in 100-200 words. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO READ ONE ARTICLE PER WEEK.

DUE DATE FOR LOG: DECEMBER 9.

3) Your major assignment is to write an essay, 3-5 pages, formulating a conceptualization of "The United States Since 1945." The paper is due on December 9 and will be discussed in class at that time.

ASSIGNMENTS:

September 2 INTRODUCTION

September 9 POSTWAR PROSPERITY: THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD

\*Chafe, Chs. 1, 5, pp. 91-97  
 \*John K. Galbraith, AMERICAN CAPITALISM  
 \*Read one of the following: David Riesman, LONELY CROWD; C. Wright Mills, THE POWER ELITE; William Whyte, THE ORGANIZATION MAN  
 Galbraith, THE AFFLUENT SOCIETY  
 Russell Davenport, U.S.: THE PERMANENT REVOLUTION  
 David Potter, PEOPLE OF PLENTY

September 16, 23 THE COLD WAR

\*Chafe, Chs. 2, 3  
 \*John Gaddis, THE US AND THE ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR  
 \*Walter LaFeber, AMERICA, RUSSIA AND THE COLD WAR  
 \*Akira Iriye, THE COLD WAR IN ASIA  
 \*Tom McCormick, "Drift or Mastery?: A Corporate Synthesis," in REVIEWS IN AMERICAN HISTORY (December 1982)  
 Martin Sherwin, A WORLD DESTROYED  
 Lloyd Gardner, ARCHITECTS OF ILLUSION  
 Adam Ulam, CONTAINMENT AND COEXISTENCE  
 Robert Tucker, THE RADICAL LEFT IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

September 30 THE POLITICS OF THE WELFARE STATE, 1945-65

\*Chafe, Chs. 4, 7, 8  
 \*Theodore Lowi, THE END OF LIBERALISM or Allen Matusow, THE UNRAVELING OF AMERICA  
 \*Robert Griffith, "Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Corporate Commonwealth," AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW (February 1982)  
 \*Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., "The Ike Age Revisited," REVIEWS IN AMERICAN HISTORY (March 1983), pp. 1-11.  
 Alonzo Hamby, BEYOND THE NEW DEAL: TRUMAN AND LIBERALISM  
 Jim Heath, DECADE OF DISILLUSION  
 Charles Alexander, HOLDING THE LINE  
 Stephen Ambrose, EISENHOWER (vol. 2)  
 Robert Donovan, TRUMAN (2 vols.)

Henry Fairlie: THE KENNEDY PROMISE; THE POLITICS OF EXPECTATION

October 7                    CIVIL LIBERTIES

\*Chafe, pp. 97-108  
 \*David Cate, THE GREAT FEAR or David Oshinsky, A CONSPIRACY SO IMMENSE or Thomas Reeves, McCARTHY  
 \*Stanley Kutler, THE AMERICAN INQUISITION, Introduction, Chs. 2, 6, 7, and Epilogue  
 Joseph Starobin, AMERICAN COMMUNISM IN CRISIS  
 Michal Belknap, COLD WAR POLITICAL JUSTICE

October 14                    THE STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

\*Chafe, Chs. 6, 14  
 \*Harvard Sitkoff, THE STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL EQUALITY or J. Harvey Wilkerson, FROM BROWN TO BAKKE: SUPREME COURT AND SCHOOL INTEGRATION  
 Numan Bartley, THE RISE OF MASSIVE RESISTANCE  
 Richard Luger, SIMPLE JUSTICE  
 Clayton Carson, IN STRUGGLE: SNCC AND THE BLACK AWAKENING  
 Manning Marable, RACE, REFORM AND REBELLION

October 21, 28                THE VIETNAM WAR AT HOME AND ABROAD

\*Chafe, chs. 9, 10, 11, 12  
 \*George Herring, AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR  
 \*Peter Baestrup, THE BIG STORY  
 \*Select one of the following: REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDERS (Kerner Commission); William O'Neill, COMING APART; Joseph Conlin, THE TROUBLES: A JAUNDICED GLANCE AT THE SIXTIES; Wini Breines, COMMUNITY & ORGANIZATION IN THE NEW LEFT: THE GREAT REFUSAL; or Irwin Unger, THE MOVEMENT: A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN NEW LEFT.  
 Lewis Chester, Godfrey, Hodgson, AN AMERICAN MELODRAMA  
 Theodore Roszak, THE MAKING OF A COUNTERCULTURE  
 Todd Gitlin, THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING: MASS MEDIA AND THE NEW LEFT

November 4, 11                RICHARD THE GOOD OR THE BLACK KNIGHT?

1. Domestic Reorganization and Detente  
 \*Chafe, chs. 12, 13  
 \*Richard Nathan, THE PLOT THAT FAILED  
 \*Roger Morris, UNCERTAIN GREATNESS  
 \*Richard Nixon, MEMOIRS (relevant chapters) or Henry Kissinger,

THE WHITE HOUSE YEARS (relevant chapters)

2. Watergate

\*Select one: J. Anthony Lukas, NIGHTMARE; Theodore White, BREACH OF FAITH; Elizabeth Drew, WATERGATE JOURNAL.

\*Richard Nixon, MEMOIRS (relevant chapters)

\*Theodore Lowi, THE PERSONAL PRESIDENCY

November 18                    A CONSERVATIVE CONSENSUS?

\*Chafe, Chs. 14, 15, Epilogue (same for next week)

\*Kirkpatrick Sale, POWER SHIFT

\*George Nash, THE CONSERVATIVE INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENT

\*Kavin Phillips, THE EMERGING REPUBLICAN MAJORITY (relevant chapters)

Allan Crawford, THUNDER ON THE RIGHT

Booth Fowler, A NEW ENGAGEMENT:EVANGELICISM

Barry Goldwater, THE CONSCIENCE OF A CONSERVATIVE

November 25                    DRIFT AND INERTIA OR A NEW AMERICA?

\*Lester Thurow, THE ZERO SUM SOCIETY

\*Walter Burnham, THE CURRENT CRISIS IN AMERICAN POLITICS or Joseph Califano, GOVERNING AMERICA

\*Robert Dallek, RONALD REAGAN or David Stockman, THE TRIUMPH OF POLITICS (Good background reading for these books is the seminal work by Murray Edelman, SYMBOLIC POLITICS)

Robert Scheer, WITH ENOUGH SWORDS:REAGAN, BUSH, & NUCLEAR WAR

December 2                    TIME OUT FOR FUN AND GAMES

\*Jules Tygiel, BASEBALL'S GREAT EXPERIMENT or Erik Barnouw, TUBE OF PLENTY

There are numerous works on high or low culture that you may consult. Read one of those, but select from an area other than baseball or television. If you wish, you may read a serious novel, one that offers some insight into the times, such as E. L. Doctorow's, BOOK OF DANIEL, Philip Roth, OUR GANG, James Carroll, PRINCE OF PEACE, etc.

December 9                    TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF "OUR TIMES"

Discussion of papers on conceptualization of the history of the United States since 1945.

NOTE: The McCormick assignment for September 16 and the Griffith

and Schlesinger assignments for September 30 are on reserve in the History Library, 4257 Humanities.