

## Berkeley in the Sixties

### 1. Berkeley in the Sixties - The riots

- the University of California, Berkeley is a public research university located in Berkeley, on the eastern side of the San Francisco Bay, California, United States
- series of protests at the University of California, and Berkeley
- can be generally defined by three single, yet interrelated events: the Civil Rights Movement, the Free Speech Movement, and the Vietnam War Protests in Berkeley

### 2. Free Speech Movement:

*“The faculty are a bunch of employees, and we’re the raw material! But we’re a bunch of raw materials that don’t mean to be—have any process upon us. Don’t mean to be made into any product. Don’t mean... Don’t mean to end up being bought by some clients of the University, be they the government, be they industry, be they organized labor, be they anyone! We’re human beings!”*

(Mario Savio, “Bodies upon the Gear” Speech, on December 2, 1964)

- erupted at the University of California Berkeley in 1964
- university regulations restricted political expressions
- 1 October 1964: university police arrested Jack Weinberg (organizer for CORE=Congress Of Racial Equality)
  - spontaneous movement of students to surround the police car, which was used as a speaker’s podium
- Mario Savio won recognition as the leader of the protest
- after a compromise agreement the administration announced it would prosecute the protest leader
- 2 December 1964: 5000 students demonstrated in front of Sproul Hall
- 3 January 1965: the new acting chancellor, Martin Meyerson, established provisional rules for political activity on the Berkeley campus
- Effects:
  - national and international media attention
  - on campuses across the nation students held Berkeley-style protests
  - Berkeley served as a prototype for northern campus revolts

### 3. Anti-War Movement

*“North Vietnam cannot defeat or humiliate the United States. Only Americans can do that.”*

(Richard Nixon, speech, Nov. 3, 1969)

- through marches, protests, and riots the protesters aimed to bring awareness to injustices happening in the war with hopes to end it permanently
- common events were protests around the drafting/induction centers and marches through town, which were often accompanied by speeches against the war in Vietnam
  - These protests were often met with police force in full riot gear which in turn sparked

more angry riots

→ At one point the National Guard was called in to assist the local police force in riot control at a time

#### Vietnam Day Committee

- coalition of left-wing political groups, student groups, labour organizations, and pacifist religions in the United States of America that opposed the Vietnam War
- formed in the spring of 1965 by activist Jerry Rubin
- active through the majority of the Vietnam war, organizing several rallies and marches in California as well as coordinating and sponsoring nationwide protests.

#### Most important activity: Vietnam Day march

- ultimate achievement of the Vietnam Day Committee
- march occurred on November 21, 1965
- after several failed attempts due to blockades by police and the National Guard, the Vietnam day committee was able to organize a march through the streets of Oakland, California  
→ over 10,000 people marched showing their protest of the war, thus making it the first large-scale demonstration of negative public opinion of the Vietnam War

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