

Period 8 (1945-1980)

4. Many historians view the 1970s as an era marked by growing distrust in government. Respond to parts a, b, and c.
- Discuss ONE reason for elevated public trust in federal government in the decades prior to the 1970s.
 - Choose ONE of the events below and discuss why your choice represents a growing lack of faith in elected officials.
 - The exit from the Bretton-Woods Agreement
 - The Pentagon Papers
 - The Watergate scandal
 - The Iran hostage crisis
 - Briefly explain why one of the other options is less persuasive.
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4. Respond to parts a, b, and c.
- Briefly explain ONE important way in which the Vietnam War (1955-1975) marked a change in the relationship between the United States and the rest of the world.
 - Briefly explain ONE important way in which the Vietnam War transformed United States society.
 - Briefly explain ANOTHER important way in which the Vietnam War transformed United States society.
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Source: Taylor Branch, historian, *At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-1968*, 2006

"Martin Luther King famously exhorted the nation to 'rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed...: He reinforced a cry for democracy with political sacrifice, and dreams of brotherhood collided in his anguished voice with the cruelties of race.... King balanced an imperative for equal votes with the original prophetic vision of equal souls before God. He grounded one foot in patriotism, one foot in ministry, and both in nonviolence. The movement he led climbed from obscurity to command the center stage of American politics in 1963, when President Johnson declared racial segregation a moral issue "as old as the Scriptures .. as clear as the American Constitution.' A year later, after President Lyndon Johnson signed a landmark law to abolish segregation by sex as well as race, King accepted the Nobel Peace Prize ...

[In 1965] thousands of ordinary Americans will answer King's overnight call for a nonviolent pilgrimage to Selma. Three of them will be murdered, but the quest to march beyond Pettus Bridge will release waves of political energy from the human nucleus of freedom. The movement will transform national politics to win the vote."

Source: Clayborne Carson, historian, "Civil Rights Reform and the Black Freedom Struggle," in Charles W. Eagles, ed., *The Civil Rights Movement in America*, 1986

"[T]hese local movements should not be viewed as protest activity designed to persuade and coerce the federal government to act on behalf of black civil rights. There was a constant tension between the national black leaders, who saw mass protest as an instrument for reform, and local leaders and organizers who were often more interested in building enduring local institutions rather than staging marches and rallies for a national audience. Local black leadership sought goals that were quite distinct from the national civil rights agenda. Even in communities where King played a major role, as in Albany, Birmingham, and Selma, he was compelled to work with local leaders who were reluctant, to say the least, to implement strategies developed by outsiders.

"Black communities mobilized not merely to prod the federal government into action but to create new social identities for participants and for all Afro-Americans ... The notion of a black freedom struggle seeking a broad range of goals suggests... that there was much continuity between the period before 1965 and the period after."

- I. Using the excerpts above, answer (a), (b), and (c).
- Briefly describe ONE major difference between Branch's and Carson's historical interpretations of the American civil rights movement.

- (b) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Branch's interpretation.
- (c) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Carson's interpretation.