

The counterculture assignment

[Sociology](#)



The “ hippies” of the sass had many effects on the American society. The visual appearance and lifestyle of the hippies were in sharp contrast to the conservative nature of the older generation, which defined them as a counterculture. The hippie lifestyle was based on free love, rock music, shared property, and drug experimentation. They introduced a new perspective on drugs, freedom of expression, appearance, music, attitudes toward work, and held a much more liberal political view than mainstream society.

One of the main effects that the hippies made is the appearance of the American society. The hippies wore bell bottom jeans and bright colored shirts usually tie-dyed. They wore out their clothes and when a hole occurred they would just patch it up to show that they were not materialistic and preferred living off the land. Both men and women had long hair, and the men usually had fuller beards. Most of their clothing was self-made to protest against the American society materialistic values and their clothes showed their laid back or casual lifestyle.

Many of the music artists that they admired determined what the counterculture would wear and listen to. The hippie movement had a new and different preference in music called rock ‘ n’ roll. Rock ‘ n’ roll is a type of music that evolved from earlier jazz music. This type of music took countercultures topics such as peace and drug use and put it into lyrical form. This music idealized and encouraged the use of drugs to promote free thought and artistic expression. Be-ins were a large part of the hippie lifestyle which were rock music festivals that were held in public places and outdoors.

One of the largest and most known sass rock inserts started on August 15, 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Festival. The promoters of Woodstock expected around two hundred thousand people at the most to show up but an estimated four hundred and fifty thousand people attended. These people camped out for three days in the rain near Bethel, New York on a six hundred acre piece of muddy farmland. These concert goers enjoyed no rules, drug use, sex, and loud rock music.

Some of the best known artists from this concert were; Credence Clearwater Revival, The Who, The Grateful Dead, The Rolling Stones, Sly & the Family Stone, and Jefferson Airplane. Another one of the main parts of the hippie counterculture lifestyle was drug use. LSI and marijuana were the drugs most frequently used by the hippies in the sass. These drugs drew thousands to the hippie lifestyle and to their beliefs. Drugs were used to escape the traditional values of American society, and to see deeper into ones self. Timothy Leary, a psychologist at Han. Radar, is known for his experimentations with LSI and other hallucinogenic drugs. Leary would encourage his students and fellow faculty members to go on these psychedelic trips while he recorded their responses to the drugs. In 1966 LSI was made illegal in California then later in 1967 the Federal Government banned it in the United States. Even though the drug was illegal it didn't stop the hippies from using it. Many of these drug users died of overdosing, two of the most well known were musical artists Jim Hendrix and Janis Joplin.

The counterculture rejected American values and lifestyles such as materialism and work. Many stopped working their jobs and joined communes where they shared property and attempted to share the work.

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Some who joined these communes were only ‘ Weekend hippies’. “ Weekend hippies” were people that stayed in these communes on the weekends to enjoy the hippie lifestyle and then went back to their jobs during the week.

The failure of the hippie communes was due to a lack of organization.

Hippies resented society for oppressing people with rules.

Therefore, the hippie counterculture made no rules and little or no work was completed. This caused the communes to fall apart. The hippies were involved in many different political movements in the sass. The peace movement was their main focus. The hippie anti-war protestors usually had liberal views and participated in peace marches. Some f hippies burned their draft cards during anti-Vietnam War demonstrations. Many of the hippies were anti-war because they were of age to be drafted into the Vietnam War.

Besides the anti-war movement the hippies were also apart of the Civil Rights Movement and the Women’s Movement. Hippies believed in equality and freedom for all people. That message fit into the Civil Rights Movement and Women’s Movement. The hippie counterculture of the sass had low to moderate impact on the American society at the time. However, they had a lasting impact on a society that tended to be resistant to change. Even though the hippies lacked organization, they called attention to some important issues that mainstream society may not have fully considered..

These issues included the Vietnam War, Civil Rights and Women’s rights.

Once society got past the extreme behavior and appearance of the hippie counterculture, they thought about the views that challenged their own.

Change came over time, not overnight like the hippies would have wanted.

The drug use and lack of work by the hippies was counterproductive to their political movement. It added to their disorientation and made the sass society try to dismiss what the hippies believed in.