Unit 10 Glossary (The Great Society)

**Joan Baez**- (b.1941) American folk singer and songwriter and political activist. She made folk music which had been ignored, popular. She is noted for the pure quality of her voice and for her committed pacifist and protest songs. She was also among the first performers to urge social protest and sang and marched for civil and student rights and peace. She was one of three women who closed the Woodstock Music Festival even though her husband was in prison and she was pregnant. Since the late 1960s she has devoted time to her school for nonviolence in California and has performed at concerts supporting a variety of humanitarian causes.

**Counterculture**- A counterculture is a group of people whose values, norms, and behavior clash with those of the prevalent culture. A counterculture is a kind of subculture, a culture within a culture; however, not all subcultures are countercultures. Sociologists use the concept of counterculture to identify cultures that are antagonistic to a dominant culture. A classic example of a counterculture is the youth counterculture in the United States in the 1960s–1970s, exemplified by the hippie movement; members of this counterculture advocated greater sexual freedom, racial desegregation, and more rights for women.

**Barry Goldwater**- (1909-1998) U.S. senator for Arizona from 1953–1965 and 1969–1987) In the U.S. Senate, Goldwater advocated state right-to-work laws, a reduction of public ownership of utilities, and decreases in welfare and foreign aid appropriations. He attacked subversive activities and opposed the senatorial censure of Joseph McCarthy. Goldwater became the acknowledged leader of the extreme conservative wing of the Republican party. In 1964, he was the Republican presidential nominee, he was decisively defeated by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Many believe that Goldwater initiated a conservative revolution in Republican politics and American public opinion that ultimately led to the election in 1980 of President Ronald Reagan. Goldwater was again elected to the Senate in 1968, 1974, and 1980. In his later years, Goldwater, basically a libertarian, often clashed with cultural conservatives. He wrote *The Conscience of a Conservative* (1960), *Why Not Victory?* (1962), *The Conscience of a Majority* (1970), and *Goldwater* (1988) with Jack Casserly.

**The Great Society**- The Great Society was the name given to a series of congressional actions that begun under President Lyndon Johnson (1963–69) and continued under his successors that greatly expanded the federal government's power to intervene in civil rights, education, consumer protection, health care, and environmental regulation. The expansion included the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and established Medicaid and Medicare as part of the Great Society's "War on Poverty." These expansions of federal power continued trends started during the New Deal, propelled by the notion that successful civil rights reform required economic reform. Competition with funding for the Vietnam War is sometimes cited as limiting the effect of the Great Society, and the trend toward expanded federal involvement was reversed under President Ronald Reagan (1981–89).

**Hippie**- A Hippie is a person who was raised under the ideological system that came out of the tumultuous 1960's in North America and Western Europe. They are either of the flower-child/baby boomer generation or that generations' subsequent offspring. They possess a core belief set revolving around the values of peace and love as being essential in an increasingly globalized society, and they are oftentimes associated with non-violent anti-governmental groups. There is a stigma of drug abuse attached to the hippies that are prevalent to this day, specifically the use and abuse of marijuana and hallucinogens. Many rock movements, poets, artists, and writers from the 1960's to today have associated with this movement, most prominently Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, and Joan Baez. (There are others too numerous to name.) The movement, then and now, is considered a sub-culture by sociologists that associates itself with the left in all its political opinions. The conservative right often berates and abuses the opinions of people who associate themselves with the hippie movement and/or lifestyle, as they consider it dangerous and degenerative to a society to favor liberalism to such an extent.

**Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ)**- (1908-73) He was the 36th president of the United States following the November 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Upon taking office, Johnson, a Texan who had served in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, launched an ambitious slate of progressive reforms aimed at alleviating poverty and creating what he called a "Great Society" for all Americans. Many of the programs he introduced, including Medicare and Head Start, made a lasting impact in the areas of health, education, urban renewal, conservation and civil rights. Despite his impressive domestic achievements, however, Johnson's legacy was equally defined by his failure to lead the nation out of the Vietnam War. He declined to run for a second full term in office, and retired to his Texas ranch after leaving the White House in January 1969.

**The War on Poverty**- A set of government programs, designed to help poor Americans, begun by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. The War on Poverty included measures for job training and improvement of housing.