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Greensboro Sit-Ins:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xbbcjn4d1cE

The Greensboro sit-ins were nonviolent protests that occurred in Greensboro, North Carolina in the year 1960. Four students sat down at a segregated lunch counter in Woolworth's Department Store and were refused service. They peacefully and nonviolently refused to leave their seats, and this sparked more participation in civil rights protests. As days passed, the movement sparked by those at Greensboro spread to other areas in the American South. Eventually, some places reversed their policies concerning racial segregation. The Greensboro sit-ins are important because they showed the growing militancy of blacks as they began to fight for their rights. This event also inspired others to act and sparked many other protests across America.

The Feminine Mystique:

http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/ows/seminars/tcentury/FeminineMystique.pdf

The Feminine Mystique was written by feminist Betty Friedan in 1963 and was responsible for creating a new wave of feminism in the 1960s. After Friedan surveyed some of her old classmates who attended Smith College in Massachusetts, she found that many were unhappy with their lives at home. She did more research and originally wanted to publish an article, but she could not find someone willing to publish her article. Instead, she published *The Feminine Mystique* as a book that discussed an "unspoken problem" in American society. As women read this book, they began to want more rights and also didn't feel as alone. *The Feminine Mystique* is important because it showed the growing influence of women and showed the increasing wave of women's rights awareness. Women wanted equal rights and began to try to get this equality.

Freedom Riders:

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/freedomriders/watch

Freedom Riders were men commonly belonging to the Congress of Racial Equality who wanted to test the effectiveness of civil rights court cases like *Boyton v. Virginia*, which found that segregation on buses and railways was unconstitutional. The first of the freedom rides left Washington D.C. on May 4, 1961 and was scheduled to arrive in New Orleans, Louisiana. Some of the freedom rides were met with opposition and even violence as they continued south. Some cities, like those in Alabama, even worked with the Ku Klux Klan to stop desegregation in these areas and showed the most opposition to the Supreme Court rulings. **The Freedom Riders are important because they showed that people were becoming less passive and more aggressive when it came to civil rights issues. It also showed how some younger blacks wanted to change America and act for themselves in order to get the rights that they deserve.**

Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis:

<u>http://www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/JFK-in-History/The-Bay-of-Pigs.aspx</u> http://www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/JFK-in-History/Cuban-Missile-Crisis.aspx

After Fidel Castro took control of Cuba in the 1960s, President Kennedy became concerned by Cuba's Communist state, as it was close to the United States. Kennedy approved a CIA plan in which anti-Castro exiles were trained and sent back to Cuba's Bay of Pigs. These rebels hoped to start an uprising against Castro and get him out of power; however, this plan failed. All of the exiles were either killed or arrested when they reached their destination. Cuba's role in the Cold War was again stressed during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Soviet Union had created missile bases in Cuba, which were spotted in the United States by spy planes. Wanting to get rid of these bases, the United States blockaded Cuba. The situation became tenser with the powerful Soviet Union headed across the Atlantic, and President Kennedy was pressured by many to attack, including his secretary of defense and his own brother. He waited and the situation soon diffused to a more safe level. If the United States had attacked, nuclear warfare could have wiped out much of the planet. **These two events are important because this was the closes that the world has seen to nuclear warfare, which could have ended devastatingly. This event was also a wake-up call for both sides and led to direct communication between the two world leaders so that things did not escalate as far in the future.**

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Miranda v. Arizona:

http://www.uscourts.gov/multimedia/podcasts/Landmarks/MirandavArizona.aspx

Miranda v. Arizona was a Supreme Court case decided by the Warren Court in 1966. Ernesto Miranda was convicted of rape and kidnapping, based in part by statements he made to police. He had not been told of his right to remain silent or his right to be represented by a lawyer. It was believed that his 5th, 6th, and 14th Amendments were violated. The Supreme Court voided the conviction because of this, and Miranda went free. **This Supreme Court case is important because it showed the growing social awareness of Americans as those accused of crimes were given more protection. These liberal times were symbolized by this case as even the rights of those accused of harsh crimes were protected.**

The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution:

http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=98

The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was passed during the Presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson and it gave him the authority to use the means necessary to protect American forces and to stop further hostility. The resolution was passed after North Vietnamese patrol boats appeared to have clashed with American ships and Johnson claimed that, even though America was assisting South Vietnam against the North Vietnamese, the attacks were unprovoked. Johnson called for air strikes against Vietnam and called upon Congress to pass the resolution. Because of this resolution, more American forces found themselves being sent to Vietnam. **The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution is important because it led to the Americanization of the Vietnam War as more troops were sent to Vietnam. By being able to spend how much he deemed fit, this resolution demonstrated the growing power of the president.**