**Chapter 30, Section 3: Vietnam Divides the Nation**

**I. A Growing Credibility Gap** *(pages 904–905)*

**A.** When American troops first entered the Vietnam War, many Americans supported the military effort.

**B.** As the war in Vietnam continued to drag on, public support decreased. Americans began to question the government and believed a **credibility gap** had developed, making it difficult to believe what the Johnson administration said about the war.

**II. An Antiwar Movement Emerges** *(pages 905–907)*

**A.** As the casualties increased, Americans, especially college students, began to publicly protest the war.

**B.** In March 1965, faculty and students at the University of Michigan abandoned their classes and formed a **teach**-**in** where they informally discussed issues of the war and why they opposed it. This triggered teach-ins at many college campuses.

**C.** Young protestors focused their attention on what they felt was an unfair draft system. While college students could delay military service until graduation, those with lowincome and limited education were called to serve. As a result, minorities, especially African Americans, were called to war. Many draftees refused to serve. Others moved to Canada and other nations.

**D.** By 1968 the nation seemed divided into two camps—the doves and the hawks. The **doves** wanted the United States to withdraw from the war, and the **hawks** felt the United States should stay and fight.

**III. 1968: The Pivotal Year** *(pages 907–909)*

**A.** On January 30, 1968, during Tet, the Vietnamese New Year, the Vietcong and North Vietnamese launched a surprised attack known as the **Tet offensive.** In the attack, guerrilla fighters hit American airbases in South Vietnam as well as the South’s major cities and provincial capitals.

**B.** Militarily, the Tet offensive was a disaster for the Communists, but it was a political victory that shocked Americans. As a result, the approval rating for the president plummeted.

**C.** Eugene McCarthy and Senator Robert Kennedy entered the 1968 presidential race as “dove” candidates for the Democratic nomination.

**D.** Johnson withdrew from the presidential race, announcing his decision in an address to the nation on March 31, 1968.

**E.** In April Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. Two months later, Robert Kennedy was also assassinated. This violence, coupled with a clash between protesters and police at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August, left the nation in a state of chaos.

**F.** The chaos benefited the Republican presidential candidate, Richard Nixon, and an independent, Governor George Wallace of Alabama. Nixon promised to regain order and end the war in Vietnam.

**G.** Although Johnson attempted to help the Democratic campaign with a cease-fire, Democratic presidential nominee Hubert Humphrey lost by more than 100 electoral votes as well as the popular vote by a slim margin. Richard Nixon became president.