

**Rebels, Rock, and Revolution:
The United States in the 1950s and 1960s**
Teacher Seminar, 2. Dezember 2011
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Anke Ortlepp
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Organizer: Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, B.A.Z. Amerika-Haus
Registration fee: € 10

The 1950s and 1960s were a time of struggle and transformation in the United States. Different social groups fought for their rights. African Americans protested against racial discrimination and a segregated world that kept blacks and white apart. Women fought for equality kicking off the second wave of the feminist movement. Young Americans worshipped musicians like Elvis or joined the counterculture in an attempt to protest against the lifestyles of their parents. Other groups like Hispanics, Native Americans, and gays and lesbians were inspired by these forms of protest and started their own movements. At the same time, the American economy went through decades of unparalleled growth producing a prosperous consumer society that made mass-produced goods available to increasing numbers of Americans. Those who could not participate were the target of the War on Poverty. Americans did not only engage in domestic struggles but also fought wars abroad, in Korea and in Vietnam, a traumatic experience which continues to shape foreign policy discussions to the present day. The seminar will look at select issues to help us understand why the 1950s and 1960s still matter. Literature: James T. Patterson, *Grand Expectations: The United States 1945-1974* (New York: Oxford UP, 1996).

9.00 Part I

- Martin Luther King Jr. and the African American civil rights movement
- Betty Friedan and the second wave feminist movement
- Rock and soul music as strategies of protest

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Part II

- Shopping malls and Tupperware: the consumer revolution
- The war, the media, and the public: Vietnam

13.00 End