

Module 05: 1968 — A Generation in Revolt?

Conclusion

As you have now seen, the ideas, motivations, and actions of those involved in the chaotic challenges of 1968 differed significantly, yet drew from a common well of grievances. The outcomes of the events in each location were also both similar and different. In the last thirty years, significant debate has ensued over the legacies of 1968. Indeed, many would argue that the so-called "culture wars" that emerged from the conflicts of the seventies have become a defining aspect of current national and international debates.

Yet we can draw several conclusions from our study of the "revolutions" of 1968. First, most governments responded during the late 1960s and 1970s to protesters' demands for access to higher education, one of the greater causes of contention. In the United States, Britain, and elsewhere in Europe, authorities increased funding for existing