

WAR ON POVERTY

~~~ COMMUNICATION THROUGH HISTORY ~~~

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Process Paper

Communication in history is majorly important, which we would have never come to this day without it. I figured since poverty was a worldwide problem, I thought to myself if the idea would bring any concern. The War on Poverty is a powerful topic that may not be acknowledged today. It is important to know that millions of people lose their income every day and end up on the streets. But organizations like charity and soup kitchens today all branched from this topic, and I hope this brings more concern.

The War on Poverty was a comprehensive effort to meet the needs of the country, nearly half of which were children. The War on Poverty was the informal title of legislation introduced by US President Lyndon B. Johnson in his State of the Union address on 8 January 1964. Johnson proposed this enactment in response to a national rate of poverty around nineteen percent. The war shifted from concept to reality when the Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act in August 1964. The publishing's of "The Other America" by Michael Harrington, Dwight McDonald's review essay on "The New Yorker" and the various TIME magazine photographs have brought awareness to not only the public, but also the government. The establishment of Head Start Preschool was authorized in accordance with the Economic Opportunity Act.

I have read and seen many people in poverty, and it always tragic in mind. I spent hours researching in newspaper archives and websites searching for all the information there was. This year I was not able to physically go anywhere, due to the Coronavirus situation, but I still found

loads of information. The times I rarely went outside, I have seen many people walking on the streets, hungry and homeless. So, when I went home, I searched on websites for the true reason for poverty. Since Co-vid has hit hard everywhere, the poverty rates increased because of people losing jobs they could only do physically. My research may have mostly been online, but it gave me a good understanding of the topic.

This year, I created a website for my project. My dad has some experience in website building, so whenever I needed help to code, he was my first resource. This made inserting content easier and understandable for me, so I learned a lot this year. Luckily, NHD provided a website builder, which was very straightforward and easy to use. It took me a while to understand and accept the layout, as it may not be perfect.

Although it may not appear so at first glance, the War on Poverty is related to Communication. The TIME magazine corporation has taken all the photographs of people in poverty, accompanying Johnson on his observation trip. It was because of this organization that the public was aware of the situation continued today. It was not only the communication within the media, but also of the people and the government that had made it an issue.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Videos:

- Megaprojects; The Great Society Plan: America's War on Poverty
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdFITaWQOO0>

This video gives the full history of the War on Poverty, including President Johnson's speech and his impacts on Americans.

- USGOVACF, History of the War on Poverty
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYvZZdOI2YQ>

This video provides a background history of the War on Poverty and where we are as a country 50 years after the effort to expand economic opportunity began.

Articles:

- AmericanProgress.org; Poverty Anniversary
<https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/PovertyAnniversary.pdf>

This is an article that provides all the information about the past and the present. It also provides solutions and helpful graphs.

Websites:

- AzQuotes.com; Top 25 War on Poverty Quotes
<https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/war-on-poverty.html>
- Brainy Quote; War on Poverty
https://www.brainyquote.com/search_results?q=war+on+poverty
- LIFE; War on Poverty Potraits from an Appalachian background, 1964
<https://www.life.com/history/war-on-poverty-appalachia-portraits-1964/>

The above three websites helped me so much in finding quotes and photographs for my project. I put most of the content on my website.

Secondary Sources

Historical Books:

- ORLECK, ANNELESE, and LISA GAYLE HAZIRJIAN
The War on Poverty: A New Grassroots History, 1964-1980. University of Georgia Press, 2011. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt46np4b. Accessed 17 Feb. 2021.
- Bailey, Martha J., and Nicolas J. Duquette
“How Johnson Fought the War on Poverty: The Economics and Politics of Funding at the Office of Economic Opportunity.” *The Journal of Economic History*, vol. 74, no. 2, 2014, pp. 351–388., www.jstor.org/stable/24550876. Accessed 17 Feb. 2021.
- Flanagan, Richard M
“Lyndon Johnson, Community Action, and Management of the Administrative State” *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, vol. 31, no. 4, 2001, pp. 585–608. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/27552342. Accessed 17 Feb. 2021.

Newspapers:

- The Fort Scott Tribune - Cornerstone of War on Poverty is changing - April 11, 1985
https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1906&dat=19850411&id=vc4fAAAAIBAJ&sjid=_dgEAAAAIBAJ&pg=2230,7042144&hl=en
- The Lewiston Daily Sun - Johnson's Great Society programs praised - April 19, 1985
<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1928&dat=19850419&id=1HwgAAAAIBAJ&sjid=9WcFAAAAAIBAJ&pg=5681,3369610&hl=en>
- The Sumter Daily Item - Johnson Declares War on Poverty in America - Jan 8, 1964
<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1979&dat=19640108&id=ZJkuAAAAIBAJ&sjid=pqoFAAAAAIBAJ&pg=992,418454&hl=en>