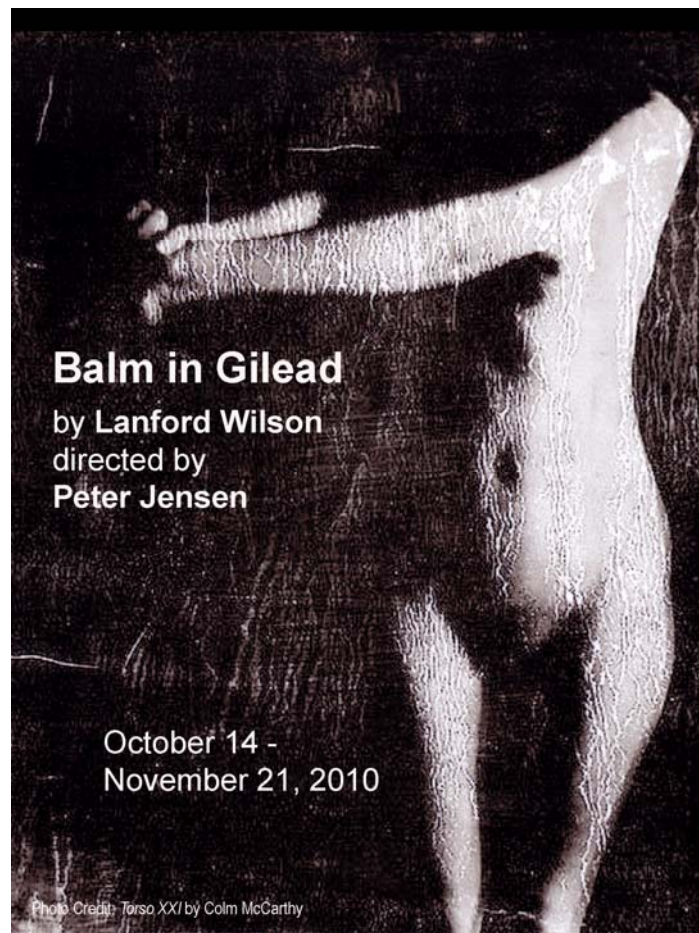


# A Background to Balm in Gilead:

A little bit of information to give you a deeper look at the time, place, and themes in the play



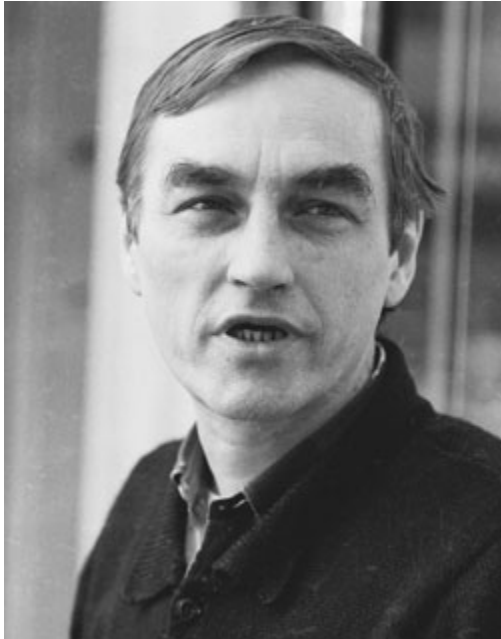
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## Lanford Wilson (1937- )

American playwright.

The following entry provides an overview of Wilson's career through 2003. For further information on his life and works, see *CLC*, Volumes 7, 14, and 36.



### INTRODUCTION

A prolific writer of experimental and traditional drama, Wilson launched his career at the avant-garde Caffè Cino during the off-off-Broadway movement of the 1960s. He later co-founded the renowned Circle Repertory Company, for which he wrote many of his major works, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Talley's Folly* (1979). Through his dynamic characters, many of whom are misfits of low social class, Wilson has explored issues of alienation, solitude, and disillusionment. His plays address themes of family conflict, gender roles and expectations, sexual identity, and the changing social landscape of America. He has been widely regarded for the authenticity and poetic rhythm of his dialogue. Wilson's style, frequently compared to those of Anton Chekhov and Tennessee Williams, is categorized as lyrical realism but frequently employs such nonrealistic devices as monologue, symbolic characters, and direct address of the audience. Wilson has enjoyed success both on and off Broadway and his works are among the most regularly produced plays in regional, college, and community theaters. Wilson remains an important voice in American playwriting, as evidenced by numerous revival productions of his plays, including *Balm in Gilead*, *Burn This*, and *5th of July*, which were first produced in 1965, 1987, and 1978, respectively.

## Biographical Information

Wilson was born on April 13, 1937, in the town of Lebanon, Missouri, a setting the author often revisited in his works. When he was five years old, Wilson's parents divorced and his father moved to California. After transferring from Southwest Missouri State University to San Diego State University in 1955, Wilson was briefly reunited with his father, an event which provided inspiration for the highly autobiographical play *Lemon Sky* (1968). Wilson relocated to Chicago in 1956, where he began writing one-act dramas; in 1962, he moved to New York City to pursue a career in playwriting. In 1963, Caffè Cino produced Wilson's one-act *So Long at the Fair*, propelling Wilson into a period of intense creativity. He wrote at a frenetic pace throughout the 1960s, with most of his work premiering at Caffè Cino and other off-off-Broadway venues. Wilson's most important early plays were the full-length pieces *Balm in Gilead* and *The Rimers of Eldritch* (1966). After the suicide of Caffè Cino's producer, Joe Cino, Wilson began to utilize regional theater as a means to produce his work. In 1969, Wilson co-founded the Circle Repertory Company in Greenwich Village. He was the group's playwright-in-residence until it disbanded in 1996. With the Circle Repertory Company, Wilson produced many of his most critically and commercially successful plays: *Serenading Louie* (1970), *The Hot I Baltimore* (1973), and *The Mound Builders* (1975). Wilson introduced his Talley cycle—three plays about a Midwestern family set in Wilson's birthplace—with 1978's *5th of July*, followed by *Talley's Folley* in 1979, and *A Tale Told*, later revised as *Talley & Son*, in 1981. In 1987, Wilson penned three plays in rapid succession, including the acclaimed *Burn This*. Wilson has continued to produce plays throughout the 1990s and into the twenty-first century.

## Major Works

*Balm in Gilead*, Wilson's first full-length play, is a documentary-like piece depicting the lives of drug addicts, dealers, pimps, prostitutes, drag queens, and hustlers—the denizens of an all-night diner in New York City. In 1966, Wilson premiered his second full-length work, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, which opened at Cafe La Mama and moved off-Broadway later that year. *The Rimers of Eldritch* champions outcast characters and is set in a narrow-minded Midwestern town. *Lemon Sky* is perhaps Wilson's most personal play, a memory piece set in San Diego about a teenage boy's attempt to reconcile with his estranged father. A major critical and commercial success, *The Hot I Baltimore* is a lament for the past and an affirmation of humanity's ability to endure, as destitute inhabitants of a once-grandiose hotel await its demolition. In *The Mound Builders*, Wilson focuses on an idealistic past and the detrimental effects of modern progress. *The Mound Builders* centers on a team of archaeologists attempting to protect their discovery of an ancient Native American civilization from land development. *5th of July* introduces the characters Ken Talley, Jr., who is a paraplegic Vietnam veteran, his homosexual lover, and his Aunt Sally. When faced with the decision of whether to sell the family home, Ken elects not to sell, affirming values of family and tradition. A younger Aunt Sally appears in Wilson's *Talley's Folly*, the story of Sally Talley's forbidden courtship and elopement with Matt Friedman, a Jewish accountant. *A Tale*

*Told*, the third and final installment in the Talley cycle, is set on July 4, 1944, the same night as *Talley's Folly*, and presents additional members of the Talley clan who decide to sell the family garment business to a conglomerate. In *Burn This*, Wilson touches on the theme of intimacy in the face of grief, exploring human sexuality and love through the characters of Anna, who is a dancer, and Pale, the incendiary brother of Anna's recently deceased roommate. Returning to earlier themes and subject matter, Wilson examined small-town hypocrisy and the search for community in *Book of Days* (1998). In *Rain Dance* (2000), set in 1945 in New Mexico, the birth of the atomic age brings together an American scientist, a Native American, and two German immigrants, each of whom has contributed in some way to the development of the atom bomb.

## Critical Reception

Wilson has been acclaimed by critics, actors, and audiences alike. Scholars have praised his inventive use of dialogue, and from his earliest works, reviewers have consistently noted Wilson's skill with language. Reflecting on *Balm in Gilead*, critic Anne M. Dean stated: "For all the play's visual brilliance, for me its greatest strength resides in its manipulation of language." Wilson has been lauded for his ability to transform everyday vernacular into poetry. Commentators have observed his adept characterizations, particularly marking his compassionate depiction of society's outcasts. Wilson's talent for developing dynamic, intriguing characters has earned him a reputation as an "actor's playwright." Audiences have admired Wilson's accessible, realistic style and tender characters, making him one of the most commercially successful playwrights of his time. Wilson has been honored with numerous awards for his craft, including the Vernon Rice Award, the Obie, and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award. However, critical praise of Wilson's work is not unanimous; some reviewers have bemoaned his writing as sentimental, overly conventional, and pretentious. Despite these charges, critics have widely considered Wilson an important contributor to American theater.

"Wilson, Lanford (Vol. 197) - Introduction." Contemporary Literary Criticism. Ed. Jeffrey W. Hunter. Vol. 197. Gale Cengage, 2005. eNotes.com. 2006. 18 Aug, 2010  
<http://www.enotes.com/contemporary-literary-criticism/wilson-lanford-vol-197>

# BALM IN GILEAD

## Dramatic structure

Wilson's first full-length effort, *Balm in Gilead* centers on a cafe frequented by heroin addicts, prostitutes (both male and female) and thieves. It features many unconventional theatrical devices, such as overlapping dialogue, simultaneous scenes and largely unsympathetic lead characters. The plot draws a parallel between the amoral, often criminal activity that the café's denizens engage in to provide temporary relief from their boredom and suffering, and the two main characters' becoming a couple in order to escape from their lives.

The play takes its title from a quote in the Old Testament. (Book of Jeremiah, chapter 46, v. 11) "Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not be cured."

## Production history

Wilson wrote the play while living in New York City, finding inspiration by sitting in cafés and listening to different conversations. He approached Marshall W. Mason, whom he knew from the Caffe Cino, to direct the production. After workshops in the directing and playwriting units of the Actors Studio, it debuted off-off-Broadway at the La Mama Experimental Theater Club on January 22, 1965, and was a notable critical and commercial success. It was the first full-length play ever produced off-off-Broadway, and became the first play from off-off-Broadway to be published (by Hill and Wang). Its two most notable productions since were a 1981 revival by Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and another, the 1984 John Malkovich-directed revival starring Jonathan Hogan, Danton Stone, Laurie Metcalf, Gary Sinise, Giancarlo Esposito, and Glenn Headly, co-produced by the Circle Repertory Company and Steppenwolf. Metcalf was showered with praise for her performance, specifically for her 20-minute monologue in Act Two.

In 2005 the play was revived by the Barefoot Theatre Company in New York City, under the direction of Eric Nightengale, who assisted Malkovich in the 1984 revival. The Barefoot revival starred Anna Chlumsky, Francisco Solorzano, Luca Pierruci, Jennie West and Jeff Keilholtz.

# Book of Jeremiah

The Book of Jeremiah, or Jeremiah (יֵרֵמְיָהוּ Yirməyāhū in Hebrew), is part of the Hebrew Bible, Judaism's Tanakh, and later became a part of Christianity's Old Testament. It was originally written in a complex and poetic Hebrew (apart from verse 10:11, curiously written in Biblical Aramaic), recording the words and events surrounding the life of the Jewish prophet Jeremiah who lived at the time of the destruction of Solomon's Temple (587/6 BC) in Jerusalem during the fall of the Kingdom of Judah at the hands of Babylonia.

## The Prophet Jeremiah

According to the book, the Prophet Jeremiah was a son of a priest from Anatot in the land of Benjamin, who lived in the last years of the Kingdom of Judah just prior to, during, and immediately after the siege of Jerusalem, culminating in the destruction of Solomon's Temple and the raiding of the city by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. According to the book, for a quarter century prior to the destruction, Jeremiah repeatedly issued prophecies predicting God's forthcoming judgment; advocating the Israelites put down their idols and repent in hopes of turning away God's judgment and fulfilling their destiny as his chosen people. Jeremiah's fellow Israelites refused to heed his warnings and did not repent. His efforts failed and he witnessed the destruction of everything he knew, the exile of the Israelite elite to Babylonia, and the fleeing of the remainder to Egypt.

The book of Jeremiah depicts a remarkably introspective prophet, a prophet who was impetuous and often angered by the role into which he has been thrust. Jeremiah alternates efforts to warn the people with pleas to God for mercy until he is ordered to "pray no more for this people." He engages in extensive performance art, walking about in the streets with a yoke about his neck and engaging in other efforts to attract attention. He is taunted and retaliates; he is thrown in jail as the result. At one point he is thrown into a pit to die.

## Prophecies of Jeremiah

- Threats against the "unfaithful shepherds" (i.e., the false prophets), the promise of peace and of the real shepherd (after 597), and warnings against false prophets and godless priests (perhaps in the time of Jehoiakim; 23:1-8, 9-40);
- Vision of the two baskets of figs, illustrating the fate of the captives and of those who were left behind, from the period after the first deportation by Nebuchadnezzar, in 597 (chapter 24);
- Threats of punishments to be inflicted on Judah and the surrounding nations, the fourth year of Jehoiakim, i.e., the year of the Battle of Carchemish (605; chapter 25);

- The first of the historical passages recounting Jeremiah's prophecy in the Temple (compare chapter 7), his arrest, his threatened death, and his rescue, in which connection the martyrdom of the prophet Uriah is briefly mentioned (chapter 26).
- Protection for Israel following the period of destruction and exile
- Utterances from the time of Zedekiah (see § II.), with an appendix, the last connected prophecy of any length, in chapter 35, treating of the fidelity of the Rechabites and of the unfaithfulness of Judah. This dates from a somewhat earlier period, that of Jehoiakim (because certainly before 597), and thus forms a transition to the first passages of the narrative sections.

Jeremiah's prophecies are noted for the frequent repetitions found in them of the same words, phrases, and imagery. They cover the period of about 50 years. They are not in chronological order.

1. ^ *An Introduction to the Old Testament in Greek*, Henry Barclay Swete, Cambridge University Press, 1914, Part II, Chapter III, Section 6, [1], "Baruch and the Epistle of Jeremiah were regarded by the Church as adjuncts of Jeremiah, much in the same way as Susanna and Bel were attached to Daniel. Baruch and the Epistle occur in lists which rigorously exclude the non-canonical books; they are cited as 'Jeremiah' (Iren. v. 35. 1, Tert. scorp. 8, Clement of Alexandria, *Paedagogus* i. 10, Cyprian, *Testimonia* ii. 6); with Lamentations they form a kind of trilogy supplementary to the prophecy."
2. ^ Tov, Emanuel: "The Septuagint and Literary Criticism", *The Folio: Bulletin of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center*, 22(2):1-6

## External links

- (Jewish Encyclopedia) Book of Jeremiah article
- Encyclopedia Britannica: Jeremiah
- Sir Lancelot C. L. Brenton's 1851 English translation of Septuagint Jeremiah
- Farrell Till (1990). "The Jeremiah Dilemma". *The Skeptical Review* (4).  
<http://www.infidels.org/library/magazines/tsr/1990/4/4jerem90.html>.

*This article incorporates text from Easton's Bible Dictionary (1897), a publication now in the public domain. This article incorporates text from the 1901–1906 Jewish Encyclopedia, a publication now in the public domain.*

## 1960s



From left, clockwise: A soldier lies on the ground during the Vietnam War; The arrival of The Beatles in the U.S., and subsequent appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show in 1964, marked the start of the British Invasion, contributed to the band's phenomenal success which had a tremendous influence on popular music in the U.S and around the world; The Woodstock Festival was held in upstate New York in 1969 in front of 400,000 concert-goers and featured some of the top rock musicians of the era; For the first time in history, a human being sets his foot on the Moon, in the Moon landing of July 1969; China's Mao Zedong puts forward the Great Leap Forward plan; President John F. Kennedy in the presidential limousine, minutes before he is assassinated on November 22, 1963, after serving the office of president for nearly three years; Martin Luther King Jr. makes his famous I Have a Dream Speech to a crowd of over a million.

The **1960s** was the decade that started on January 1, 1960, and ended on December 31, 1969.<sup>[1]</sup> It was the seventh decade of the 20th century.

The 1960s term also refers to an era more often called **The Sixties**, denoting the complex of inter-related cultural and political trends in the United States, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Australia, West Germany,

Japan, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Federated States of Micronesia and others. This "cultural decade" is a bit later than the actual decade, beginning around 1963 and ending around 1972.

In the United States, "The Sixties", as they are known in popular culture, is a term used by historians, journalists, and other objective academics; in some cases nostalgically to describe the counterculture and social revolution near the end of the decade; and pejoratively to describe the era as one of irresponsible excess and flamboyance. The decade was also labeled the Swinging Sixties because of the fall or relaxation of some social taboos especially relating to sexism and racism that occurred during this time.

The 1960s have become synonymous with all the new, exciting, radical, and subversive events and trends of the period, which continued to develop in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and beyond. In Africa the 1960s was a period of radical political change as 32 countries gained independence from their European colonial rulers.

Some commentators<sup>[2]</sup> have seen in this era a classical Jungian nightmare cycle, where a rigid culture, unable to contain the demands for greater individual freedom, broke free of the social constraints of the previous age through extreme deviation from the norm. Christopher Booker charts the rise, success, fall/nightmare and explosion in the London scene of the 1960s. This does not alone however explain the mass nature of the phenomenon.

Several governments turned to the left in the early 1960s. In the United States, however, John F. Kennedy, an anti-communist, who advocated massive tax cuts at home, was elected to the presidency. Italy formed its first left-of-centre government in March 1962 with a coalition of Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, and moderate Republicans. Socialists joined the ruling block in December 1963. In Britain, the Labour Party gained power in 1964.<sup>[3]</sup> In Brazil, João Goulart became president after Jânio Quadros resigned.

## Politics and wars

### Wars



## Vietnam War (1959 - 1975)

- 1961 – Substantial (approximately 700), American advisory forces first arrive in Vietnam in 1961.
- 1962 – By mid-1962, the number of U.S. military advisers in South Vietnam had risen from 700 to 12,000.
- 1963 – After the overthrow of the Diem Regime in early November 1963, Kennedy increased the number of U.S. military advisers from 800 to 16,300 to cope with rising guerrilla activity in Vietnam.
- 1964 – After the Gulf of Tonkin incident, on August 2, 1964, and the *Gulf of Tonkin Resolution* which was a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress passed on August 10, 1964, in direct response to a minor naval engagement known as the Gulf of Tonkin Incident. The resolution gave U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson authorization, without a formal declaration of war by Congress, for the use of military force in Southeast Asia. The Johnson administration subsequently cited the resolution as legal authority for its rapid escalation of U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam conflict.<sup>[4]</sup>
- 1966 – After 1966 with the draft in place more than 500,000 troops are sent to Vietnam by the Johnson administration and college attendance soars.
  
- The Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961) - an unsuccessful attempt by a CIA-trained force of Cuban exiles to invade southern Cuba with support from US government armed forces, to overthrow the Cuban government of Fidel Castro.
- Portuguese Colonial War (1961–1974) - the war was fought between Portugal's military and the emerging nationalist movements in Portugal's African colonies. It was a decisive ideological struggle and armed conflict of the cold war in African (Portuguese Africa and surrounding nations) and European (mainland Portugal) scenarios. Unlike other European nations, the Portuguese regime did not leave its African colonies, or the overseas provinces, during the 1950s and 1960s. During the 1960s, various armed independence movements, most prominently led by communist-led parties who cooperated under the CONCP umbrella and pro US groups, became active in these areas, most notably in Angola, Mozambique, and Portuguese Guinea. During the war, several atrocities were committed by all forces involved in the conflict.
  
- Arab–Israeli conflict (Early 20th century-present)
  - Six Days War (June 1967) - a war between Israel and the neighboring states of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The Arab states of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria also contributed troops and arms.<sup>[5]</sup> At the war's end, Israel had gained control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. The results of the war affect the geopolitics of the region to this day.
  
- The Algerian War came to a close in 1962.

## Internal conflicts

- Cultural Revolution in China (1966–1976) - a period of widespread social and political upheaval in the People's Republic of China which was launched by Mao Zedong, the chairman of the Communist Party of China. Mao alleged that "liberal bourgeois" elements were permeating the party and society at large and that they wanted to restore capitalism. Mao insisted that these elements be removed through post-revolutionary class struggle by mobilizing the thoughts and actions of China's youth, who formed Red Guards groups around the country. The movement subsequently spread into the military, urban workers, and the party leadership itself. Although Mao himself officially declared the Cultural Revolution to have ended in 1969, the power struggles and political instability between 1969 and the arrest of the Gang of Four in 1976 are now also widely regarded as part of the Revolution.
- The Compton's Cafeteria Riot occurred in August 1966 in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco. This incident was one of the first recorded transgender riots in United States history, preceding the more famous 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City by three years.
- The Stonewall riots occurred in June 1969 in the New York City. The Stonewall riots were a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations against a police raid that took place in the Stonewall Inn, in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City. They are frequently cited as the first instance in American history when people in the homosexual community fought back against a government-sponsored system that persecuted sexual minorities, and they have become the defining event that marked the start of the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.
- The May 1968 student and worker uprisings in France.
- Mass socialist or Communist movement in most European countries (particularly France and Italy), with which the student-based new left was able to forge a connection. The most spectacular manifestation of this was the May student revolt of 1968 in Paris that linked up with a general strike of ten million workers called by the trade unions; and for a few days seemed capable of overthrowing the government of Charles de Gaulle. De Gaulle went off to visit French troops in Germany to check on their loyalty. Major concessions were won for trade union rights, higher minimum wages and better working conditions.
- University students protested in their hundreds of thousands in London, Paris, Berlin and Rome with the huge crowds that protested against the Vietnam War.
- In Eastern Europe students also drew inspiration from the protests in the West. In Poland and Yugoslavia they protested against restrictions on free speech by communist regimes.
- The Tlatelolco massacre - was a government massacre of student and civilian protesters and bystanders that took place during the afternoon and night of October 2, 1968, in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas in the Tlatelolco section of Mexico City.

## Coups

The most prominent coups d'état of the decade include:

- In 1968 a coup in Iraq led to the overthrow of Abdul Rahman Arif by the Arab Socialist Baath Party.

- On September 1, 1969, a small group of military officers led by the army officer Muammar al-Gaddafi overthrows monarchy in Libya.

## Nuclear threats



Pictures of Soviet missile silos in Cuba, taken by US spy planes on October 14, 1962.

- The Cuban Missile Crisis (October 1962) - a near military confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union about the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. After an American Naval (quarantine) blockade of Cuba the Soviet Union under the leadership of Nikita Khrushchev agreed to remove their missiles.
- On October 16, 1964 China detonated its first atomic bomb. China possessed a hydrogen bomb by 1967. President Johnson secretly considered a preemptive strike on China's nuclear facilities, but then dismissed the idea as too risky. <sup>[citation needed]</sup>

## Decolonization and Independence

- The transformation of Africa from colonialism to independence in what is known as the decolonisation of Africa dramatically accelerated during the decade, with 32 countries gaining independence between 1960 and 1968. The high hopes these new countries had quickly faded, and many would fall into anarchy, dictatorships, and civil war.

## Prominent political events



Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C., August 28, 1963

### United States

- 1960 - United States presidential election, 1960 - The key turning point of the campaign was the series of four Kennedy-Nixon debates; they were the first presidential debates held on television.

- 1961 – Newly elected President John F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson take office in 1961; Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps.
- 1963 – Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. on August 28.
- 1963 - President Lyndon Johnson becomes president and presses for civil rights legislation.
- 1964 – U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson is elected in his own right, defeating United States Senator Barry Goldwater in November.
- 1964 - Civil Rights Act of 1964 signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. This landmark piece of legislation in the United States outlawed racial segregation in schools, public places, and employment.
- 1964 - Wilderness Act signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3.
- 1965 – U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey take office in January.
- 1965 - National Voting Rights Act of 1965 signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Outlawed discriminatory voting practices that had been responsible for the widespread disenfranchisement of African Americans in the United States.
- 1968 – U.S. President Richard M. Nixon is elected defeating Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey in November.
- 1969 – U.S. President Richard Nixon is inaugurated in January 1969; promises "peace with honor" to end the Vietnam War.

## Canada

- The Quiet Revolution in Quebec altered the province into a more secular society. The Jean Lesage Liberal government created a welfare state (*État-Providence*) and fomented the rise of active nationalism among Francophone Québécois.
- On February 15, 1965, the new maple leaf flag was adopted in Canada, after much acrimonious debate known as the Great Flag Debate.
- In 1960, the Canadian Bill of Rights becomes law, and Universal suffrage, the right for any Canadian citizen to vote, is finally adopted by John Diefenbaker's Progressive Conservative government. The new election act allows first nations people to vote for the first time.

## Europe



East German construction workers building the Berlin Wall, November 20, 1961.

- Construction of the Berlin Wall started in 1961.
- British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan delivers his Wind of Change speech in 1960.

- Pope John XXIII calls the Second Vatican Council of the Catholic Church, continued by Pope Paul VI, which met from October 11, 1962, until December 8, 1965.
- In October 1964, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev was expelled from office due to his increasingly erratic and authoritarian behavior. Leonid Brezhnev and Alexei Kosygin then became the new leaders of the Soviet Union.
- In Czechoslovakia 1968 was the year of Alexander Dubček's Prague Spring, a source of inspiration to many Western leftists who admired Dubček's "socialism with a human face". The Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August ended these hopes and also fatally damaged the chances of the orthodox communist parties drawing many recruits from the student protest movement.

## China

- Relations with the United States remained hostile during the 1960s, although representatives from both countries held periodic meetings in Warsaw, Poland (since there was no US embassy in China). President Kennedy had plans to restore Sino-US relations, but his assassination, the war in Vietnam, and the Cultural Revolution put an end to that. Not until Richard Nixon took office in 1969 was there another opportunity.
- Following Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's expulsion in 1964, Sino-Soviet relations devolved into open hostility. The Chinese were deeply disturbed by the Soviet suppression of the Prague Spring in 1968, as the latter now claimed the right to intervene in any country it saw as deviating from the correct path of socialism. Finally, in March 1969, armed clashes took place along the Sino-Soviet border in Manchuria. This drove the Chinese to restore relations with the US, as Mao Zedong decided that the Soviet Union was a much greater threat.

## Mexico

- The peak of the student and New Left protests in 1968 coincided with political upheavals in a number of other countries. Although these events often sprung from completely different causes, they were influenced by reports and images of what was happening in the United States and France.



By the late 1960's, revolutionary Che Guevara's famous image had become a popular symbol of rebellion for many youth.

## Middle East

- On September 1, 1969, the Libyan monarchy was overthrown, and a radical, anti-Israel, anti-Western government headed by Col. Muammar al-Qaddafi took power.

## South America

- In 1964, a successful coup against the democratically elected government of Brazilian president João Goulart, initiates a military dictatorship of over 20 years of oppression.
- The Argentine revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara travelled to Africa and then Bolivia in his campaigning to spread worldwide revolution. He was captured and executed in 1967 by the Bolivian army, and afterwards became an iconic figure for leftists around the world.
- Juan Velasco Alvarado took power in Peru in 1968.

## India

- In India a literary and cultural movement started in Calcutta, Patna, and other cities by a group of writers and painters who called themselves "Hungryalists", or members of the Hungry generation. The band of writers wanted to change virtually everything and were arrested with several cases filed against them on various charges. They ultimately won these cases. This span of the movement was from 1961 to 1965.

## Assassinations



John F. Kennedy assassination - President Kennedy with his wife, Jacqueline, and Texas Governor John Connally in the presidential limousine, minutes before his assassination.

The 1960s were marked by several notable assassinations:

- January 17, 1961 – Patrice Lumumba, the Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo. Assassinated by a Belgian and Congolese firing squad outside Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- June 12, 1963 – Medgar Evers, an NAACP field secretary. Assassinated by a member of the Ku Klux Klan in Jackson, Mississippi.
- November 2, 1963 – Ngo Dinh Diem, President of Vietnam, along with his brother and chief political adviser, Ngo Dinh Nhu. Assassinated by Duong Hieu Nghia and Nguyen Van Nhung in the back of an armoured personnel carrier.
- November 22, 1963 – John F. Kennedy, President of the United States. The accused was Lee Harvey Oswald, according to the 1964 report issued by the Warren

Commission, in his car during a parade in Dallas, Texas from gunshot wound. See JFK assassination for more details.

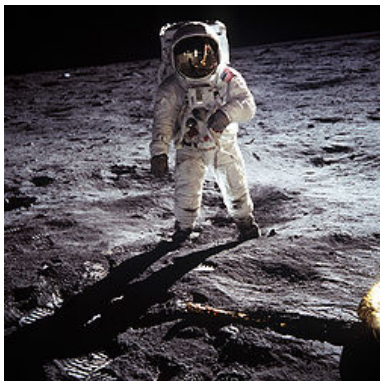
- February 21, 1965 – Malcolm X. Assassinated by members of the Nation of Islam in New York City. There is a dispute about which members killed Malcolm X.
- August 25, 1967 – George Lincoln Rockwell, leader of the American Nazi Party. Assassinated by John Patler in Arlington, Virginia.
- April 4, 1968 – Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader. Assassinated by James Earl Ray in Memphis, Tennessee.
- June 5, 1968 – Robert F. Kennedy, United States Senator. Assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan in Los Angeles, California, taking California in the presidential national primaries.

## Disasters

- 1960 Valdivia earthquake or Great Chilean Earthquake is to date the most powerful earthquake ever recorded, rating 9.5 on the moment magnitude scale. It caused localized tsunamis that severely battered the Chilean coast, with waves up to 25 meters (82 ft). The main tsunami raced across the Pacific Ocean and devastated Hilo, Hawai'i.
- 1969 - Cuyahoga River catches fire in Ohio. Fires had erupted on the river many times, including June 22, 1969, when a river fire captured the attention of Time magazine, which described the Cuyahoga as the river that "oozes rather than flows" and in which a person "does not drown but decays." Helped spur legislative action on water pollution control resulting in the Clean Water Act, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and the creation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency.
- 1969 - Hurricane Camille hits the Gulf Coast at Category 5 Status on the night of August 17. To date it is the strongest hurricane ever recorded at landfall in means of sustained windspeed in the Atlantic Basin, reaching sustained winds of 190 mph and a low pressure of 905 mbs. It is one of only three hurricanes in the Atlantic to ever make landfall at Category 5 Status and one of only four hurricanes worldwide to reach a maximum sustained windspeed of 190 mph.

## Science and technology

### Space exploration



The Apollo 11 mission landed the first humans on the Moon on July 1969



Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, in his space suit during the Vostok 1 mission, April 1961

The Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union would dominate the 1960s. The Soviets managed to have Yuri Gagarin the first man in outer space during the Vostok 1 mission on 12 April 1961 and scored a host of other successes, but by the middle of the decade the US was taking the lead. In May 1961, President Kennedy set for the nation the goal of a manned spacecraft landing on the Moon by the end of the decade.

In 1966 the Soviet Union launched Luna 10, which later becomes the first space probe to enter orbit around the Moon.

The tragic deaths of astronauts Gus Grissom, Edward Higgins White, and Roger B. Chaffee in the Apollo 1 fire on 27 January 1967 put a temporary hold on the US space program, but afterwards progress was steady, with the Apollo 8 crew (Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, William Anders) being the first manned mission to orbit another celestial body (the moon) during Christmas of 1968.

On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11, the first human spaceflight lands on the Moon. Launched on July 16, 1969, it carried Mission Commander Neil Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Buzz Aldrin fulfilled President John F. Kennedy's goal of reaching the moon by the end of the 1960s, which he had expressed during a speech given before a joint session of Congress on May 25, 1961: "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth."

The same could not be said of the Soviet program, which lost its sense of direction with the death of chief designer Sergey Korolyov in 1966. Political pressure, conflicts between different design bureaus, and engineering problems caused by an inadequate budget would doom the Soviet attempt to land men on the moon, and they could only helplessly watch the Apollo program's success.

A succession of unmanned American and Soviet probes travelled to the Moon, Venus, and Mars during the 1960s, and commercial satellites also came into use.

## Other scientific developments

- 1960 – The female birth control contraceptive, the pill, was released in the United States after Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval.
- 1967 – First heart transplantation operation.

## Technology

### Automobiles

As the 1960s began, American cars showed a rapid rejection of 1950s styling excess, and would remain relatively clean and boxy for the entire decade. The horsepower race reached its climax in the late 1960s, with muscle cars sold by most makes. The compact Ford Mustang, launched in 1964, was one of the decade's greatest successes. The "Big Three" American automakers enjoyed their highest ever sales and profitability in the 1960s, but the demise of Studebaker in 1966 left American Motors Corporation as the last significant independent. The decade would see the car market split into different size classes for the first time, and model lineups now included compact and mid-sized cars in addition to full-sized ones.

### Electronics and communications

- 1960 – The first working laser was demonstrated in May by Theodore Maiman at Hughes Research Laboratories.
- 1962 – First trans-Atlantic satellite broadcast via the Telstar satellite.
- 1962 – The first computer video game, Spacewar!, is invented.
- 1963 – The first geosynchronous communications satellite, **Syncom 2** is launched.
- 1963 – First trans-Pacific satellite broadcast via the Relay 1 satellite.
- 1963 – Touch-Tone telephones introduced.
- 1963 – Video Recorder The Nottingham Electronic Valve company produces the first home video recorder called the "Telcan".
- 1964 – The first successful Minicomputer, Digital Equipment Corporation's 12-bit PDP-8, is marketed.
- 1964 – The programming language BASIC was created.
- 1967 – PAL and SECAM broadcast color TV systems start publicly transmitting in Europe.
- 1967 – The first Automatic Teller Machine is opened in Barclays Bank, London.
- 1968 – The first public demonstration of the computer mouse, the paper paradigm Graphical user interface, video conferencing, teleconferencing, email, and hypertext.
- 1969 – Arpanet, the research-oriented prototype of the Internet, was introduced.
- 1969 – CCD invented at AT&T Bell Labs, used as the electronic imager in still and video cameras.

## Social and political movements

### Counterculture/social revolution

See also: Counterculture of the 1960s



Flower Power Bus

In the second half of the decade, young people began to revolt against the conservative norms of the time, as well as remove themselves from mainstream liberalism, in particular the high level of materialism which was so common during the era. This created a "counterculture" that sparked a social revolution throughout much of the western world. It began in the United States as a reaction against the conservatism and social conformity of the 1950s, and the US government's extensive military intervention in Vietnam. The youth involved in the popular social aspects of the movement became known as hippies. These groups created a movement toward liberation in society, including the sexual revolution, questioning authority and government, and demanding more freedoms and rights for women and minorities. The Underground Press, a widespread, eclectic collection of newspapers served as a unifying medium for the counterculture. The movement was also marked by the first widespread, socially accepted drug use (including LSD and marijuana) and psychedelic music.

### Anti-war movement

The conflict in Vietnam would eventually lead to a commitment of over half a million American troops, resulting in over 58,500 American deaths and producing a large-scale antiwar movement in the United States. As late as the end of 1965, few Americans protested the American involvement in Vietnam, but as the war dragged on and the body count continued to climb, civil unrest escalated. Students became a powerful and disruptive force and university campuses sparked a national debate over the war. As the movement's ideals spread beyond college campuses, doubts about the war also began to appear within the administration itself. A mass movement began rising in

opposition to the Vietnam War, ending in the massive Moratorium protests in 1969, as well as the movement of resistance to conscription ("the Draft") for the war. <sup>[citation needed]</sup>

The antiwar movement was initially based on the older 1950s Peace movement, heavily influenced by the American Communist Party, but by the mid-1960s it outgrew this and became a broad-based mass movement centered in universities and churches: one kind of protest was called a "sit-in". Other terms heard in the United States included "the Draft", "draft dodger", "conscientious objector", and "Vietnam vet". Voter age-limits were challenged by the phrase: "If you're old enough to die for your country, you're old enough to vote." Many of the youth involved in the politics of the movements distanced themselves from the "hippies". <sup>[citation needed]</sup>

## The rise of feminism

Feminism in the United States and around the world gained momentum in the early 1960s. At the time, a woman's place was generally seen as being in the home, and they were excluded from many jobs and professions. Commercials often portrayed women as being helpless if their car broke down. In the US, a Presidential Commission on the Status of Women found discrimination against women in the workplace and every other aspect of life, a revelation which launched two decades of prominent women-centered legal reforms (i.e. the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title IX, etc.) which broke down the last remaining legal barriers to women's personal freedom and professional success. Feminists took to the streets, marching and protesting, writing books and debating to change social and political views that limited women. In 1963, with Betty Friedan's revolutionary book, *The Feminine Mystique*, the role of women in society, and in public and private life was questioned. By 1966, the movement was beginning to grow in size and power as women's group spread across the country and Friedan, along with other feminists, founded the National Organization for Women. In 1968, "Women's Liberation" became a household term as, for the first time, the new women's movement eclipsed the black civil rights movement when New York Radical Women, led by Robin Morgan, protested the annual Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The movement continued throughout the next decades.

## Hispanic and Chicano Movement

Another large ethnic minority group, the Mexican-Americans, are among other Hispanics in the U.S. who fought to end racial discrimination and socioeconomic disparity. The largest Mexican-American populations was in the Southwestern United States, such as California with over 1 million *Chicanos* in Los Angeles alone, and Texas where Jim Crow laws included Mexican-Americans as "non-white" in some instances to be legally segregated.

Socially, the Chicano Movement addressed what it perceived to be negative ethnic stereotypes of Mexicans in mass media and the American consciousness. It did so through the creation of works of literary and visual art that validated Mexican-American

ethnicity and culture. Chicanos fought to end social stigmas such as the usage of the Spanish language and advocated official bilingualism in federal and state governments.

The Chicano Movement also addressed discrimination in public and private institutions. Early in the twentieth century, Mexican Americans formed organizations to protect themselves from discrimination. One of those organizations, the League of United Latin American Citizens, was formed in 1929 and remains active today.<sup>[6]</sup>

The movement gained momentum after World War II when groups such as the American G.I. Forum, which was formed by returning Mexican American veterans, joined in the efforts by other civil rights organizations.<sup>[7]</sup>

Mexican-American civil rights activists achieved several major legal victories including the 1947 Mendez v. Westminster Supreme Court ruling which declared that segregating children of "Mexican and Latin descent" was unconstitutional and the 1954 Hernandez v. Texas ruling which declared that Mexican Americans and other racial groups in the United States were entitled to equal protection under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

The most prominent civil rights organization in the Mexican-American community is the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), founded in 1968.<sup>[10]</sup> Although modeled after the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, MALDEF has also taken on many of the functions of other organizations, including political advocacy and training of local leaders.

Meanwhile, Puerto Ricans in the U.S. mainland fought against racism, police brutality and socioeconomic problems affecting the three million Puerto Ricans residing in 50 states, the main concentration was in New York City. They formed political action groups, became further involved in city and national politics, and became proud of their heritage, in spite of stereotypes and being viewed as "foreign" despite Puerto Rico is US territory.

In the 1960s and the following 1970s, Hispanic-American culture was on the rebound like ethnic music, foods, culture and identity both became popular and assimilated into the American mainstream. Spanish-language television networks, radio stations and newspapers increased in presence across the country, especially in US-Mexican border towns and East Coast cities like New York City, and the growth of the Cuban American community in Miami, Florida.

The multitude of discrimination at this time represented an inhuman side to a society that in the 1960s was upheld as a world and industry leader. The issues of civil rights and warfare became major points of reflection of virtue and democracy, what once was viewed as traditional and inconsequential was now becoming the significance in the turning point of a culture. A document known as the Port Huron Statement exemplifies these two conditions perfectly in its first hand depiction, "while these and other problems either directly oppressed us or rankled our consciences and became our own subjective

concerns, we began to see complicated and disturbing paradoxes in our surrounding America. The declaration "all men are created equal..." rang hollow before the facts of Negro life in the South and the big cities of the North. The proclaimed peaceful intentions of the United States contradicted its economic and military investments in the Cold War status quo." These intolerable issues became too visible to ignore therefore its repercussions were feared greatly, the realization that we as individuals take the responsibility for encounter and resolution in our lives issues was an emerging idealism of the 1960s.

## **New Left**

The rapid rise of a "New Left" applied the class perspective of Marxism to postwar America, but had little organizational connection with older Marxist organizations such as the Communist Party, and even went as far as to reject organized labor as the basis of a unified left-wing movement. The New Left differed from the traditional left in its resistance to dogma and its emphasis on personal as well as societal change. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) became the organizational focus of the New Left and was the prime mover behind the opposition to the War in Vietnam. The 1960s left also consisted of ephemeral campus-based Trotskyist, Maoist and anarchist groups, some of which by the end of the 1960s had turned to militancy.

## **Crime**

The 1960s has also been associated with a large increase in crime and urban unrest of all types. Between 1960 and 1969 reported incidences of violent crime per 100,000 people in the United States nearly doubled and have yet to return to the levels of the early 1960s.<sup>[11]</sup> Large riots broke out in many cities, such as Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City, Newark and Oakland. By the end of the decade, politicians such as Richard Nixon and George Wallace campaigned on restoring law and order to a nation troubled with the new unrest.

## **Additional significant world-wide events**

- Manson Murders - took place on August 8–10 1969 which was the death of Sharon Tate, Abigail Folger, along with several others in the Tate house. Killed on August 9, Rosemary LaBianca & Leno LaBianca.
- Canada celebrated its 100th anniversary of Confederation in 1967 by hosting Expo 67, the World's Fair, in Montreal, Quebec. During the anniversary celebrations, French president Charles De Gaulle visited Canada, and caused a considerable uproar by declaring his support for Québécois independence.

## Popular culture

The counterculture movement dominated the second half of the 1960s, its most famous moments being the Summer of Love in San Francisco in 1967, and the Woodstock Festival in upstate New York in 1969. Psychedelic drugs, especially LSD, were widely used medicinally, spiritually and recreationally throughout the late 1960s, and were popularized by Timothy Leary with his slogan "Turn on, tune in, drop out". Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters also played a part in the role of "turning heads on". Psychedelic influenced the music, artwork and movies of the decade, and a number of prominent musicians died of drug overdoses (see 27 Club). There was a growing interest in Eastern religions and philosophy, and many attempts were made to found communes, which varied from supporting free love to religious puritanism.

## Music

See also: 1960s in music



British Invasion: The Beatles arrive at John F. Kennedy International Airport, 7 February 1964

Popular music entered an era of "all hits", as numerous artists released recordings, beginning in the 1950s, as 45-rpm "singles" (with another on the flip side), and radio stations tended to play only the most popular of the wide variety of records being made. Also, bands tended to record only the best of their songs as a chance to become a hit record. The taste of the American listeners expanded from the folksinger, doo-wop and saxophone sounds of the 1950s to the Motown sound, folk rock and the British Invasion. The Los Angeles and San Francisco Sound began in this period with many popular bands coming out of LA and the Haight-Ashbury district, well-known for its hippie culture. The rise of the counterculture movement, particularly among the youth, created a market for rock, soul, pop, reggae and blues music produced by drug-culture.

### Significant events in music in the 1960s:

- Elvis Presley returns to civilian life in the USA after two years away in the U.S. Army. He resumes his musical career by recording "It's Now or Never" and "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" in March 1960.<sup>[12]</sup>

- Motown Record Corporation founded in 1960. Its first Top Ten hit was "Shop Around" by the Miracles in 1960. "Shop Around" peaked at number-two on the Billboard Hot 100, and was Motown's first million-selling record.
- Joan Baez headlines at the Newport Folk Festival, leading to a contract with Vanguard Records; her debut album would be released in December 1960,
- The Marvelettes scored Motown Record Corporation's first US #1 pop hit, "Please Mr. Postman" in 1961. Motown would score 110 Billboard Top-Ten hits during its run.
- The Four Seasons released four straight number one hits
- In a widely-anticipated and publicized event, The Beatles arrive in America in February 1964, spearheading the British Invasion.
- The *Mary Poppins* Original Soundtrack tops record charts. Sherman Brothers receive Grammys and double Oscars.
- Lesley Gore: At age 17 hits Number one on Billboard with "It's My Party" and '64 with Number 2 "You Don't Own Me" behind the Beatles "I Wanna Hold Your Hand."
- The Supremes scored twelve number one hit singles between 1964 and 1969, beginning with "Where Did Our Love Go".
- The Kinks release "You Really Got Me" in late 1964, which tops the British charts; it is regarded as the first hard rock hit and a blueprint for related genres, such as heavy metal.<sup>[13]</sup>
- The Grateful Dead was formed in 1965 (originally The Warlocks) thus paving the way, giving birth to Acid rock.
- Bob Dylan goes electric at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival.
- Cilla Black's number one hit "Anyone who had a Heart" still remains the top selling single by a female artist in the UK from 1964.
- The Rolling Stones have a huge #1 hit with their song "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" in the summer of 1965.
- The Byrds release a cover of Bob Dylan's "Mr. Tambourine Man", which reached #1 on the U.S. charts and repeated the feat in the U.K. shortly thereafter. The extremely influential track effectively creates the musical subgenre of folk rock.
- Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone" is a top-five hit on both sides of the Atlantic during the summer of 1965.
- Bob Dylan's 1965 albums Bringing It All Back Home and Highway 61 Revisited usher in album focused rock and the "folk rock" genre.
- Simon and Garfunkel release The Sounds of Silence single in 1965.
- The Beach Boys release *Pet Sounds* in 1966, which significantly influenced the Beatles Sgt. Pepper album a year later.
- Bob Dylan is called "Judas" by an audience member during the legendary Manchester Free Trade Hall concert, the start of the Bootleg recording industry follows, with recordings of this concert circulating for 30 years – wrongly labeled as – *The Royal Albert Hall Concert* before a legitimate release in 1998 as *The Bootleg Series Vol. 4: Bob Dylan Live 1966, The "Royal Albert Hall" Concert*.
- In February 1966, Nancy Sinatra's song "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'" became very popular.
- In 1966, *The Supremes A' Go-Go* was the first album by a female group to reach the top position of the *Billboard* magazine pop albums chart in the United States.
- The Seekers are the first Australian Group to have a number one with "Georgy Girl" in 1966.
- Jefferson Airplane released the influential *Surrealistic Pillow* in 1967.
- The Velvet Underground release their influential self-titled debut album *The Velvet Underground & Nico* in 1967.
- The Doors release their self-titled debut album *The Doors' in January 1967'*.

- Love release *Forever Changes* in 1967.
- The Jimi Hendrix Experience release two successful albums during 1967 *Are You Experienced* and *Axis: Bold as Love* that innovate both guitar, trio and recording techniques.
- The Beatles release the seminal concept album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* in June 1967.
- The Moody Blues release the album *Days of Future Passed* in November 1967.
- Pink Floyd releases their debut record *The Piper at the Gates of Dawn*.
- Bob Dylan releases the Country rock album *John Wesley Harding* in December 1967.
- The Bee Gees release their international debut album *Bee Gees 1st* in July 1967 which contains the pop standard "To Love Somebody".
- The Monterey Pop Festival in 1967 was the beginning of the so-called "Summer of Love".
- Johnny Cash releases *At Folsom Prison* in 1968
- 1968: after The Yardbirds fold, Led Zeppelin is formed by Jimmy Page and manager Peter Grant, with Robert Plant, John Bonham and John Paul Jones; and, released their debut album *Led Zeppelin*.
- The Band releases the roots rock album *Music from Big Pink* in 1968.
- Big Brother and the Holding Company, with Janis Joplin as lead singer, becomes an overnight sensation after their performance at Monterey Pop in 1967 and release their massively successful second album *Cheap Thrills* in 1968.
- Gram Parsons with The Byrds releases the extremely influential LP *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* in late 1968, forming the basis for country rock.
- The Jimi Hendrix Experience release the highly influential double LP *Electric Ladyland* in 1968 that furthered the guitar and studio innovations of his previous two albums.
- Simon and Garfunkel release the single Mrs. Robinson in 1968 featured in the movie *The Graduate*.



Woodstock Festival, 1969

- Sly & the Family Stone revolutionize black music with their massive 1968 hit single "Dance to the Music" and by 1969 became international sensations with the release of their hit record *Stand!*. The band cemented their position as a vital counterculture band when they performed at the Woodstock Festival.
- The Rolling Stones film the TV special *The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus* in December 1968 but the film is not released for transmission. Considered for decades as a fabled 'lost' performance until released in North America on Laserdisc and VHS in 1996. Features performances from The Who; The Dirty Mac featuring John Lennon, Eric Clapton and Mitch Mitchell; Jethro Tull and Taj Mahal.
- The Woodstock Festival, and four months later, the Altamont Free Concert in 1969.

- The Who release and tour the first rock opera *Tommy* in 1969.
- Proto-punk band MC5 release the live album *Kick Out The Jams* in 1969.
- Captain Beefheart and his Magic Band release the avant garde *Trout Mask Replica* in 1969.
- The Stooges release their debut album in 1969.
- The Flying Burrito Brothers released their influential debut *The Gilded Palace of Sin* in 1969.

## Film

See also: History of film#1960s and 1960s in film

The highest-grossing film of the decade was 20th Century Fox's *The Sound of Music*.<sup>[14]</sup>

Some of Hollywood's most notable blockbuster films of the 1960s include: *Psycho*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Spartacus*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Hustler*, *Carnival of Souls*; *The Birds*, *The Pink Panther*, *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*; *Mary Poppins*, *The Sound of Music*; *Doctor Zhivago*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Dirty Dozen*, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*; *Bonnie and Clyde*; *Cool Hand Luke*; *The Graduate*; *Rosemary's Baby*; *Midnight Cowboy*; *Head*; *Medium Cool*; *2001: A Space Odyssey*; *Faces*; *Night of the Living Dead*; *Easy Rider*; *Ice Station Zebra*; *Planet of the Apes*; *The Lion In Winter*; *The Wild Bunch*.

The counterculture movement had a significant effect on cinema. Movies began to break social taboos such as sex and violence causing both controversy and fascination. They turned increasingly dramatic, unbalanced, and hectic as the cultural revolution was starting. This was the beginning of the New Hollywood era that dominated the next decade in theatres and revolutionized the movie industry. Films of this time also focused on the changes happening in the world. Dennis Hopper's *Easy Rider* (1969) focused on the drug culture of the time. Movies also became more sexually explicit, such as Roger Vadim's *Barbarella* (1968) as the counterculture progressed.

In Europe, Art Cinema gains wider distribution and sees movements like la Nouvelle Vague (The French New Wave) featuring French filmmakers such as Roger Vadim, François Truffaut, Alain Resnais, and Jean-Luc Godard; Cinéma Vérité documentary movement in Canada, France and the United States; Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman, Chilean filmmaker Alexandro Jodorowsky and Polish filmmakers Roman Polanski and Wojciech Jerzy Has produced original and offbeat masterpieces and the high-point of Italian filmmaking with Michelangelo Antonioni and Federico Fellini making some of their most known films during this period. Notable films from this period include: *La Dolce Vita*, *8½*; *La Notte*; *L'Eclisse*, *The Red Desert*; *Blowup*; *Satyricon*; *Accattone*; *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*; *Theorem*; *Winter Light*; *The Silence*; *Persona*; *Shame*; *A Passion*; *Au Hasard Balthazar*, *Mouchette*; *Last Year at Marienbad*; *Chronique d'un été*; *Titicut Follies*; *High School*; *Salesman*; *La Jetée*; *Warrendale*; *Knife in the Water*; *Repulsion*; *The Saragossa Manuscript*; *El Topo*; *A Hard Day's Night*, and the cinema verite *Dont Look Back*.

In Japan, a color version remake of director Kenji Mizoguchi's *The 47 Ronin*, entitled *Chushingura: Hana no Maki, Yuki no Maki* directed by Hiroshi Inagaki was released in 1962, the legendary story was also remade as a television series in Japan. Academy Award winning Japanese director Akira Kurosawa produced *Yojimbo* (1961), and *Sanjuro* (1962), which both starred Toshirō Mifune as a mysterious Samurai swordsman for hire. Like his previous films both had a profound influence around the world. The *Spaghetti Western* genre was a direct outgrowth of the Kurosawa films. The influence of these films is most apparent in Sergio Leone's *A Fistful of Dollars* (1964) starring Clint Eastwood and Walter Hill's *Last Man Standing* (1996). *Yojimbo* was also the origin of the "Man with No Name" trend which included Sergio Leone's *For a Few Dollars More*, and *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* both also starring Clint Eastwood, and arguably continued through his 1968 opus *Once Upon a Time in the West*, starring Henry Fonda, Charles Bronson, Claudia Cardinale, and Jason Robards. *The Magnificent Seven* a 1960 American western film directed by John Sturges was a remake of Akira Kurosawa's 1954 film, *Seven Samurai*.

The 1960s were also about experimentation. With the explosion of light-weight and affordable cameras, the underground avant-garde film movement thrived. Canada's Michael Snow, Americans Kenneth Anger, Stan Brakhage, Andy Warhol, and Jack Smith. Notable films in this genre are: *Dog Star Man*; *Scorpio Rising*; *Wavelength*; *Chelsea Girls*; *Blow Job*; *Vinyl*; *Flaming Creatures*.

Significant events in the film industry in the 1960s:

- Removal of the Motion Picture Association of America's Production Code in 1967.
- The decline and end of the Studio System.
- The rise of 'art house' films and theaters.
- The end of the classical hollywood cinema era.
- The beginning of the New Hollywood Era due to the counterculture.
- The rise of independent producers that worked outside of the Studio System.
- Move to all-color production in Hollywood movies.
- The invention of the Nagra 1/4", sync-sound, portable open-reel tape deck.
- Expo 67 where new film formats like Imax were invented and new ways of displaying film were tested.
- Flat-bed film editing tables appear, like the Steenbeck, they eventually replace the Moviola editing platform.
- The French New Wave.
- Direct Cinema and Cinéma vérité documentaries.

## Fashion

Significant fashion trends of the 1960s include:

- The Beatles exerted an enormous influence on young men's fashions and hairstyles in the 1960s which included most notably the mop-top haircut, the Beatle boots and the Nehru jacket.

- The hippie movement late in the decade also had a strong influence on clothing styles, including bell-bottom jeans, tie-dye and batik fabrics, as well as paisley prints.
- The bikini finally came into fashion in 1963 after being featured in the movie *Beach Party*.
- Mary Quant invented the mini-skirt which became the rage in the late 1960s.
- Women's hair styles ranged from beehive hairdos in the early part of the decade to very short styles popularized by Twiggy just five years later.

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## History of New York City (1946–1977)

The history of New York City (1946–1977) saw the emergence of New York immediately after World War II as the unquestioned leading city of the world. However, after peaking in population in 1950, the city began to feel the effects of white flight to the suburbs, a downturn in industry and commerce as businesses left for places where it was cheaper and easier to operate, an increase in crime, and an upturn in its welfare burden, all of which reached a nadir in the city's fiscal crisis of the 1970s, when it barely avoided defaulting on its obligations and declaring bankruptcy.

### Postwar through mid-century

As many great cities lay in ruin after World War II, New York City assumed a new global prominence. It became the home of the United Nations headquarters, built 1947–1952, inherited the role of Paris as center of the art world with Abstract Expressionism, and became a rival to London as an art market. Yet the population declined after 1950, with increasing suburbanization in the New York metropolitan area as pioneered in Levittown, New York.

November 15, 1948 marked a significant turning point in the city's economy, when the Interstate Commerce Commission began allowing barges to charge fees for transporting goods from rail terminals in New Jersey to piers in Manhattan.<sup>[1]</sup> This led to the decline of the port, the piers, and places such as Washington Market in Lower Manhattan.



Pennsylvania Station in 1962, two years before it was torn down, an event which jump-started the historic preservation movement.

Meanwhile, Midtown Manhattan was experiencing an unprecedented building boom, fueled by postwar prosperity. This led to a drastic change in the appearance of Midtown, where bland office towers in the new International Style began to replace the ziggurat-style towers of the postwar era. Also rapidly changing was the eastern edge of the East Village close to the FDR Drive. Large-scale public housing projects supplanted many traditional apartment blocks. In Lower Manhattan, urban renewal began to take shape at

around 1960, led by David Rockefeller with construction of his One Chase Manhattan Plaza building.

In a built-out city, construction always entailed destruction. After the old Beaux Arts Pennsylvania Station was torn down, growing concern for preservation led to the creation of the *Landmarks Preservation Commission Law* of 1965. The city's other great train station, Grand Central, was also threatened with demolition but was eventually saved. Meanwhile, New York City's network of highways spread under the guidance of Robert Moses, with consequent increased traffic congestion, but the defeat in 1962 of Moses' planned Lower Manhattan Expressway by community activists lead by Jane Jacobs was an indication that Moses would no longer have the free hand he had enjoyed in the past.

## 1960s

By the beginning of the 1960s, economic tribulation had begun. An early sign of the city's waning competitiveness was the loss of both its National League baseball teams to booming California; the Dodgers and the Giants both moved after the 1957 season. The void was filled in 1962 with the formation of the Mets in 1962, who played their first two seasons at the Polo Grounds, the former home of the Giants, before moving to Shea Stadium in Queens in 1964.



A raid on the Stonewall Inn provoked riots which became a defining moment in the modern gay rights movement

# FORD TO CITY: DROP DEAD

**Vows He'll Veto Any Bail-Out**



**Abe, Carey  
Rip Stand**

**Stocks Skid,  
Dow Down 12**

The 1970s were a low point in the city's modern history, and one of the lowest moments came when the *New York Daily News* reported what appeared to New Yorkers to be the federal government's disinterest in saving the nation's largest and most populous city.

On November 9, 1965, New York endured a widespread power blackout along with much of eastern North America. (The city's ordeal became the subject of the 1968 film, *Where Were You When the Lights Went Out?*) Manufacturing declined, and the advent of container shipping shifted much maritime trade to New Jersey, which, unlike New York City, had space to accommodate large stacks of containers. Adult entertainment sites began to fill the Times Square district in the mid-1960s and remained until redevelopment of the area in the mid-1990s.

The Transport Workers Union of America (TWU) led by Mike Quill shut down the city with a complete halt of subway and bus service on mayor John Lindsay's first day of office. As New Yorkers endured the transit strike, Lindsay remarked, "I still think it's a fun city," and walked four miles (6 km) from his hotel room to City Hall in a gesture to show it.<sup>[2]</sup> Dick Schaap, then a columnist for the *New York Herald Tribune*, coined and popularized the sarcastic term in an article titled *Fun City*.<sup>[3][2]</sup> In the article, Schaap sardonically pointed out that it wasn't.<sup>[2] [3]</sup>

The transit strike was the first of many labor struggles. In 1968 the teachers' union (the United Federation of Teachers (UFT)) went on strike over the firings of several teachers in a school in Ocean Hill-Brownsville.<sup>[4]</sup> That same year, 1968, also saw a nine-day sanitation strike.<sup>[5]</sup> Quality of life in New York reached a nadir during this strike, as mounds of garbage caught fire, and strong winds whirled the filth through the streets.<sup>[6]</sup> With the schools shut down, the police engaged in a slowdown, firefighters threatening job actions, the city awash in garbage, and racial and religious tensions breaking to the surface, Lindsay later called the last six months of 1968 "the worst of my public life."<sup>[7]</sup>

The passage of the federal Immigration Act of 1965, which abolished national-origin quotas, set the stage for increased immigration from Asia, which became the basis for the New York's modern Asian American community.

The Stonewall riots were a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations against a police raid that took place in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn, in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City. They are frequently cited as the first instance in American history when people in the homosexual community fought back against a government-sponsored system that persecuted sexual minorities, and they have become the defining event that marked the start of the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.



This 1990 image shows the World Trade Center, completed in 1973

## 1970s

The 1970s are widely regarded as New York's nadir. The city had become notorious the world over for high rates of crime and other social disorder. A popular song in the autumn of 1972, "American City Suite," by Cashman & West, chronicled, in allegorical fashion, the decline in the city's quality of life.

US economic stagnation in the 1970s hit New York City particularly hard, as trading on the New York Stock Exchange fell while the city's welfare spending continued. The city neared bankruptcy during the administration of Mayor Abraham Beame but avoided that fate with the aid of a large federal loan. A statement by Mayor Beame was drafted and ready to be released on October 17, 1975, if the teachers' union did not invest \$150 million from its pension funds in city securities. "I have been advised by the comptroller that the City of New York has insufficient cash on hand to meet debt obligations due today," the statement said. "This constitutes the default that we have struggled to avoid."<sup>[8]</sup> The Beame statement was never distributed because Albert Shanker, the teachers' union president, finally furnished \$150 million from the union's pension fund to buy Municipal Assistance Corporation bonds. Two weeks later, President Gerald R. Ford angered many New Yorkers by refusing to grant the city a bailout, a decision famously summarized by the *New York Daily News* headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead."

The New York City Blackout of 1977 struck on July 13th of that year and lasted for 25 hours, during which the city suffered heavy looting and civil unrest. Over 3,000 people were arrested, and the city's already crowded prisons were so overburdened that some

suggested reopening the Manhattan Detention Complex that had recently been condemned.

A rare highlight was the opening of the mammoth World Trade Center complex in 1972. Conceived by David Rockefeller and built by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on the site of the Radio Row electronics district in Lower Manhattan, the Twin Towers briefly displaced the Empire State Building in Midtown as the world's tallest before being displaced in turn by Chicago's Sears Tower in 1973.

However, the financial crisis, high crime rates, and damage from the blackouts led to a widespread belief that New York City was in irreversible decline. Many white middle class families moved to the city's suburbs and to other economically healthier locales. By the end of the 1970s, nearly a million people had left, a population loss not recovered for another twenty years. The more fiscally conservative Ed Koch was elected as mayor in 1977.

## References

### Notes

1. ^ Glanz, James and Eric Lipton (2003). *City in the Sky*. Times Books. p. 48.
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3. ^ <sup>a b</sup> DANIEL B. SCHNEIDER ,F.Y.I. , *NY Times*, January 3, 1999
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8. ^ The New York Times. "When the City's Bankruptcy Was Just a Few Words Away." Dec 31, 2006.[1]

# NEW YORK

## Classic 'New York': The 1960s

Click on the hyperlinked titles to check out classic articles published in New York Magazine in the 1960s.

### ['Bonnie and Clyde' Revisited](#)

BY JIMMY BRESLIN

*July 8, 1968*

"The movie is only a reflection, a very pretty one, of what makes people murder. Real murderers aren't ever that pretty."

---

### [Learning to Live With Nixon](#)

BY GLORIA STEINEM

*October 28, 1968*

"As we learned who Kennedy was only after he died, we may learn who Nixon is only after he is president."

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### [Women and Power](#)

BY GLORIA STEINEM

*December 23, 1968*

"As Jacqueline Kennedy was quoted in a New York newspaper profile, 'There are two kinds of women: those who want power in the world and those who want power in bed.'"

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### [After Black Power, Women's Liberation](#)

BY GLORIA STEINEM

*April 7, 1969*

Once upon a time—say, ten or even five years ago—a Liberated Woman was somebody who had sex before marriage and a job afterward.

---

### [Namath All Night Long](#)

BY JIMMY BRESLIN

*April 7, 1969*

"...The night before the Oakland game I grabbed a girl and a bottle and went to the Summit Hotel and stayed in bed all night... Same thing before the Super Bowl. It's good for you..."

---

### [The Revolt of the White Lower Middle Class](#)

BY PETE HAMILL

*April 14, 1969*

"It is imperative that New York politicians begin to deal with the growing alienation and paranoia of these people."

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### [I Run to Win](#)

BY JIMMY BRESLIN

*May 5, 1969*

Some time ago, I made a basic decision about the way in which I was going to live the little of life available to me.

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### [The Great White Hope](#)

BY PETE HAMILL

*June 23, 1969*

For a guy like Jerry Quarry to come to New York now is a fight promoter's dream.

---

### [Renaissance of the Upper West Side](#)

BY NICHOLAS PILEGGI

*June 30, 1969*

Five years ago the West Side of Manhattan was considered such a blighted area that invitations to parties on Riverside Drive were often rejected.

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### [Brooklyn: The Sane Alternative](#)

BY PETE HAMILL

*July 14, 1969*

From an old Brooklyn street, the spires of Manhattan are like a vision of "some strange, exotic city across the river."

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### [The Amphetamine Explosion](#)

BY GAIL SHEEHY

*July 21, 1969*

"Any place where young people gather, amphetamine is becoming a god. Cops have Mace, kids have speed."

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### [Is Lindsay Too Tall to Be Mayor?](#)

BY JIMMY BRESLIN

*July 28, 1969*

"... Short, waddling, crying, sweating Mario talks about 'a clean city and a safe city,' and suddenly it's not too good to be tall and handsome. 'Send Lindsay to a dance,' the cabdrivers yell..."

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# Important Events of the 1960s

## 1960

### Movies

*The Apartment*, directed by Billy Wilder and starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine; *Elmer Gantry*, starring Burt Lancaster and Jean Simmons; *Little Shop of Horrors*, directed by Roger Corman; *Psycho*, directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Anthony Perkins; *Spartacus*, directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis, Peter Ustinov, and Jean Simmons.

### Fiction

John Barth, *The Sot-Weed Factor*; E. L. Doctorow, *Welcome to Hard Times*; John Hersey, *The Child Buyer*; Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; Flannery O'Connor, *The Violent Bear It Away*; John O'Hara, *Sermons and Soda-Water*; John Updike, *Rabbit, Run*.

### Popular

**Songs** Paul Anka, "Puppy Love"; Ray Charles, "Georgia on My Mind"; Chubby Checker, "The Twist"; Elvis Presley, "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" and "It's Now or Never"; Johnny Preston, "Running Bear."

- The second annual Photography in the Fine Arts Project is held at the IBM Gallery in New York; it is twice as big and occupies three times as much space as the original.
- Leslie Fiedler's controversial *Love and Death in the American Novel* quickly becomes one of the best-known books in the history of American literary criticism.
- *Astounding Science Fiction*, one of the most popular science-fiction magazines since the 1930s, changes its name to *Analog*.

### 3 Jan.

The Moscow State Symphony begins a successful seven-week tour of the United States at Carnegie Hall in New York. It is the first Soviet orchestra to perform in the United States.

### Mar

Seven of the eight major film studios are crippled by an actors' strike.

### 4 Mar.

Baritone Leonard Warren collapses and dies during a performance of *Laforza del destino* at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

### 16 Mar.

The merger of Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., and Random House, Inc., is completed, with Random in control.

### 3 July

The city council of Newport, Rhode Island, votes to cancel remaining performances at the annual Newport Jazz Festival due to riots led by drunken high-school and college students.

### 2 Nov.

Dimitri Mitropoulos collapses and dies while conducting at La Scala Opera House in Milan, Italy.

# 1961

## Movies

*The Absent-Minded Professor*, starring Fred MacMurray; *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, starring Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard; *El Cid*, starring Charlton Heston; *The Hustler*, starring Paul Newman and Jackie Gleason; *Judgment at Nuremberg*, starring Montgomery Clift; *The Misfits*, directed by John Huston and starring Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe; *101 Dalmatians*, Disney animation; *Splendor in the Grass*, directed by Elia Kazan and starring Natalie Wood and Warren Beatty; *West Side Story*, starring Richard Beymer and Natalie Wood.

## Fiction

John Hawkes, *The Lime Twig*; Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*; John O'Hara, *Assembly*; Robert A. Heinlein, *Stranger in a Strange Land*; Walker Percy, *The Moviegoer*; J. D. Salinger, *Franny and Zooey*; Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Spinoza of Market Street*; John Steinbeck, *The Winter of Our Discontent*.

## Popular

**Songs** Ray Charles, "Hit the Road, Jack"; Jimmy Dean, "Big Bad John"; Dion, "Run-around Sue"; the Kingston Trio, "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"; the Marvelettes, "Please, Mr. Postman"; Roy Orbison, "Cryin' "; the Shirelles, "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?"; the Tokens, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."

- The Museum of Modern Art holds a retrospective exhibit of the work of Mark Rothko.
- Robert A. Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land* becomes the first science-fiction novel to appear on *The New York Times* best-seller list.

## 27 Jan.

Soprano Leontyne Price first performs at the New York Metropolitan Opera.

## 29 July

Ten paintings worth \$300,000 are stolen from the private collection of G. David Thompson of Pittsburgh; others (including a Picasso) are damaged.

## 28 Aug.

A contract dispute concerning the musicians at the Metropolitan Opera in New York is settled when the musicians and the company agree to abide by binding arbitration by Secretary of Labor Arthur Goldberg.

## 13 Nov.

Cellist Pablo Casals performs at a White House dinner honoring Puerto Rican governor Luis Muñoz Marín.

# 1962

## Movies

*The Birdman of Alcatraz*, starring Burt Lancaster; *Days of Wine and Roses*, starring Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick; *Dr. No*, starring Sean Connery; *Lawrence of Arabia*, directed by David Lean and starring Peter O'Toole; *Lolita*, directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring James Mason; *The Manchurian Candidate*, starring Laurence Harvey, Frank

Sinatra, and Angela Lansbury; *The Music Man*, starring Robert Preston and Shirley Jones; *Mutiny on the Bounty*, starring Marlon Brando and Trevor Howard; *To Kill a Mockingbird*, starring Gregory Peck; *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*, starring Joan Crawford and Bette Davis.

### **Fiction**

James Baldwin, *Another Country*; William S. Burroughs, *The Ticket That Exploded*; Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire*; Katherine Anne Porter, *Ship of Fools*; Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Slave*; Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., *Mother Night*.

### **Popular**

**Songs** Tony Bennett, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco"; Gene Chandler, "Duke of Earl"; Ray Charles, "I Can't Stop Loving You"; the Four Seasons, "Big Girls Don't Cry" and "Sherry"; Little Eva, "The Loco-Motion"; Bobby "Boris" Pickett, "The Monster Mash"; Elvis Presley, "Return to Sender"; Neil Sedaka, "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do."

- William S. Burroughs's novel *Naked Lunch* (1959), initially published in Paris, is published in America for the first time.
- After the death of Clara Langhorne Clemens Samossoud, the last surviving child of Mark Twain, his antireligious *Letters from the Earth* is published for the first time, as a book edited by Bernard De Voto.

### **30 May**

Benny Goodman begins a six-week tour of Russia in Moscow arranged by the U.S. State Department. Some jazz aficionados feel a more respected all-around musician such as Duke Ellington should represent America, while others think a younger, more "modern" musician would be more appropriate.

### **25 Sept.**

Philharmonic Hall, the first completed building of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, is inaugurated by Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy is guest of honor.

### **25 Oct.**

John Steinbeck is announced as the 1962 recipient of the Nobel Prize in literature.

### **12 Dec.**

French minister of culture Andre Malraux announces that France will loan the United States Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa for a short period for an American touring exhibit.

## **1963**

### **Movies**

*The Birds*, directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Tippi Hedren; *Cleopatra*, starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton; *Hud*, starring Paul Newman; *It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World*, directed by Stanley Kramer; *Lilies of the Field*, starring Sidney Poitier; *The Nutty Professor*, starring Jerry Lewis; *Tom Jones*, starring Albert Finney.

### **Fiction**

Mary McCarthy, *The Group*; Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*; Thomas Pynchon, *V.*; J. D. Salinger, *Raise High the Roofbeam, Carpenters, and Seymour: An Introduction*; Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., *Cat's Cradle*.

### Popular

**Songs** The Angels, "My Boyfriend's Back"; the Beach Boys, "Surfin' U.S.A."; Johnny Cash, "Ring of Fire"; the Chiffons, "He's So Fine" and "One Fine Day"; the Crystals, "Then He Kissed Me"; the Four Seasons, "Walk Like a Man"; Leslie Gore, "It's My Party"; the Kingsmen, "Louie, Louie"; Steve Lawrence, "Go Away, Little Girl"; Peter, Paul and Mary, "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Puff, the Magic Dragon"; the Singing Nun, "Dominique"; Bobby Vinton, "Blue Velvet."

- John Cleland's erotic eighteenth-century-style novel *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*, better known as *Fanny Hill*, is banned in several cities, but the courts declare it not to be obscene. Meanwhile, a bookseller in New Orleans is arrested for selling James Baldwin's novel *Another Country*.
- A member of the New York Public Library board of trustees borrows and burns the children's book *My Mother Is the Most Beautiful Woman in the World*, Rebecca Reyher's retelling of a Russian folktale, because the book contains passages "favorable to Russia." He is suspended from the board for six weeks or until he replaces the book.
- Andrew Wyeth becomes the first painter to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

### 8 Jan.

Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa is shown at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the first time the painting has ever appeared outside the Louvre in Paris. During its three-and-a-half-week stay it attracts 500,000 visitors. When the painting moves to New York, 23,872 people show up on a rainy day to see it.

### 7 May

The Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, the first major regional theater in the Midwest, opens.

## 1964

### Movies

*Becket*, starring Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole; *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*, directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Peter Sellers, George C. Scott, and Slim Pickens; *Goldfinger*, starring Sean Connery; *Mary Poppins*, starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke; *My Fair Lady*, starring Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn; *Zorba the Greek*, starring Anthony Quinn.

### Fiction

Saul Bellow, *Herzog*; Thomas Berger, *Little Big Man*; Richard Brautigan, *A Confederate General from Big Sur*; William S. Burroughs, *Nova Express*; James Gould Cozzens, *Children and Others*; John Hawkes, *Second Skin*.

### Popular

**Songs** The Animals, "The House of the Rising Sun"; Louis Armstrong, "Hello, Dolly!"; the Beach Boys, "Fun, Fun, Fun" and "I Get Around"; the Beatles, "Can't Buy Me Love," "A Hard Day's Night," "I Feel Fine," "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "She Loves You," and

"Twist and Shout"; Manfred Mann, "Do Wah Diddy Diddy"; Martha and the Vandellas, "Dancing in the Street"; Dean Martin, "Everybody Loves Somebody"; Roy Orbison, "Pretty Woman"; the Temptations, "The Way You Do the Things You Do"; Mary Wells, "My Guy."

- *A Moveable Feast*, Ernest Hemingway's memoirs of his early years in Paris, is published.
- After three years of court battles in various states, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that Henry Miller's novel *Tropic of Cancer* is not obscene.
- *The Deputy*, by German playwright Rolf Hochhuth, is picketed at its New York performance by Catholics outraged at its suggestion that Pope Pius XII had tacitly allowed the Nazis to commit genocide during World War II.

## 28 Feb.

Jazz pianist Thelonious Monk is featured in a cover story in *Time* magazine.

## May

After remodeling, the Museum of Modern Art reopens with a new gallery, named the Steichen Photography Center after Edward Steichen, its photography department director from 1947 to 1962.

# 1965

## Movies

*Cat Ballou*, starring Lee Marvin and Jane Fonda; *Doctor Zhivago*, directed by David Lean and starring Omar Sharif and Julie Christie; *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, starring Max Von Sydow, Charlton Heston, and Telly Savalas; *The Sound of Music*, starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer; *Thunderball*, starring Sean Connery.

## Fiction

Robert Coover, *The Origin of the Brunists*; Frank Herbert, *Dune*; Jerzy Kosinski, *The Painted Bird*; Norman Mailer, *An American Dream*; Flannery O'Connor, *Everything That Rises Must Converge*.

# 1965

## Popular Songs

Fontella Bass, "Rescue Me"; the Beach Boys, "California Girls" and "Help Me, Rhonda"; the Beatles, "Eight Days a Week," "Ticket to Ride," and "Yesterday"; James Brown, "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag"; the Byrds, "Turn! Turn! Turn!"; Petula Clark, "Downtown"; Bob Dylan, "Like a Rolling Stone"; Four Tops, "I Can't Help Myself"; The McCoys, "Hang On, Sloopy"; Roger Miller, "King of the Road"; the Righteous Brothers, "Unchained Melody" and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' "; the Rolling Stones, "Get Off of My Cloud" and "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction"; Sonny and Cher, "I Got You Babe"; the Supremes, "Stop! In the Name of Love"; the Temptations, "My Girl"; Dionne Warwick, "What the World Needs Now."

- A three-person music jury suggests that the advisory board for the Pulitzer Prizes grant jazz musician, composer, and bandleader Duke Ellington a special citation for his lifework. The board rejects the recommendation, leading one jury member to voice his dissatisfaction with the decision publicly. Ellington, 66, shrugs it off: "Fate doesn't want me to be too famous too young," he says.
- The Metropolitan Museum in New York stages a successful exhibit, "Three Centuries of American Painting," of more than four hundred works from those of colonial times to those by Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, and Mark Rothko.
- More than seventy thousand listeners attend the first of the New York Philharmonic's free concerts in Central Park.

## 26 Apr.

Charles Ives's *Symphony No. 4* (1916) is performed in its entirety for the first time by the American Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Leopold Stokowski. A grant is required to finance the extra rehearsals needed for the extremely difficult piece.

# 1966

## Movies

*Batman*, starring Adam West, Burt Ward, Burgess Meredith, Cesar Romero, Frank Gorshin, and Lee Meriwether; *The Chase*, starring Marlon Brando, Robert Redford, and Jane Fonda; *The Group*, starring Candice Bergen; *One Million Years B.C.*, starring Raquel Welch; *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolff*, starring Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, George Segal, and Sandy Dennis.

## Fiction

John Barth, *Giles Goat-Boy*; Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*; William H. Gass, *Omensetters Luck*; Bernard Malamud, *The Fixer*; Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*.

## Popular

**Songs** The Beach Boys, "Good Vibrations"; the Beatles, "Eleanor Rigby," "Paperback Writer," and "We Can Work It Out"; the Lovin' Spoonful, "Did You Ever Have to Make Up Your Mind?" and "Summer in the City"; Loretta Lynn, "Don't Come Home a-Drinkin' (with Lovin' on Your Mind)"; the Mamas and the Papas, "Monday, Monday"; the Monkees, "I'm a Believer" and "Last Train to Clarksville"; Napoleon XIV, "They're Coming to Take Me Away, Ha Ha"; Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler, "The Ballad of the Green Berets"; Simon and Garfunkel, "I Am a Rock" and "The Sounds of Silence"; Frank Sinatra, "Strangers in the Night"; Nancy Sinatra, "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'"; Percy Sledge, "When a Man Loves a Woman"; the Supremes, "You Can't Hurry Love"; the Troggs, "Wild Thing"; the Young Rascals, "Good Lovin'."

- Jazz pianist Earl Hines tours the Soviet Union, sponsored by the U.S. State Department. The tour is a tremendous success: in thirty-five concerts in eleven cities Hines plays for nearly one hundred thousand jazz fans.
- *The Sound of Music* (1965), having earned \$70 million in one year, becomes the top-grossing movie in American motion-picture history.

- Berry Gordy, Jr., the founder of Motown, changes the name of the Supremes to Diana Ross and the Supremes.

### 11 May

Joseph H. Hirschhorn donates his art collection, including fifty-six hundred paintings, drawings, and sculptures, to the United States. The collection's value is appraised at \$50 million.

### 8 Dec.

Paul Mellon donates his collection of British rare books, paintings, drawings, and prints to Yale University. The collection's value is appraised at more than \$35 million.

## 1967

### Movies

*Bonnie and Clyde*, starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, *Cool Hand Luke*, starring Paul Newman; *The Graduate*, starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, starring Sidney Poitier, Spencer Tracy, and Katharine Hepburn; *In the Heat of the Night*, starring Sidney Poitier and Rod Steiger, *The Jungle Book*, Disney animation.

### Fiction

Donald Barthelme, *Snow White*; Richard Brautigan, *Trout Fishing in America*; Norman Mailer, *Why Are We in Vietnam?*; William Styron, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*; Gore Vidal, *Washington, D.C.*

### Popular

**Songs** The Doors, "Light My Fire"; Aretha Franklin, "Respect" and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman"; Bobbie Gentry, "Ode to Billie Joe"; Arlo Guthrie, "Alice's Restaurant"; Engelbert Humperdinck, "Release Me"; Jefferson Airplane, "Somebody to Love" and "White Rabbit"; Procol Harum, "A Whiter Shade of Pale"; Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, "I Second That Emotion"; the Rolling Stones, "Let's Spend the Night Together" and "Ruby Tuesday"; Tommy James and the Shondells, "I Think We're Alone Now"; the Turtles, "Happy Together"; Frankie Valli, "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You."

- M-G-M Studios turns down a \$10 million offer to broadcast *Gone with the Wind* on television.

### 18 Feb.

The National Gallery of Art in Washington arranges to purchase Leonardo da Vinci's *Ginevra dei Benci* from Prince Franz Joseph of Liechtenstein for \$5-6million, the highest price to that time for a single painting.

### 26 Apr.

Pablo Picasso's *Mother and Child* sells for \$532,000, the highest price to that time for a single painting by a living artist.

### Dec

Unable to compete with television news, the last of the movie newsreel companies, Universal News, closes.

# 1968

## Movies

*Barbarella*, starring Jane Fonda; *Funny Girl*, starring Barbra Streisand; *The Green Berets*, directed by and starring John Wayne; *The Lion in Winter*, starring Katharine Hepburn and Peter O'Toole; *Night of the Living Dead*, directed by George Romero; *The Odd Couple*, starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau; *Planet of the Apes*, starring Charlton Heston and Roddy McDowall; *The Producers*, directed by Mel Brooks and starring Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder; *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Franco Zeffirelli and starring Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey; *Rosemary's Baby*, directed by Roman Polanski and starring Mia Farrow; *2001: A Space Odyssey*, directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Keir Dullea.

## Fiction

John Barth, *Lost in the Funhouse: Fiction for Print, Tape, Live Voice*; Richard Brautigan, *In Watermelon Sugar*; Robert Coover, *The Universal Baseball Association, Inc., J. Henry Waugh, Prop.*; James Gould Cozzens, *Morning Noon and Night*; Ronald Sukenick, *Up*; John Updike, *Couples*; Gore Vidal, *Myra Breckinridge*.

## Popular

**Songs** The Beatles, "Hey Jude"; James Brown, "Say It Loud (I'm Black and I'm Proud)"; the Doors, "Hello, I Love You"; Marvin Gaye, "I Heard It through the Grapevine"; Bobby Goldsboro, "Honey"; Ohio Express, "Yummy Yummy Yummy"; the Rascals, "People Got to Be Free"; Otis Redding, "(Sittin' on) The Dock of the Bay"; Jeannie C. Riley, "Harper Valley P.T.A."; the Rolling Stones, "Jumpin' Jack Flash"; Simon and Garfunkel, "Mrs. Robinson"; Steppenwolf, "Born to Be Wild"; Dionne Warwick, "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?"

- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announces that it will no longer offer separate Oscars for films in color and in black and white because of the rapidly shrinking number of black-and-white films. Separate awards had been given in cinematography since 1939, art direction since 1940, and costume design since 1948.
- Bosley Crowther, the influential film critic of *The New York Times*, retires after disagreeing with most critics and moviegoers over *Bonnie and Clyde*(1967), which he disliked and the public loved.
- *Switched-On Bach*, an album of music by Johann Sebastian Bach performed on the Moog synthesizer by Walter (later, after a sex change, Wendy) Carlos, is popular with classical listeners as well as young people. A second album the following year, *The Well-Tempered Synthesizer*, is equally successful.

# 1969

## Movies

*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford; *Easy Rider*, starring Peter Fonda, Dennis Hopper, and Jack Nicholson; *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*, starring Peter O'Toole; *The Love Bug*, starring Dean Jones and Buddy Hackett; *Midnight Cowboy*, starring Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight; *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*,

starring Maggie Smith; *True Grit*, starring John Wayne; *The Wild Bunch*, directed by Sam Peckinpah and starring William Holden and Ernest Borgnine.

### **Fiction**

Robert Coover, *Pricksongs and Descants*; Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*; N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*; Vladimir Nabokov, *Ada, or Ardor*; Joyce Carol Oates, *Them*; Mario Puzo, *The Godfather*; Ishmael Reed, *Yellow Back Radio Broke Down*; Philip Roth, *Portnoys Complaint*; Ronald Sukenick, *The Death of the Novel and Other Stories*; Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

### **Popular**

**Songs** The Archies, "Sugar, Sugar"; the Beatles, "Get Back"; Johnny Cash, "A Boy Named Sue"; Creedence Clearwater Revival, "Proud Mary"; Bob Dylan, "Lay Lady Lay"; the Fifth Dimension, "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In"; Merle Haggard, "Okie from Muskogee"; Peter, Paul and Mary, "Leaving on a Jet Plane"; Elvis Presley, "Suspicious Minds"; Frank Sinatra, "My Way"; B. J. Thomas, "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"; Stevie Wonder, "My Cherie Amour" Tommy James and the Shondells, "Crimson and Clover."

- Ten-year retrospectives are held featuring the work of pop artists Claes Oldenburg (at the Museum of Modern Art) and Roy Lichtenstein (at the Guggenheim Museum).
- Twenty-five writers at *Newsday*, convinced that they could write a best-selling sex novel of the type popular at the time, create *Naked Came the Stranger* by "Penelope Ashe"—which indeed became a best-seller.
- In response to the new MPAA ratings system, many newspapers either re-fuse to advertise X-rated movies or list only the title, rating, and theater for such films.

# Heroin

**Heroin**, or **diacetylmorphine** (INN), also known as **diamorphine** (BAN), is a semi-synthetic opioid drug synthesized from morphine, a derivative of the opium poppy. It is the 3,6-diacetyl ester of morphine (*di (two)-acetyl-morphine*). The white crystalline form is commonly the hydrochloride salt **diacetylmorphine hydrochloride**, though often adulterated thus dulling the sheen and consistency from that to a matte white powder, which heroin freebase typically is.<sup>[2]</sup> 90% of heroin is said to be produced in Afghanistan.<sup>[3]</sup>

As with other opioids, heroin is used as both an analgesic and a recreational drug. Frequent and regular administration is associated with tolerance and physical dependence, which may develop into addiction.

Internationally, heroin is controlled under Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.<sup>[4]</sup> It is illegal to manufacture, possess, or sell diacetylmorphine without a license in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Iran, India, the Netherlands, the United States, Australia, Canada, Ireland, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and Swaziland.

Under the name diamorphine, it is a legally prescribed controlled drug in the United Kingdom. It is available for prescription to long-term users in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany and Denmark alongside psycho-social care,<sup>[5][6]</sup> and a similar program is being campaigned for by liberal political parties in Norway.

## Etymology

The German drug company Bayer named its new over the counter drug "Heroin" in 1895.<sup>[7]</sup> The name was derived from the German word "*heroisch*" (heroic) due to its perceived "heroic" effects upon a user.<sup>[7]</sup> It was chiefly developed as a morphine substitute for cough suppressants that did not have morphine's addictive side-effects. Morphine at the time was a popular recreational drug, and Bayer wished to find a similar but non-addictive substitute to market.<sup>[8]</sup> However, contrary to Bayer's advertising as a "non-addictive morphine substitute," heroin would soon have one of the highest rates of dependence amongst its users.<sup>[9]</sup>

# History



Old advertisement for Bayer Heroin.



Bayer Heroin bottle.

The opium poppy was cultivated in lower Mesopotamia as long ago as 3400 BCE.<sup>[10]</sup> The chemical analysis of opium in the 19th century revealed that most of its activity could be ascribed to two alkaloids, codeine and morphine.

Diacetylmorphine was first synthesized in 1874 by C. R. Alder Wright, an English chemist working at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London. He had been experimenting with combining morphine with various acids. He boiled anhydrous morphine alkaloid with acetic anhydride for several hours and produced a more potent,

acetylated form of morphine, now called *diacetylmorphine*. The compound was sent to F. M. Pierce of Owens College in Manchester for analysis. Pierce told Wright:

“ Doses ... were subcutaneously injected into young dogs and rabbits ... with the following general results ... great prostration, fear, and sleepiness speedily following the administration, the eyes being sensitive, and pupils constrict, considerable salivation being produced in dogs, and slight tendency to vomiting in some cases, but no actual emesis. Respiration was at first quickened, but subsequently reduced, and the heart's action was diminished, and rendered irregular. Marked want of coordinating power over the muscular movements, and loss of power in the pelvis and hind limbs, together with a diminution of temperature in the rectum of about 4°. <sup>[11]</sup> ”

Wright's invention did not lead to any further developments, and diacetylmorphine only became popular after it was independently re-synthesized 23 years later by another chemist, Felix Hoffmann. Hoffmann, working at the Aktiengesellschaft Farbenfabriken (today the Bayer pharmaceutical company) in Elberfeld, Germany, was instructed by his supervisor Heinrich Dreser to acetylate morphine with the objective of producing codeine, a constituent of the opium poppy, pharmacologically similar to morphine but less potent and less addictive. Instead the experiment produced an acetylated form of morphine one and a half to two times more potent than morphine itself.

From 1898 through to 1910 diacetylmorphine was marketed under the trade name *Heroin* as a non-addictive morphine substitute and cough suppressant. Bayer marketed the drug as a cure for morphine addiction before it was discovered that it rapidly metabolizes into morphine. As such, heroin is essentially a quicker acting form of morphine. The company was embarrassed by the new finding, which became a historic blunder for Bayer. <sup>[12]</sup>

In the U.S.A. the Harrison Narcotics Tax Act was passed in 1914 to control the sale and distribution of "heroin" and other opioids, which allowed the drug to be prescribed and sold for medical purposes. In 1924 the United States Congress banned its sale, importation or manufacture. It is now a Schedule I substance, which makes it illegal for non-medical use in signatory nations of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs treaty, including the United States.

Later, as with Aspirin, Bayer lost some of its trademark rights to "heroin" under the 1919 Treaty of Versailles following the German defeat in World War I. <sup>[13]</sup>

## Pharmacology

When taken orally, diacetylmorphine undergoes extensive first-pass metabolism via deacetylation, making it a prodrug for the systemic delivery of morphine. <sup>[14]</sup> When the drug is injected, however, it avoids this first-pass effect, very rapidly crossing the blood-brain barrier due to the presence of the acetyl groups, which render it much more lipid-soluble than morphine itself. <sup>[15]</sup> Once in the brain, it then is deacetylated variously into

the inactive 3-monoacetylmorphine and the active 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM), and then to morphine which bind to  $\mu$ -opioid receptors, resulting in the drug's euphoric, analgesic (pain relief), and anxiolytic (anti-anxiety) effects; diacetylmorphine itself exhibits relatively low affinity for the  $\mu$  receptor.<sup>[16]</sup> Unlike hydromorphone and oxycodone, however, administered intravenously, diacetylmorphine creates a larger histamine release, similar to morphine, resulting in the feeling of a greater subjective "body high" to some, but also instances of pruritus (itching) when they first start using.<sup>[17]</sup>

Both morphine and 6-MAM are  $\mu$ -opioid agonists which bind to receptors present throughout the brain, spinal cord and gut of all mammals. The  $\mu$ -opioid receptor also binds endogenous opioid peptides such as  $\beta$ -endorphin, Leu-enkephalin, and Met-enkephalin. Repeated use of diacetylmorphine results in a number of physiological changes, including decreases in the number of  $\mu$ -opioid receptors.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> These physiological alterations lead to tolerance and dependence, so that cessation of diacetylmorphine use results in a set of remarkably uncomfortable symptoms including pain, anxiety, muscle spasms, and insomnia called the opioid withdrawal syndrome. Depending on usage it has an onset four to 24 hours after the last dose of diacetylmorphine. Morphine also binds to  $\delta$ - and  $\kappa$ -opioid receptors.

There is also evidence that 6-MAM binds to a subtype of  $\mu$ -opioid receptors which are also activated by the morphine metabolite morphine-6 $\beta$ -glucuronide but not morphine itself.<sup>[18]</sup> The third subtype of third opioid type ( $\mu$ -3) receptor. Which may be a commonality to other six position monoesters of morphine. The contribution of these receptors to the overall pharmacology of heroin remains unknown.

A subclass of morphine derivatives, namely the 3,6 esters of morphine, with similar effects and uses includes the clinically-used strong analgesics nicomorphine (Vilan), and dipropanoylmorphine; there is also the latter's dihydromorphine analogue, diacetyldihydromorphine (Paralaudin). Two other 3,6 diesters of morphine invented in 1874-5 along with heroin, dibenzoylmorphine and acetylpropionylmorphine, were made as heroin substitutes after heroin was outlawed in 1925 and therefore sold as the first "designer drugs" until they were outlawed by the League of Nations in 1930.

## Usage and effects

Worldwide, the UN estimates there are more than 50 million regular users of heroin, cocaine and synthetic drugs.<sup>[19]</sup> Global users of heroin are estimated at between 15.16 million and 21.13 million people aged 15–64.<sup>[20]</sup>

## Medical use

Under the name diamorphine, heroin is prescribed as a strong analgesic in the United Kingdom, where it is given via subcutaneous, intramuscular, intrathecal or intravenous route. Its use includes treatment for acute pain, such as in severe physical trauma,

myocardial infarction, post-surgical pain, and chronic pain, including end-stage cancer and other terminal illnesses. In other countries it is more common to use morphine or other strong opioids in these situations.

In 2005, there was a shortage of diamorphine in the UK, due to a problem at the main UK manufacturers.<sup>[21]</sup> Due to this, many hospitals changed to using morphine instead of diamorphine. Although there is no longer a problem with the manufacturing of heroin in the UK, many hospitals there have continued to use morphine.

Diamorphine continues to be widely used in palliative care in the United Kingdom, where it is commonly given by the subcutaneous route, often via a syringe driver, if patients could not easily swallow oral morphine solution. The advantage of diamorphine over morphine is that diamorphine is more soluble and smaller volumes of diamorphine are needed for the same analgesic effect. Both of these factors are advantageous if giving high doses of opioids via the subcutaneous route, which is often necessary in palliative care.

The medical use of diamorphine (in common with other strong opioids such as morphine, fentanyl and oxycodone) is controlled in the United Kingdom by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. In the UK, it is a class A controlled drug. Registers of its use are required to be kept in hospitals.

Heroin is also used as a maintenance drug in the treatment of heroin addicts. Though this is somewhat controversial among proponents of a zero tolerance drug policy it has proven superior to methadone in improving the social and health situation of addicts.<sup>[22]</sup>

## Recreational use



One stamp of heroin

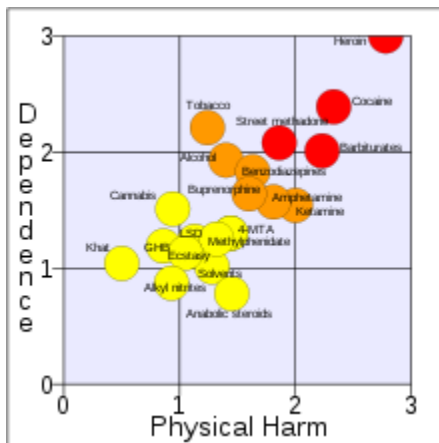
Diacetylmorphine is used as a recreational drug for the transcendent relaxation and intense euphoria it induces. Anthropologist Michael Agar once described heroin as "the perfect whatever drug."<sup>[23]</sup> Tolerance quickly develops, and users need more of the drug to achieve the same effects. Its popularity with recreational drug users, compared to morphine, reportedly stems from its perceived different effects.<sup>[24]</sup> In particular, users report an intense rush that occurs while the diacetylmorphine is being metabolized into 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM) and morphine in the brain. Diacetylmorphine produces more euphoria than other opioids upon injection. One possible explanation is the

presence of 6-monoacetylmorphine, a metabolite unique to diacetylmorphine. While other opioids of recreational use, such as codeine, produce only morphine, heroin also leaves 6-MAM, also a psycho-active metabolite. However, this perception is not supported by the results of clinical studies comparing the physiological and subjective effects of injected diacetylmorphine and morphine in individuals formerly addicted to opioids; these subjects showed no preference for one drug over the other. Equipotent injected doses had comparable action courses, with no difference in subjects' self-rated feelings of euphoria, ambition, nervousness, relaxation, drowsiness, or sleepiness.<sup>[25]</sup>



Chunky "No.3" heroin

Short-term addiction studies by the same researchers demonstrated that tolerance developed at a similar rate to both diacetylmorphine and morphine. When compared to the opioids hydromorphone, fentanyl, oxycodone, and pethidine/meperidine, former addicts showed a strong preference for diacetylmorphine and morphine, suggesting that diacetylmorphine and morphine are particularly susceptible to abuse and addiction. Morphine and diacetylmorphine were also much more likely to produce euphoria and other positive subjective effects when compared to these other opioids.<sup>[25]</sup>



Data from *The Lancet* shows illicit heroin to be the most addictive and most harmful of 20 drugs.<sup>[26]</sup>

One of the most common methods of illicit heroin use is via intravenous injection (colloquially termed "slamming" or "shooting up"). Heroin base (commonly found in Europe), when prepared for injection will only dissolve in water when mixed with an acid (most commonly citric acid powder or lemon juice) and heated. Heroin in the US is most commonly found in the hydrochloride salt form, requiring just water to dissolve. Users

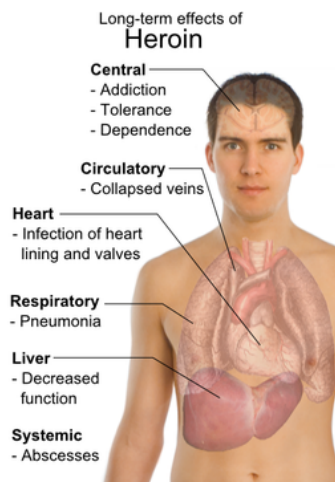
tend to initially inject in the easily accessible arm veins, but as these veins collapse over time, through damage caused by the acid, the user will often resort to injecting in other veins.

Recreational users may also administer the drug through snorting, or smoking by inhaling its vapors when heated; either with tobacco in a rolled cigarette or by heating the drug on aluminium foil from underneath.<sup>[27]</sup> When heated the heroin powder changes to a thick liquid, similar in consistency to molten wax, and it will run across the foil giving off smoke which the user inhales through a tube, usually made from foil also so that any heroin that collects on the inside of the tube can be smoked afterward. This method of administration is known as chasing the dragon (whereas smoking methamphetamine is known as "chasing the *white* dragon").

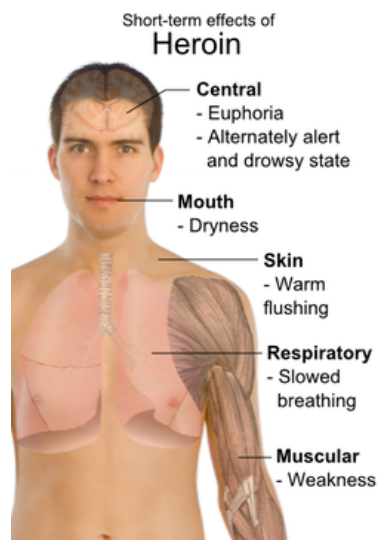
The diacetylmorphine dose used for recreational purposes is dependant on the frequency and level of use. A first-time user may ingest between 5 and 20 mg of diacetylmorphine, while an addict may require several hundred mg per day.<sup>[28]</sup>

## Effects

The onset of diacetylmorphine's effects depends upon the route of administration. Studies have shown that the subjective pleasure of drug use (the reinforcing component of addiction) is proportional to the rate at which the blood level of the drug increases.<sup>[29]</sup> Intravenous injection provides the fastest and most intense rush<sup>[30]</sup> within seven to eight seconds. Intra-muscular injection produces a relatively slow onset of five to eight minutes. Snorting or smoking reaches peak effects within 10 to 15 minutes.<sup>[31]</sup> If taken orally, the effects take approximately half an hour to set in, with an absence of a rush.



Possible long-term effects of intravenous usage of illicit heroin.<sup>[32]</sup>



Main short-term effects of heroin usage.<sup>[32]</sup>

Large doses of heroin can cause fatal respiratory depression, and the drug has been used for suicide or as a murder weapon. The serial killer Dr Harold Shipman used it on his victims, as did Dr John Bodkin Adams (see his victim: Edith Alice Morrell).

Because significant tolerance to respiratory depression develops quickly with continued use and is lost just as quickly during withdrawal, it is often difficult to determine whether a heroin death was an accident, suicide or murder. Examples include the overdose deaths of Sid Vicious, Janis Joplin, Tim Buckley, Layne Staley, Bradley Nowell, Ted Binion, and River Phoenix.<sup>[33]</sup>

Chronic opioid use, such as heroin, has potentially been shown to be a cause of hyponatremia, resultant due to excess vasopressin secretion.

## Detection in biological fluids

The major metabolites of heroin, 6-MAM, morphine, morphine-3-glucuronide and morphine-6-glucuronide, may be quantitated in blood, plasma or urine to monitor for abuse, confirm a diagnosis of poisoning or assist in a medicolegal death investigation. Most commercial opiate screening tests cross-react appreciably with these metabolites, as well as with other biotransformation products likely to be present following usage of street-grade heroin such as 6-acetylcodeine and codeine. However, chromatographic techniques can easily distinguish and measure each of these substances. When interpreting the results of a test, it is important to consider the heroin usage history of the individual, since a chronic user can develop tolerance to doses that would incapacitate an opiate-naive individual, and the chronic user often has high baseline values of these metabolites in his system. Furthermore, some testing procedures employ a hydrolysis step prior to quantitation that converts many of the metabolic products to morphine, yielding a result that may be many times larger than with a method that examines each product individually.<sup>[34]</sup>

## Regulation

In the Netherlands, diamorphine (heroin) is a List I drug of the Opium Law. It is available for prescription under tight regulation to long-term heroin addicts for whom methadone maintenance treatment has failed. Heroin is exclusively available for prescription to long-term heroin addicts, and cannot be used to treat severe pain or other illnesses.

In the United States, heroin is a schedule I drug according to the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, making it illegal to possess without a DEA license. Possession of more than 100 grams of heroin or a mixture containing heroin is punishable with a minimum mandatory sentence of 5 years of imprisonment in a federal prison.

In Canada, heroin is a controlled substance under Schedule I of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA). Any person who seeks or obtains heroin without disclosing authorization 30 days prior to obtaining another prescription from a practitioner is guilty of an indictable offense and subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years. Possession of heroin for the purpose of trafficking is guilty of an indictable offense and subject to imprisonment for life.

In Hong Kong, heroin is regulated under Schedule 1 of Hong Kong's Chapter 134 *Dangerous Drugs Ordinance*. It is available by prescription. Anyone who supplies heroin without a valid prescription can be fined \$10,000 (HKD). The penalty for trafficking or manufacturing heroin is a \$5,000,000 (HKD) fine and life imprisonment. Possession of heroin without a license from the Department of Health is illegal with a \$1,000,000 (HKD) fine and/or 7 years of jail time.

In the United Kingdom, heroin is available by prescription, though it is a restricted Class A drug. According to the 50th edition of the British National Formulary (BNF), diamorphine hydrochloride may be used in the treatment of acute pain, myocardial infarction, acute pulmonary oedema, and chronic pain. The treatment of chronic non-malignant pain must be supervised by a specialist. The BNF notes that all opioid analgesics cause dependence and tolerance but that this is "no deterrent in the control of pain in terminal illness". When used in the palliative care of cancer patients, heroin is often injected using a syringe driver.

## Price

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction reports that the retail price of brown heroin varies from €14.5 per gram in Turkey to €110 per gram in Sweden, with most European countries reporting typical prices of €35-40 per gram. The price of white heroin is reported only by a few European countries and ranged between €27 and €110 per gram.<sup>[35]</sup>

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime claims in its 2008 World Drug Report that typical US retail prices are US\$172 per gram.<sup>[36]</sup>

# Production and trafficking: The Golden Triangle



Primary worldwide producers of heroin.

## Manufacturing

Heroin, also known as diacetyl morphine is produced from acetylation of morphine derived from natural opium sources. Numerous mechanical and chemical means are used to purify the final product. The final products have different appearance depending on purity and have different names.<sup>[37]</sup>

## History of heroin traffic

The origins of the present international illegal heroin trade can be traced back to laws passed in many countries in the early 1900s that closely regulated the production and sale of opium and its derivatives including heroin. At first, heroin flowed from countries where it was still legal into countries where it was no longer legal. By the mid-1920s, heroin production had been made illegal in many parts of the world. An illegal trade developed at that time between heroin labs in China (mostly in Shanghai and Tianjin) and other nations. The weakness of government in China and conditions of civil war enabled heroin production to take root there. Chinese triad gangs eventually came to play a major role in the heroin trade. The French Connection route started in the 1930s.

Heroin trafficking was virtually eliminated in the U.S. during World War II due to temporary trade disruptions caused by the war. Japan's war with China had cut the normal distribution routes for heroin and the war had generally disrupted the movement of opium.

After World War II, the Mafia took advantage of the weakness of the postwar Italian government and set up heroin labs in Sicily. The Mafia took advantage of Sicily's location along the historic route opium took westward into Europe and the United States.<sup>[38]</sup>

Large scale international heroin production effectively ended in China with the victory of the communists in the civil war in the late 1940s.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> The elimination of Chinese production happened at the same time that Sicily's role in the trade developed.

Although it remained legal in some countries until after World War II, health risks, addiction, and widespread recreational use led most western countries to declare heroin a controlled substance by the latter half of the 20th century.

In late 1960s and early 70s, the CIA supported anti-Communist Chinese Nationalists settled near Sino-Burmese border and Hmong tribesmen in Laos. This helped the development of the Golden Triangle opium production region, which supplied about one-third of heroin consumed in US after 1973 American withdrawal from Vietnam. As of 1999, Myanmar (formerly Burma), the heartland of the Golden Triangle remained the second largest producer of heroin, after Afghanistan.<sup>[39]</sup>

Soviet-Afghan war led to increased production in the Pakistani-Afghani border regions, as U.S.-backed mujaheddin militants raised money for arms from selling opium, contributing heavily to the modern Golden Crescent creation. By 1980, 60% of heroin sold in the U.S. originated in Afghanistan.<sup>[39]</sup> It increased international production of heroin at lower prices in the 1980s. The trade shifted away from Sicily in the late 1970s as various criminal organizations violently fought with each other over the trade. The fighting also led to a stepped up government law enforcement presence in Sicily.

## Trafficking



See also: *Opium#Modern production and usage*

Traffic is heavy worldwide, with the biggest producer being Afghanistan.<sup>[40]</sup> According to U.N. sponsored survey,<sup>[41]</sup> as of 2004, Afghanistan accounted for production of 87 percent of the world's heroin.<sup>[42]</sup> Afghan opium kills 100,000 people every year worldwide.<sup>[43]</sup>

The cultivation of opium in Afghanistan reached its peak in 1999, when 350 square miles (910 km<sup>2</sup>) of poppies were sown. The following year the Taliban banned poppy cultivation, a move which cut production by 94 percent. By 2001 only 30 square miles (78 km<sup>2</sup>) of land were in use for growing opium poppies. A year later, after American and British troops had removed the Taliban and installed the interim government, the land under cultivation leapt back to 285 square miles (740 km<sup>2</sup>), with Afghanistan

supplanting Burma to become the world's largest opium producer once more.<sup>[44]</sup> Opium production in that country has increased rapidly since, reaching an all-time high in 2006. War in Afghanistan once again appeared as a facilitator of the trade.<sup>[45]</sup> Some 3.3 million Afghans are involved in producing opium.<sup>[46]</sup>

At present, opium poppies are mostly grown in Afghanistan, and in Southeast Asia, especially in the region known as the Golden Triangle straddling Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Yunnan province in the People's Republic of China. There is also cultivation of opium poppies in the Sinaloa region of Mexico and in Colombia. The majority of the heroin consumed in the United States comes from Mexico and Colombia. Up until 2004, Pakistan was considered one of the biggest opium-growing countries.

Conviction for trafficking in heroin carries the death penalty in most Southeast Asian, some East Asian and Middle Eastern countries (see Use of death penalty worldwide for details), among which Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are the most strict. The penalty applies even to citizens of countries where the penalty is not in place, sometimes causing controversy when foreign visitors are arrested for trafficking, for example the arrest of nine Australians in Bali, the death sentence given to Nola Blake in Thailand in 1987, or the hanging of an Australian citizen Van Tuong Nguyen in Singapore.

## Risks of use



Prepping Heroin

- For intravenous users of heroin (and any other substance), the use of non-sterile needles and syringes and other related equipment leads to several serious risks:
  - the risk of contracting blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and hepatitis
  - the risk of contracting bacterial or fungal endocarditis and possibly venous sclerosis
  - abscesses
- Poisoning from contaminants added to "cut" or dilute heroin
- Chronic constipation
- Addiction and increasing tolerance
- Physical dependence can result from prolonged use of all opioids, resulting in withdrawal symptoms on cessation of use
- Decreased kidney function (although it is not currently known if this is due to adulterants or infectious diseases)<sup>[47]</sup>

Many countries and local governments have begun funding programs that supply sterile needles to people who inject illegal drugs in an attempt to reduce these contingent risks and especially the contraction and spread of blood-borne diseases. The Drug Policy Alliance reports that up to 75% of new AIDS cases among women and children are directly or indirectly a consequence of drug use by injection. The United States federal government does not operate needle exchanges, although some state and local governments do support needle exchange programs.

Anthropologists Philippe Bourgois and Jeff Schonberg, who did a decade of field work among homeless heroin and crack addicts in San Francisco, reported that the African-American addicts they observed were more inclined to "direct deposit" heroin into a vein, rather than "skin-popping" their injections. (Skin-popping was a far more widespread practice among the white addicts: "By the midpoint of our fieldwork, most of the whites had given up searching for operable veins and skin-popped. They sank their needles perfunctorily, often through their clothing, into their fatty tissue.") Bourgois and Schonberg describes how the cultural difference between the African-Americans and the whites leads to this contrasting behavior, and also points out that the two different ways to inject heroin comes with different health risks. Skin-popping more often results in abscesses, and direct injection more often leads to fatal overdose and also to hepatitis C and HIV infection.<sup>[48]</sup>

A heroin overdose is usually treated with an opioid antagonist, such as naloxone (Narcan), or naltrexone, which has high affinity for opioid receptors but does not activate them. This reverses the effects of heroin and other opioid agonists and causes an immediate return of consciousness but may precipitate withdrawal symptoms. The half-life of naloxone is much shorter than that of most opioid agonists, so that antagonist typically has to be administered multiple times until the opioid has been metabolized by the body.

Depending on drug interactions and numerous other factors, death from overdose can take anywhere from several minutes to several hours due to anoxia because the breathing reflex is suppressed by  $\mu$ -opioids. An overdose is immediately reversible with an opioid antagonist injection. Heroin overdoses can occur due to an unexpected increase in the dose or purity or due to diminished opioid tolerance. However, many fatalities reported as overdoses are probably caused by interactions with other depressant drugs like alcohol or benzodiazepines.<sup>[49]</sup> It should also be noted that since heroin can cause nausea and vomiting, a significant number of deaths attributed to heroin overdose are caused by aspiration of vomit by an unconscious victim. Some sources quote the median lethal dose (for an average 75 kg opiate-naive individual) as being between 75 and 375 mg.<sup>[50]</sup> Street heroin is of widely varying and unpredictable purity. This means that the user may prepare what they consider to be a moderate dose while actually taking far more than intended. Also, tolerance typically decreases after a period of abstinence. If this occurs and the user takes a dose comparable to their previous use, the user may experience drug effects that are much greater than expected, potentially resulting in a dangerous overdose.

It has been speculated that an unknown portion of heroin related deaths are the result of an overdose or allergic reaction to quinine, which may sometimes be used as a cutting agent.<sup>[51]</sup>

A final factor contributing to overdoses is place conditioning. Heroin use is a highly ritualized behavior. While the mechanism has yet to be clearly elucidated, longtime heroin users display increased tolerance to the drug in locations where they have repeatedly administered heroin. When the user injects in a different location, this environment-conditioned tolerance does not occur, resulting in a greater drug effect. The user's typical dose of the drug, in the face of decreased tolerance, becomes far too high and can be toxic, leading to overdose.<sup>[52]</sup>

A small percentage of heroin smokers and occasionally IV users may develop symptoms of toxic leukoencephalopathy. The cause has yet to be identified, but one speculation is that the disorder is caused by an uncommon adulterant that is only active when heated.<sup>[53][54][55]</sup> Symptoms include slurred speech and difficulty walking.

Cocaine is sometimes used in combination with heroin, and is referred to as a speedball when injected or *moonrocks* when smoked together. Cocaine acts as a stimulant, whereas heroin acts as a depressant. Coadministration provides an intense rush of euphoria with a high that combines both effects of the drugs, while excluding the negative effects, such as anxiety and sedation. The effects of cocaine wear off far more quickly than heroin, thus if an overdose of heroin was used to compensate for cocaine, the end result is fatal respiratory depression.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

## Harm reduction



Modified Syringe for Rectal Administration

Harm reduction is a public health philosophy that seeks to reduce the harms associated with the use of heroin. One aspect of harm reduction initiatives focuses on the behaviour of individual users. This includes promoting safer means of taking the drug, such as smoking, nasal use, oral or rectal insertion. This attempts to avoid the higher risks of overdose, infections and blood-borne viruses associated with injecting the drug. Other measures include using a small amount of the drug first to gauge the strength, and minimize the risks of overdose. For the same reason, poly drug use (the use of two or more drugs at the same time) is discouraged. Users are also encouraged to not use

heroin on their own, as others can assist in the event of an overdose. Injecting heroin users are encouraged to use new needles, syringes, spoons/steri-cups and filters every time they inject and not share these with other users.

Governments that support a harm reduction approach usually fund Needle & Syringe exchange programs, which supply new needles and syringes on a confidential basis, as well as education on proper filtering prior to injection, safer injection techniques, safe disposal of used injecting gear and other equipment used when preparing heroin for injection may also be supplied including citric acid sachets/vitamin C sachets, steri-cups, filters, alcohol pre-injection swabs, sterile water ampules and tourniquets (to stop use of shoe laces or belts).

Another harm reduction measure employed for example in Europe, Canada and Australia are safe injection sites where users can inject heroin and cocaine under the supervision of medically trained staff. Safe injection sites are low threshold and allow social services to approach problem users that would otherwise be hard to reach.<sup>[56]</sup>

## Withdrawal



Black tar heroin

The withdrawal syndrome from heroin (the so-called cold turkey) may begin within 6 to 24 hours of discontinuation of the drug; however, this time frame can fluctuate with the degree of tolerance as well as the amount of the last consumed dose. Symptoms may include: sweating, malaise, anxiety, depression, priapism, extra sensitivity of the genitals in females, general feeling of heaviness, cramp-like pains in the limbs, excessive yawning or sneezing, tears, rhinorrhea, sleep difficulties (insomnia), cold sweats, chills, severe muscle and bone aches; nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, cramps, and fever.<sup>[57]</sup>

## Heroin prescription for addicts

The UK Department of Health's Rolleston Committee report in 1926 established the British approach to heroin prescription to users, which was maintained for the next 40 years: dealers were prosecuted, but doctors could prescribe heroin to users when withdrawing from it would cause harm or severe distress to the patient. This "policing and prescribing" policy effectively controlled the perceived heroin problem in the UK

until 1959 when the number of heroin addicts doubled every 16th month during a period of ten years, 1959–1968.<sup>[58]</sup> The failure changed the attitudes; in 1964 only specialized clinics and selected approved doctors were allowed to prescribe heroin to users. The law was made more restrictive in 1968. Beginning in the 1970s, the emphasis shifted to abstinence and the use of methadone, until now only a small number of users in the UK are prescribed heroin.<sup>[59]</sup>

In 1994 Switzerland began a trial heroin maintenance program for users that had failed multiple withdrawal programs. The aim of this program is to maintain the health of the user to avoid medical problems stemming from use of illicit street heroin. Reducing drug-related crime and preventing overdoses were two other goals. The first trial in 1994 involved 340 users, although enrollment was later expanded to 1000 based on the apparent success of the program. Participants are allowed to inject heroin in specially designed pharmacies for 15 Swiss francs per day.<sup>[60]</sup> A national referendum in November 2008 showed 68% of voters supported the plan,<sup>[61]</sup> introducing heroin prescription into federal law. The trials before were based on time-limited executive ordinances.

The success of the Swiss trials led German, Dutch,<sup>[62]</sup> and Canadian<sup>[63]</sup> cities to try out their own heroin prescription programs.<sup>[64]</sup> Some Australian cities (such as Sydney) have instituted legal heroin supervised injecting centers, in line with other wider harm minimization programs.

Since January 2009 Denmark has prescribed heroin to a few addicts that have tried methadone and subutex without success.<sup>[65]</sup> Beginning in February 2010, addicts in Copenhagen and Odense will be eligible to receive free heroin. Later in 2010 other cities including Århus and Esbjerg will join the scheme. In total, around 230 addicts will be able to receive free heroin.<sup>[66]</sup> However, Danish addicts will only be able to inject heroin according to the policy set by Danish National Board of Health.<sup>[67]</sup> Of the estimated 1500 drug users who do not benefit from the current oral substitution treatment, approximately 900 will not be in the target group for treatment with injectable heroin, either because of "massive multiple drug abuse of non-opioids" or "not wanting treatment with injectable heroin".<sup>[68]</sup>

In July 2009, the German Bundestag passed a law allowing heroin prescription as a standard treatment for addicts; while heroin prescription was started in 2002, it was only authorized as a large-scale trial.<sup>[69]</sup>

# Popular culture

## Literature

- In the 1926 novel, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, there is a discussion between the book's protagonist, Hercule Poirot, and the book's narrator, Dr. James Sheppard, regarding a discovery the former made in a summer house on the estate where the novel's titular character was murdered. In Chapter 13, "The Goose Quill," Poirot discovers a goose quill used by addicts to carry "snow," as the powdered form of heroin was then known. This clue is considered integral to solving the murder.

"Yes, heroin 'snow.' Drug-takers carry it like this, and sniff it up the nose."

"Diamorphine hydrochloride," I murmured mechanically.

"This method of taking the drug is very common on the other side. Another proof, if we wanted one, that the man come from Canada or the States."<sup>[70]</sup>

- Beat Generation author William S. Burroughs wrote about his experiences with heroin in numerous books, starting with the 1953 semi-autobiographical *Junkie* (aka *Junky*).
- *The Basketball Diaries* is a 1978 book written by American author and musician Jim Carroll. It is an edited collection of the diaries he kept between the ages of 12 and 16. Set in New York City, his writings detail his daily life, sexual experiences, high school basketball career, Cold War paranoia, the counterculture movement, and, especially, his addiction to heroin, which began when he was 13. The book was made into a film under the same name in 1995 starring Leonardo DiCaprio.
- Irvine Welsh's 1993 novel *Trainspotting* which was later made into a feature film under the same name explores the turbulent lives of an eccentric group of heroin users.
- Allen Hoey's 2006 novel, *Chasing the Dragon*, examines the use of heroin among jazz musicians in the 1950s.
- A 2007 book entitled *The Heroin Diaries* by author and musician Nikki Sixx from Mötley Crüe and Sixx:A.M. chronicles his heroin addiction in his diary between the years 1986–7, as well as his chronic extreme hedonism, attitudes, drug use and his inevitable route to dying and coming back to life.
- A 2008 book entitled, *The Death Proclamation of Generation X: A Self-Fulfilling Prophecy of Goth, Grunge and Heroin*, by researcher Maxim W. Furek, investigates the prominence of heroin in music, motion pictures, and Generation X culture. Published by i-Universe. (ISBN 978-0-595-46319-0)

## Musicians who have used heroin, or written about heroin use

- David Bowie's first single "Space Oddity", was seemingly about his experience with heroin, as his 1980 single "Ashes to Ashes" included the lines that refer to Major Tom as "... a junkie/strung out on heaven's high/hitting an all-time low."<sup>[71]</sup>
- Kurt Cobain was a heavy heroin user and partially used heroin to commit suicide. Courtney Love used heroin at the same time, leading to some controversy that she was using the drug during her pregnancy with their daughter Frances Bean Cobain.
- Rozz Williams's final album before his suicide, *The Whorse's Mouth*, dealt with his heroin addiction.<sup>[72]</sup>
- Sid Vicious from the Sex Pistols died of a heroin overdose, and allegedly stabbed his girlfriend to death while both were strung out on heroin.<sup>[73]</sup>
- Comedian Mitch Hedberg was arrested for heroin possession in 2003 and died of an accidental 'speedball' overdose in 2005.<sup>[74]</sup>
- Nikki Sixx of Mötley Crüe released diaries from his time as a heroin addict named *The Heroin Diaries: A Year in the Life of a Shattered Rock Star*.<sup>[75]</sup> An album was also produced based on the book.<sup>[75]</sup>
- Jerry Garcia, guitarist for the Grateful Dead, was a heroin user for many years. He died of heart failure while at the Serenity Knolls drug treatment center in San Francisco; undergoing treatment to get help for his heroin addiction after a recent relapse.<sup>[76][77]</sup>
- B.G., a rap artist from New Orleans, raps about his previous addiction to heroin (via injection) in numerous songs.<sup>[78]</sup>

## Film and TV

- In 1916's short comedy *The Mystery of the Leaping Fish* (a parody of a coke-shooting Sherlock Holmes, played by Douglas Fairbanks), discovers a contraband container of opium (which he eagerly tastes).
- The first serious film drama about heroin addiction by a major studio was Otto Preminger's *The Man with the Golden Arm*, released in 1955. This tells the story of a heroin addict (played by Frank Sinatra) who gets clean while in prison but struggles to stay that way in the outside world. The film was nominated for three Academy Awards, including Sinatra for Best Actor in a Leading Role. The movie also sparked a change in the Hollywood Production Code, allowing motion pictures more freedom to explore hitherto taboo subjects such drug abuse.

- Quentin Tarantino's 1994 film Pulp Fiction fully depicts the steps of heroin injection by Vincent Vega (John Travolta), and subsequent near-fatal overdose by Mia Wallace (Uma Thurman) via snorting.
- Darren Aronofsky's 2000 film Requiem for a Dream, based on the book of the same name, depicts the lives of a group of heroin addicts and the devastating results of their addiction.
- The film Trainspotting, based on the book of the same name, revolves around a group of heroin users and the attempts of one of the group to quit.
- The film Rent (2005), based on the musical by Jonathan Larson, includes a character, Mimi who struggles with a heroin addiction and has contracted AIDS from her usage.
- The film Candy starring Heath Ledger focused on a couple very much in love and destroyed by heroin addiction.
- Party Monster, a movie based on James St. James' true tales of New York City club kids in the late 1980s, shows an extreme use of heroin and other drugs such as ketamine (Special K) and cocaine.
- The Film Gia based on a true story of model Gia Carangi is about her addiction and use of heroin and how it affected her.<sup>[79]</sup>
- The film Christiane F. portrays the troubles of young heroin users in Berlin.
- The film Things We Lost in the Fire deals with Benicio del Toro's character's struggle to get clean.
- The film American Gangster is based on real life drug lord Frank Lucas who sold heroin.<sup>[80]</sup>
- 1971's The panic in needle park starring Al Pacino revolves around Pacino's character and his girlfriend's addictions to heroin and the repercussions of it. The film features graphic scenes of users injecting the drug.
- Season 3 of the TV series 24 depicts Kiefer Sutherland starring as Jack Bauer struggling with a heroin addiction.

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