**Vocabulary for Unit 5A: Crisis of Authority (Foreign)**

1. Activism: vigorous campaigning to achieve political, social, or economic change. Examples of student activism during the 1960s were anti-war protests and sit-ins on college campuses.
2. Counterculture: culture of young people who rejected mainstream society in the 1960s, seeking to create an alternative society based on peace, love, and individual freedom.
3. Credibility gap: public distrust of statements made by the government. Increased during the Vietnam years.
4. Détente: easing of hostility and tensions with a willingness to negotiate. First practiced by Nixon with China and the Soviet Union, and continued throughout the end of the Cold War.
5. Domino theory: idea that if a nation falls under communist control, it will spread to nearby countries. This idea gained popularity as communism spread in Asia after WWII.
6. Flexible response: Kennedy’s response to Eisenhower’s brinkmanship, it involved preparing for a variety of military responses to crises rather than just focusing on the nuclear option. A major example of flexible response was creating special forces units of the Army like the Green Berets.
7. Living room war: Vietnam was the first war where media coverage of the conflict was broadcast directly into people’s homes on a daily basis. Seeing the gruesome nature of the fighting and the low morale of the troops significantly affected public support of the war.
8. Realpolitik: Nixon’s adviser, Henry Kissinger, advocated a change in Cold War policy that focused more on power relationships than ideology. This approach led to the U.S. focusing more on powerful nations like China and less on weaker nations like Cambodia.
9. Silent majority: Nixon used this term to refer to the moderate, mainstream Americans who quietly supported his policies in Vietnam.
10. Vietnamization: Nixon’s strategy de-escalation in Vietnam, coupling the gradual withdrawal of U.S. troops with an emphasis on training South Vietnamese forces to keep the fighting going.

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