

Modern France: Society, Culture, *Politics*

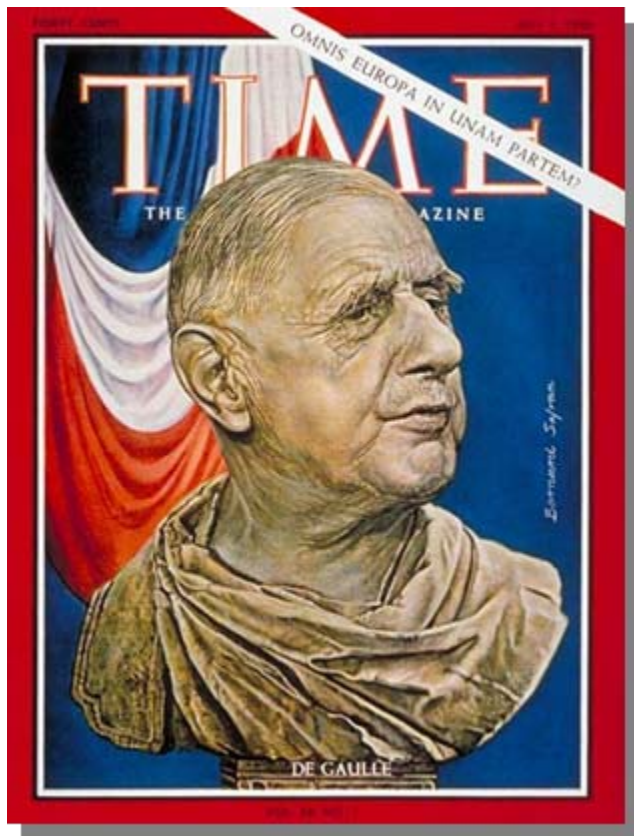
MAY 1968



University of Paris, I (the Sorbonne)
Law School

De Gaulle and a “certain idea” of France

“All my life, I have had a certain idea of France.”
De Gaulle, *War Memories* (first line).



Time magazine, July 1, 1966

- 1960 France becomes fourth country with nuclear weapons
- 1963, vetoes British entry into EEC (European Economic Community)
- 1966 withdraws French troops from NATO's integrated military command; orders non-French NATO troops out of France
- 1966 criticizes U.S presence in Vietnam
- 1967 “Long live free Quebec!”

“It is Europe, Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals,
that will decide the fate of the world.”

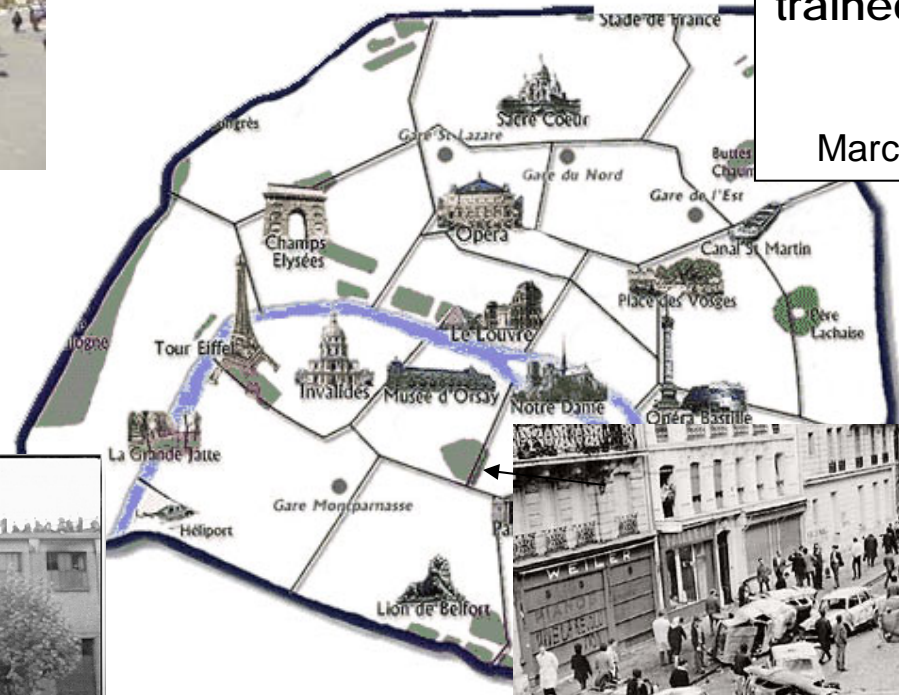
De Gaulle, speech in Strasbourg, 1959.



Nanterre—Univ. Paris 10

No more dull lectures
No more mumbling
No more exams for
trained monkeys...

“demands” of the
March 22nd Movement



student protesters at the Renault Factory
Boulogne-Billancourt



Paris, “Latin Quarter,” May 1968

1968 in France

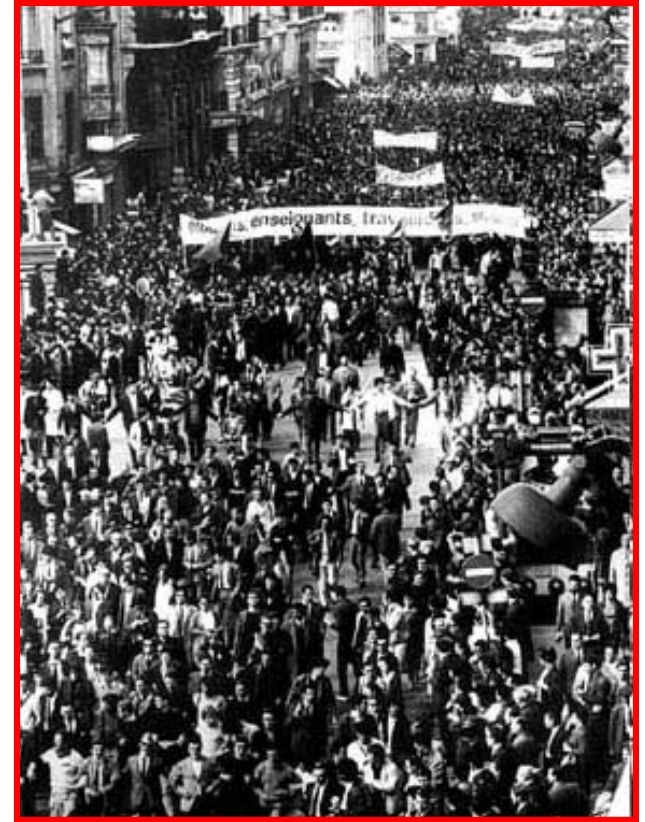
March 1968	students take over offices at Nanterre
May 2, 1968	Nanterre campus closed
May 6, 1968	Sorbonne campus closed
May 10-11	barricades built; cars torched
May 13	student and unions march in Paris (700,000 people)

by end of month over 10,000,000 people on strike
(population = 60,000,000) at Renault factories, Air France,
railway workers, postal system

de Gaulle initially continues overseas visits; returns, says
he “supports reform, but not chaos” [*chienlit* lit. dandelions,
pun on “shitting in the bed”]; disappears in late May;
returns and calls elections

by end of June 1968, strikes over, de Gaulle’s supporters win in election;

1969 De Gaulle calls referendum; loses; retires

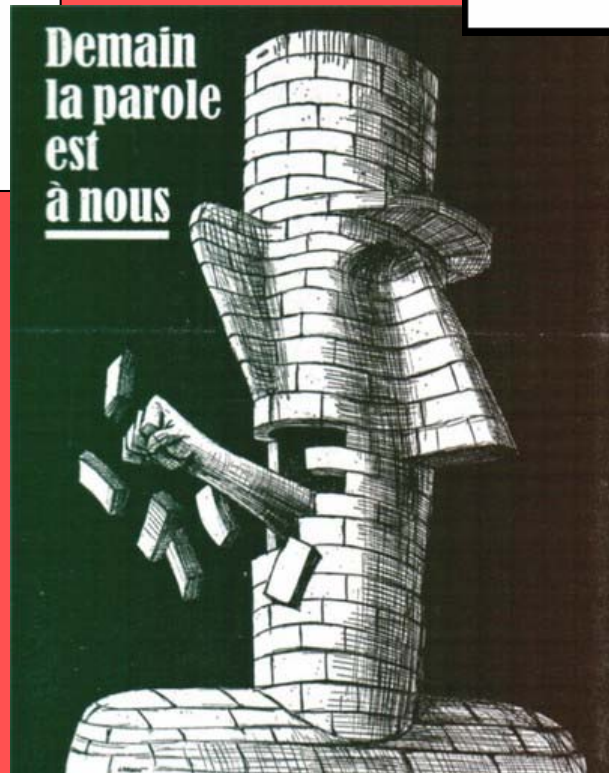




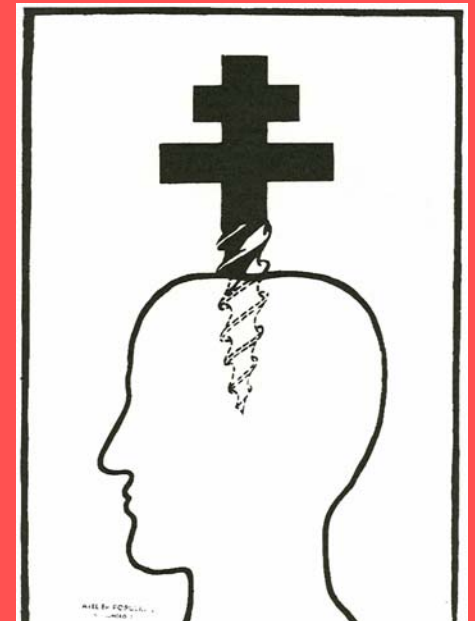
Be young and shut up



You vote, I will do the rest



Tomorrow, WE will do the talking





CRS=SS

CRS—*Compagnie republicaine de sécurité*
elite anti-riot police

SS—*Schutzstaffel* (protective squadron)
elite unit in Nazi Germany



We are
THE majority



“Order reigns”

De Gaulle denounces “anti-modern” protests

Trains, telephones, electricity—that was all good. Automobiles, airplanes, radio—that was even better! And as for atomic energy, televisions, lasers, heart transplant surgery—really great! In short, industrial civilization may sometimes bring us problems but it also brings us growing prosperity and dizzying perspectives.

De Gaulle, radio-television speech of 7 June 1968.



pro De Gaulle marchers

International Revolution?



United States of AmeriKKK
 French political cartoon about assassination of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy

Show Solidarity with the French Revolution - 1968!!

Up Against the Wall - DeGaulle!! Up Against the Wall - DeGaulle!! Up Against the Wall



Millions of French workers, peasants and students have told the French bankers and billionaire corporations that the country they've worked and sweated to build over many generations by rights belongs to them - NOT to the small clique of millionaire parasites who claim to "own" it. The massive struggle was sparked by students seizing their universities, objecting to almost feudal conditions there. It gained momentum as the French masses, both the workers and the lower middle class who lived under steadily worsening conditions during the DeGaulle regime, struck and seized the factories where they produced the wealth of society.

We want to show our solidarity with the 1968 French Revolution against the French Imperialist Ruling Class in order to enable us to further expose and expose the US Imperialist Ruling Class which is today sending our brothers to die for their profits in Vietnam. And bring closer the day of the American Revolution against that small clique of millionaires who militarize our campuses and usurp the wealth of our society and seek to monopolize it for their own ends.

DEMONSTRATION: Sat. June 1, 12 noon at the French Consulate 934 Fifth Ave. - 75th St.

Sponsored by:

COALITION FOR AN

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ANTI - IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT

tel 242 9225 YU2 7162

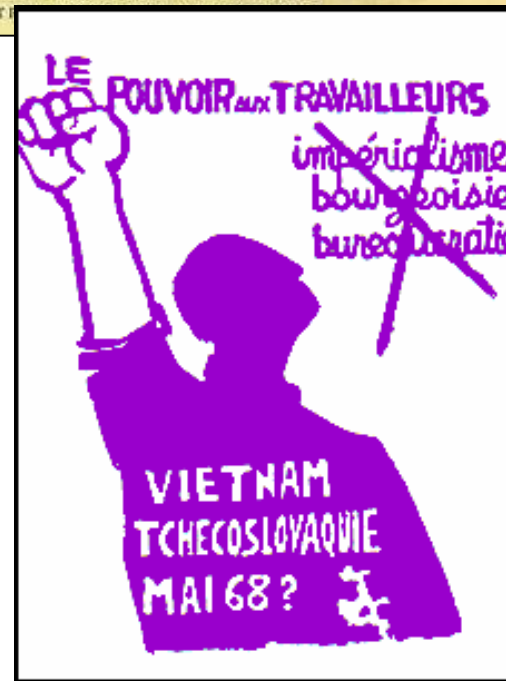
Support the French Workers and Students

Co-sponsored by: COLUMBIA STUDENT ST...

- Youth Against War and Fascism
- Veterans and Reservists to End the War in Vietnam
- U.S. Committee to Aid the NLF
- Seward Park HS P&P Coalition
- Free School SDS

- Pro-Independence Movement of Puerto Rico (MPI)
- Blacks Against Negative Dying
- City Univ Anti-Imperialist League
- Stuyvesant HS Committee to End the war in Vietnam

flyer calling on people to protest at the French consulate in NYC



Power to the Workers!
 Vietnam, Czechoslovakia, May 68?

1968: International Year of Unrest and Turmoil

Tet Offensive puts U.S. military in Vietnam on the defensive; anti-war movement increases

“socialism with a human face” in Czechoslovakia; free speech, freedom of the press, of travel

largely student-led protests across Europe; some protests backed by unions and non-students; in France, De Gaulle’s government almost falls



South Vietnamese soldier killing a Viet Cong guerilla, Feb. 1968 (photo: Eddie Adams)

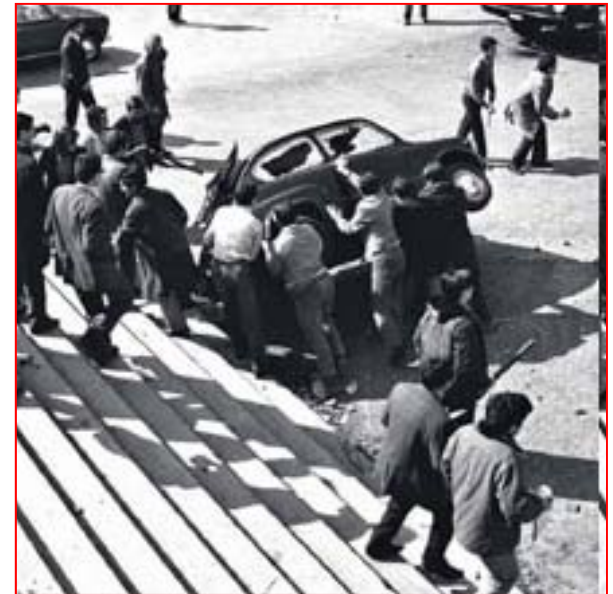
Soviet Union invades Czechoslovakia

U.S. Army and National Guard used to repress protests at Democratic National Convention (Chicago)

mass protests by students in Mexico City; army occupies the university

protests in Pakistan; military dictatorship falls in early 1969; first free elections

Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy assassinated



Battle of Valle Giulia—40,000 students occupy the University of Rome (March)

1848, Springtime of the Peoples



Sites of barricade fighting and sustained popular protest, Jan.-March 1848

1968 and 1848 compared

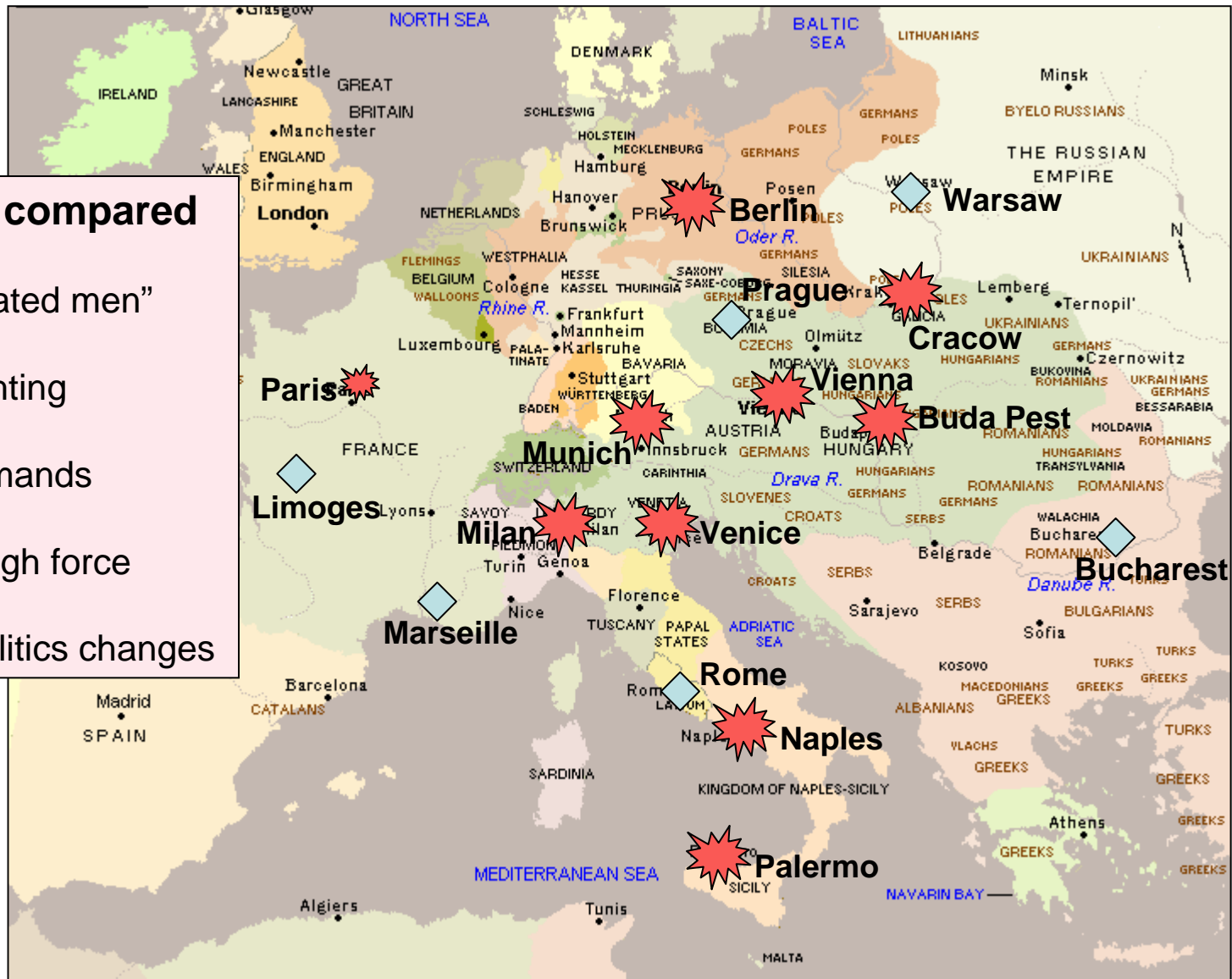
“excess of educated men”

urban street fighting

“unrealistic” demands

repressed through force

in aftermath, politics changes



◆ new sites of major uprisings and conflict, April 1848-December 1849

Students: the exploited proletariat of the new "knowledge economy"?



The Press is all toxic! Read pamphlets and posters, the newspapers on the wall



Worker and Peasant Unity



Yes to Occupied Factories



Yes to the People's University

It is forbidden to forbid

Under the paving stones: the beach!

The walls have ears. Your ears have walls.

Don't take the elevator. Take power

Humanity will only be happy when one day the last capitalist is strangled with the guts of the last leftist.

A revolution that demands sacrifice is your father's revolution.

Every increase in the standard of living raises the level of boredom.



Cultural Revolution against
a society of robots



je participe
tu participes
il participe
nous participons
vous participez
ils profitent



Aftermath of 1968 in France

67 new universities built

mutual-consent divorce legalized (1973)

abortion legalized (1975)



Paris University VII [Jussieu]

We are all Jews and Germans?

As for us, we never had any intention of creating a new party, but rather an objective situation in which self-expression would be possible at all levels.... In the student milieu, all groups can express themselves, there can be no question of excluding anyone. The climate in the factories is getting to be just as democratic... This is, of course, a defeat of Stalinism, and it could be the final one. The true revolution makes it possible for everyone to act...

Daniel Cohn-Bendit, "March 22nd Movement."

