

“The Boob Tube” - America in the Television Age

Question

1. In what ways is television of interest to the historian?

Outline

I. Philo T. Farnsworth

II. Creating a National Culture

1. Sharing Tragedy and Triumph
 - A. Kennedy Assassination (1963)
 - B. Vietnam War (1964-72)
 - C. Moon Landing (1968)
 - D. **John Lennon** (1980)
2. Cultural References
 - A. Where's the Beef? (1984)
 - B. Wassup! (1999)
 - C. Others?

III. The Economy

1. Creating a Consumer Culture
 - A. *Fast Food Nation*
 - B. Influence on Kids
2. Changing the Economy Overnight
 - A. **1984**

IV. Politics

1. Influence on Public Opinion
 - A. **The McCarthy Hearings** (1952-1954)
 - B. The Nixon-Kennedy Debates (1960)
 - C. Cronkite and Vietnam (1968)
2. Searching for Votes
 - A. **LBJ and the Bomb** (1964)
 - B. George W. Bush and Willie Horton (1988)
 - C. Barack Obama at the Democratic Convention (2004)

V. Social Issues

1. Racism
 - A. The Civil Rights Movement
 - B. ***The Cosby Show*** (1983)
2. Feminism
 - A. *I Love Lucy* (1951)
 - B. *Murphy Brown* (1988)
3. Homosexuality
 - A. *Soap* (1978)
 - B. *Ellen* (1997)

