



Troubled Youth or Positive Force for Change?

The Hippie Subculture of the 1960s was one the biggest countercultures up until now. Members rejected the established society and instead followed an alternative lifestyle based on values like love, peace and freedom. But did their ethos really make a difference in the world or were they just seeking for pleasure, shirking their responsibilities to the state?

Who were hippies of the 1960s?

- 1946** • Born around 1950 as part of the baby boom generation
- 1950s** • Majority grew up in child friendly suburbs, benefiting from all the things their parents could finally afford after the postwar economic boom
- 1960s** • Entering their teen years, they began to oppose the so-called „Establishment“ and created a lifestyle which was more reflective of their personal beliefs

Summer of Love / Woodstock

The Summer of Love describes the summer of 1967, in which between 100.000 and 200.000 people travelled to San Francisco to celebrate the hippie culture. With increased attention by the media, more followers joined the Hippie Movement, while others criticized them for their anti-work and pro-drug ethos. Woodstock was a 4-days-festival in 1969, where almost 500.000 attendees took part in what was soon to be called the peak of the Hippie Movement.

Sympathisers praised:

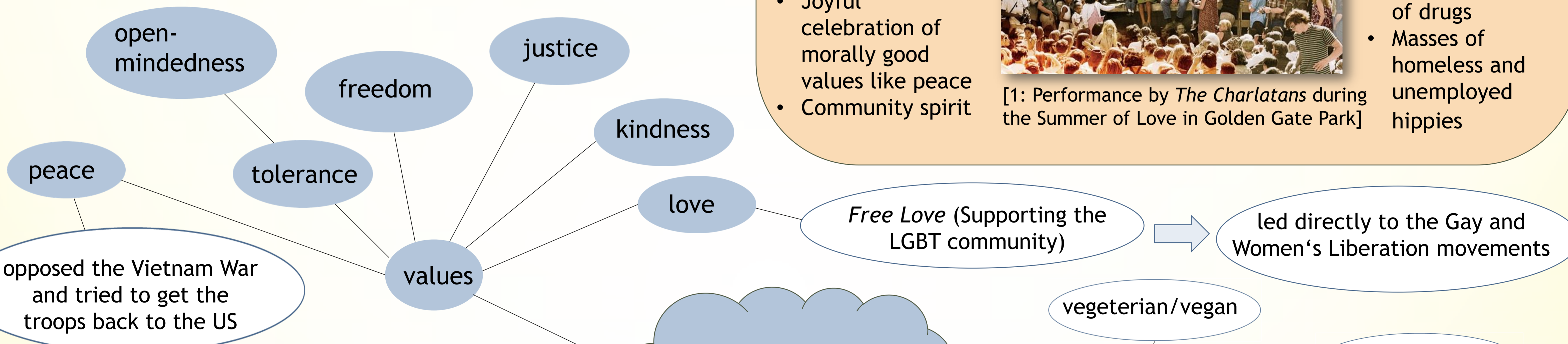
- Peaceful and harmonious atmosphere
- Joyful celebration of morally good values like peace
- Community spirit



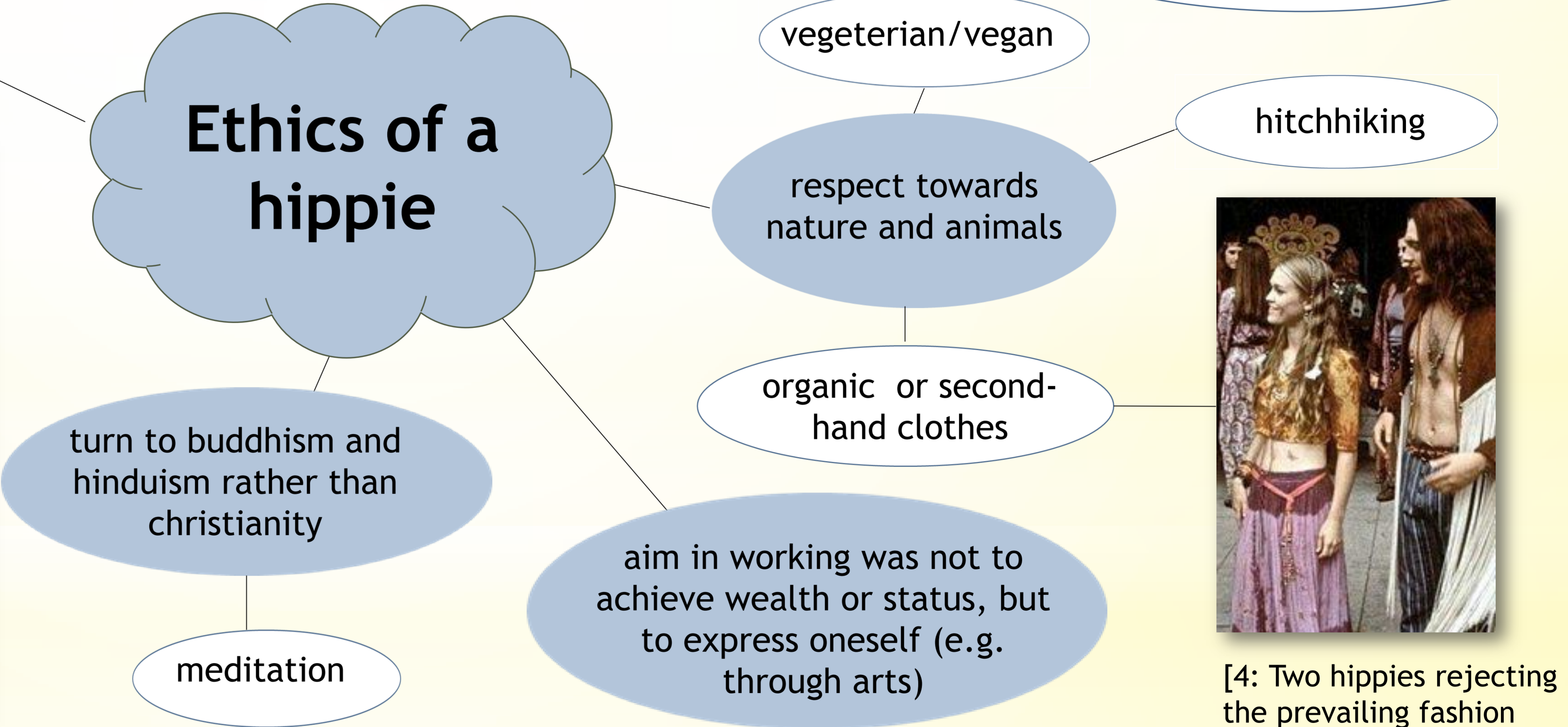
[1: Performance by *The Charlatans* during the Summer of Love in Golden Gate Park]

Critics complained of:

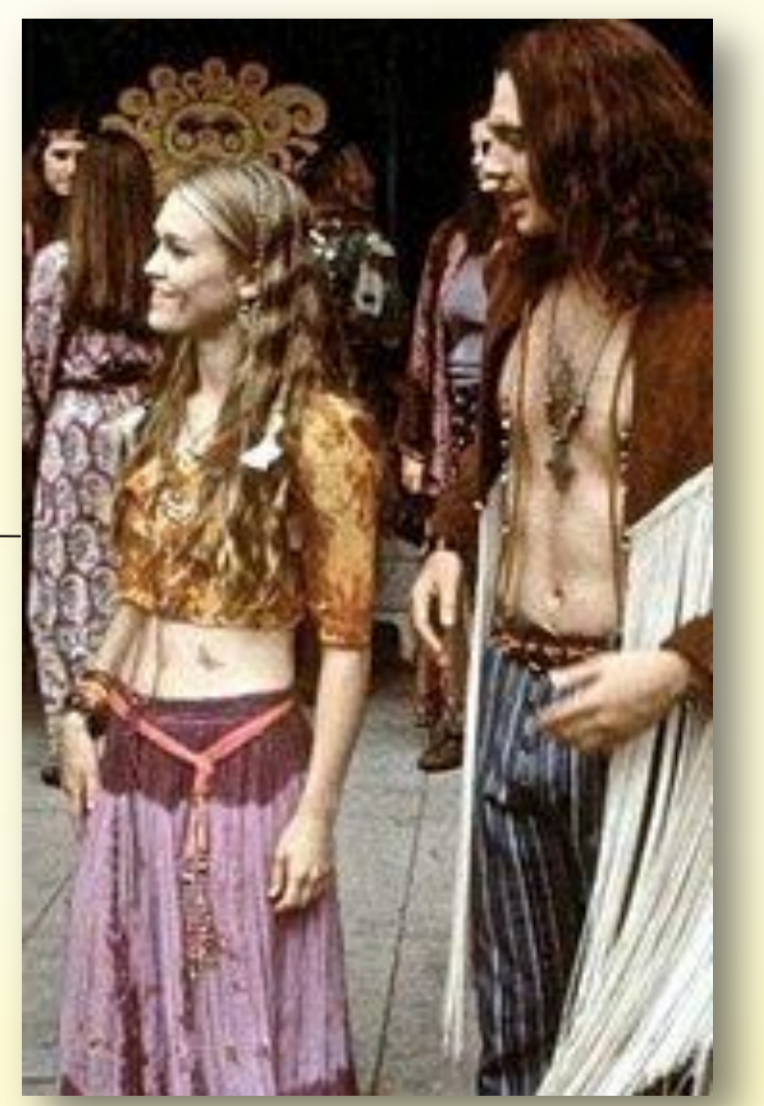
- Unsanitary conditions
- Excessive use of drugs
- Masses of homeless and unemployed hippies



Ethics of a hippie



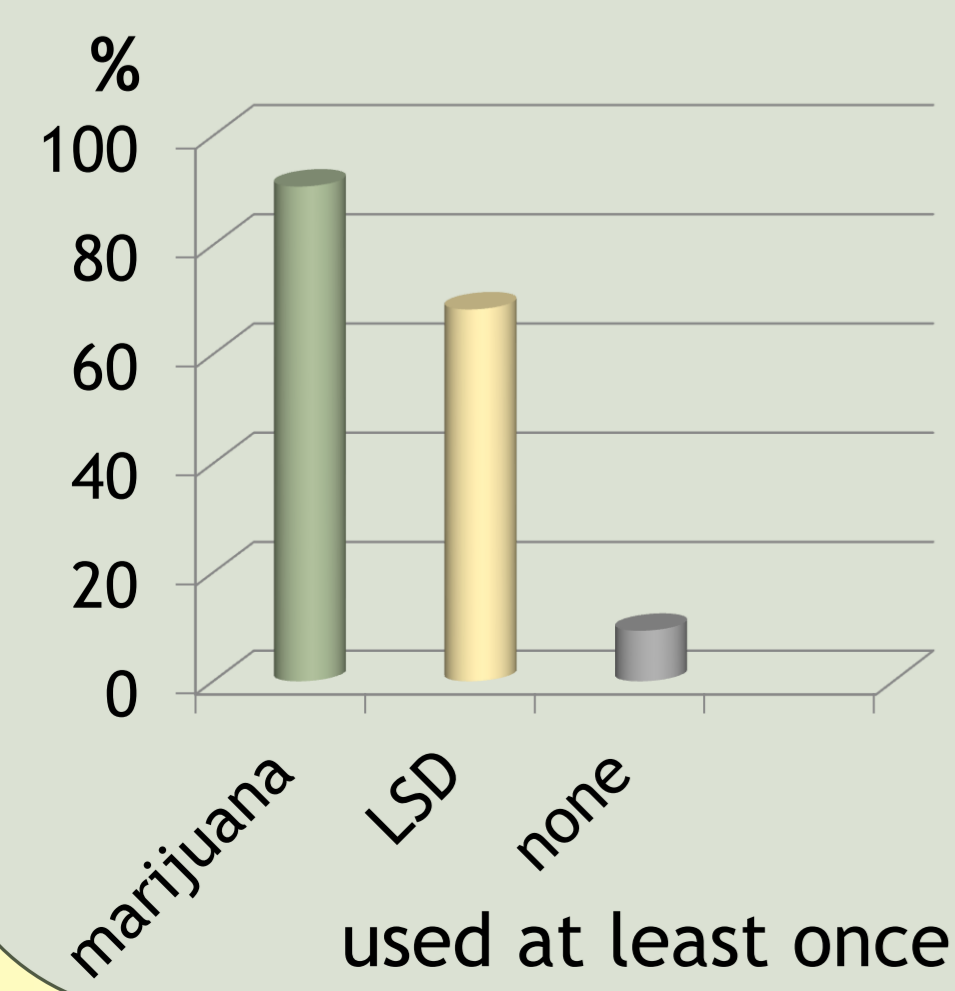
[2,3: Memorable hippie phrases during an Anti-Vietnam Protest]



[4: Two hippies rejecting the prevailing fashion industry]

Drug Culture

Use of drugs among hippies in 1968:



The huge drug consumption became soon the biggest difference between counterculture and Establishment.



[5: Selling LSD at Woodstock, 1969]

Sympathisers justified:

- no harm to outsiders
- desire of self-exploration
- aim in consuming psychedelics was to achieve a higher consciousness instead of inhibiting it
- kept their hands off heroin, cocaine, amphetamine,...



[6: Anti-War Monatorium in San Francisco, 1969]

Critics accuse :

- „Junkies“ and „drug-addicts“ who escape the world, rather than changing it for the better
- Threat to the state (medical costs)