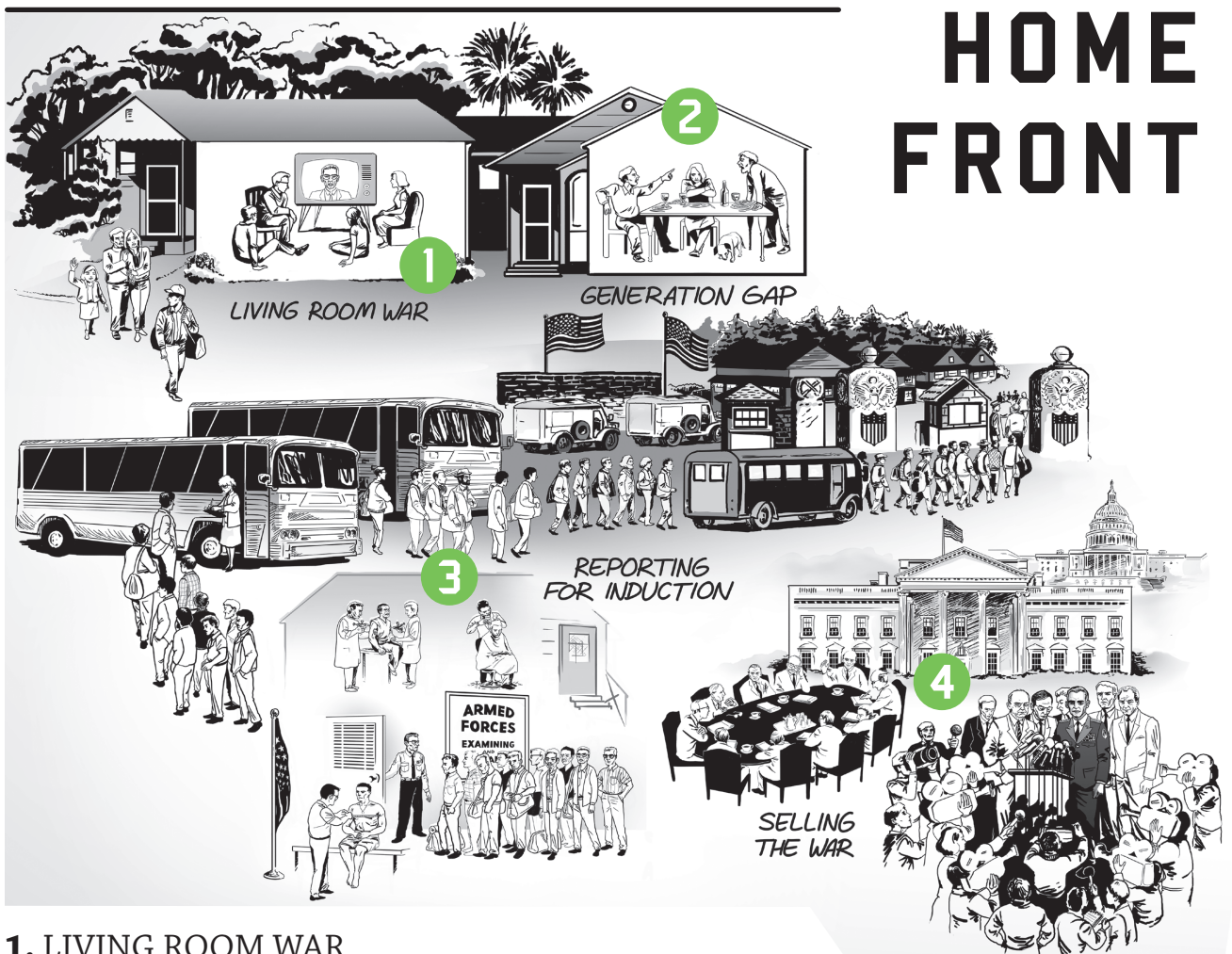

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GRAPHIC GUIDE

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1. LIVING ROOM WAR

Scenes of the war—captured by TV news crews operating freely throughout Vietnam—are broadcast directly into American homes. By 1967, Americans trust TV news more than other sources. A New Yorker writer coins “Living Room War” to describe this phenomenon, and questions whether viewers learn very much from such brief reports. President Johnson calls the coverage biased. He charges that it undermines support for the war.

2. GENERATION GAP

Clashing opinions about the war cause heated arguments in homes across the country. These disagreements reveal a mounting divide between the younger baby boom generation and the older World War II generation. The war—as well as differences over lifestyle, personal appearance, and political and cultural values—increasingly separates the two groups. It is called the “generation gap.”

3. REPORTING FOR INDUCTION

Millions of draft-age men report to their local draft boards to be examined and classified by the Selective Service System. Inductees are sent by the busload to basic training centers across the country. They go through boot camp and advanced training before receiving their assignments to South Vietnam or other U.S. military bases around the globe.

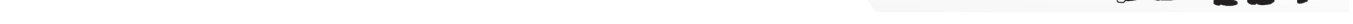
4. SELLING THE WAR

President Johnson brings General Westmoreland back from Vietnam in April 1967 to assure Americans that progress is being made. In November, the president meets with advisers and elder statesmen—his “Wise Men.” They discuss the path forward in Vietnam and the need to rally the home front behind the war. To arrest plummeting support, the administration wages a campaign, in 1967, to convince Americans that the war is neither a stalemate nor a quagmire.

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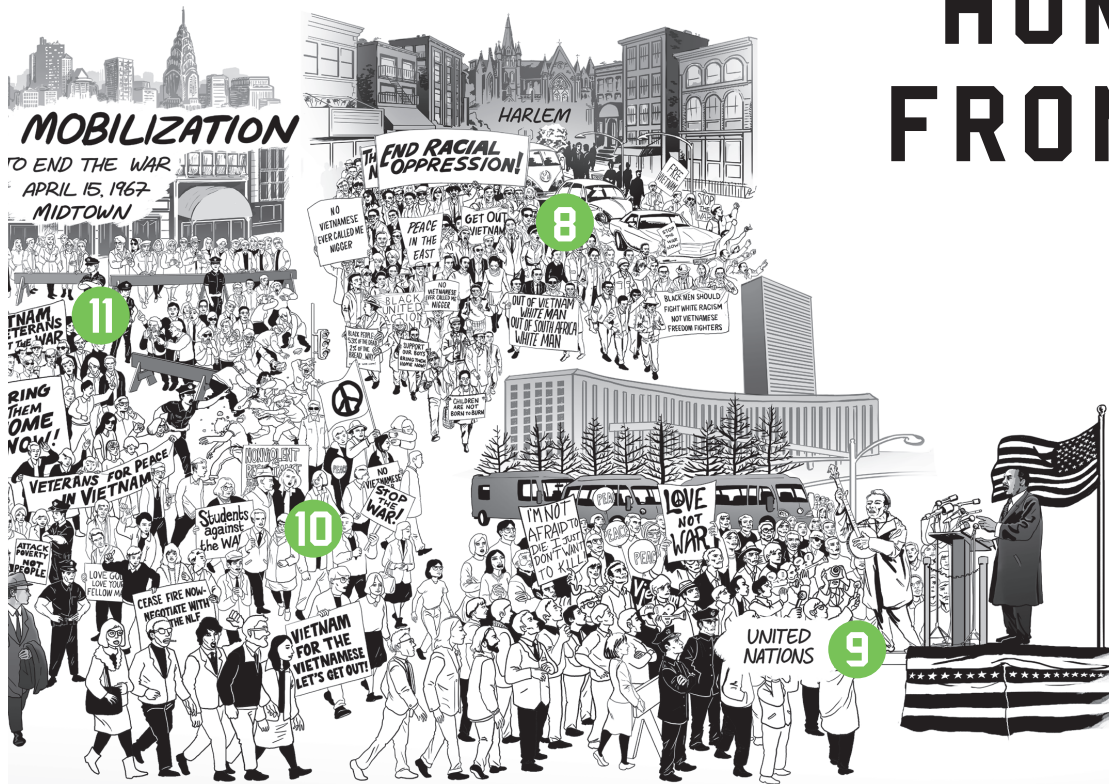


(Clockwise from top left) Goodbye kiss for inductee, 1966. LA Public Library; Recruits at Ft. Jackson, SC. National Archives; Support Our Men Parade, 1967. Tamiment Library, NYU; Draft card burning, 1967. Swarthmore College Peace Collection

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8. HARLEM FEEDER MARCH

Thousands of black Americans march from Harlem to take part. State Senator Basil Patterson, Stokely Carmichael of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and Lincoln Lynch of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) lead the way. The Harlem marchers oppose the war for many reasons, including its negative impact on the War on Poverty. Rev. James Bevel, the national director of the Spring Mobilization Committee, says, “The intense involvement of the black community isn’t accidental. We view this war as a war against a colored people and we do not intend to stand idly by while our Vietnamese brothers are cruelly destroyed.”

9. UNITED NATIONS RALLY

The crowds are addressed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Floyd McKissick of CORE, Linda Dannenberg from the Student Mobilization Committee, Dagmar Wilson of Women Strike for Peace, and others. Musicians Pete Seeger, Phil Ochs, and the Freedom Singers perform.

10. PROTESTERS

Many participants are attending their first demonstration. “I felt a secret thrill,” recalls a Columbia University freshman. “Here were people declaring in public what I only dared to say in private. Everyone in New York seemed to be against the war.” Another marcher says, “We want to criticize this war because we think it’s wrong, but we want to do it in the framework of loyalty. I hope this won’t encourage the North Vietnamese.”

11. VETERANS

Veterans from World War II and the Korean War are joined by a small group of young men whose banner reads, “Vietnam Veterans Against the War!” A few months later, six vets form the group Vietnam Veterans Against the War. “We know, because we have been there, that the American public has not been told the truth about the war. We believe that true support for our buddies still in Vietnam is to demand that they be brought home before anyone else dies in a war that the American people did not vote for and do not want.”

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12. SUPPORT OUR MEN PARADE

On May 13, 1967, a huge crowd marches on Fifth Avenue in support of the war. The parade is a reaction to the growing antiwar movement. It is organized just one month after Spring Mobilization's massive New York City demonstration. "The committee takes no position on the Administration's policy," state the organizers. "Nor does it dispute the right of dissent. We are striving to assure our fighting men in Vietnam that they have the full respect, love, prayers, and backing of the American people."

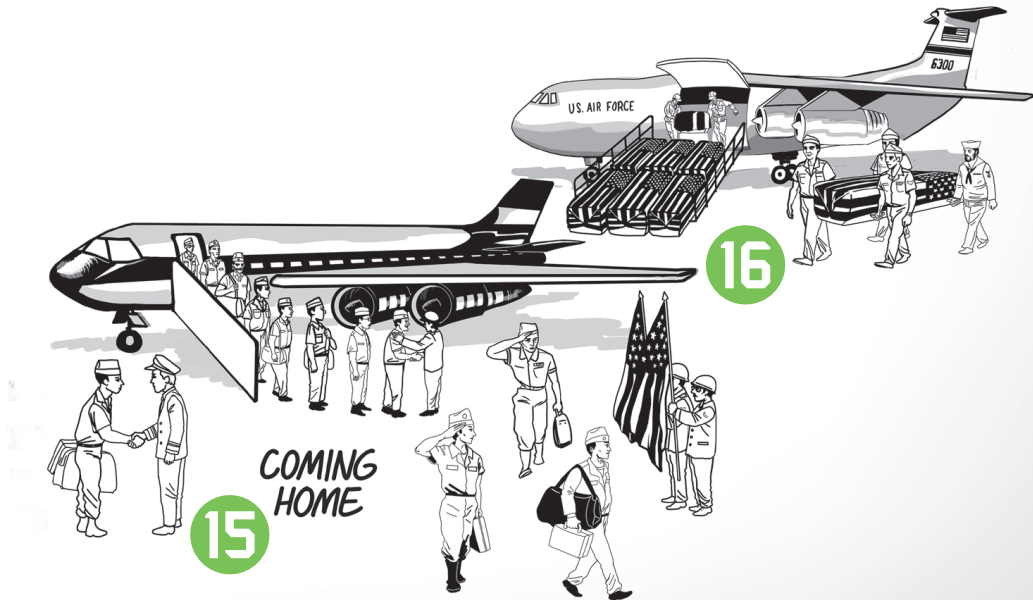
13. THE PARADE ORGANIZERS

World War II veteran Captain Ray Gimmler of the New York Fire Department originates the idea for the parade and serves as its chairman. Key support for his effort comes from veterans' organizations such as the American Legion and the New York Veterans of Foreign Wars.

14. THE PARADE MARCHERS

The Support Our Men parade begins at 95th Street and follows Fifth Avenue to 62nd Street, lasting for more than eight hours. The final contingent, an American Legion group from New Jersey, gives the closing salute at 8:30 p.m. Estimates of the crowd range from 70,000 to 125,000. Participants include the American Legion and other veterans organizations, the Teamsters and other labor unions, the Knights of Columbus and other fraternal associations, the City College of New York Young Republican Club and other political organizations, and hundreds of off-duty police officers. The staunchly anti-Communist John Birch Society and Young Americans for Freedom also join. Many participants march for the first time. As one demonstrator declares, "We've got to quit letting a small minority get in the act and give the impression they're running the show. No more sidelines for me."

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15. RETURNING VETERANS

Even as the war rages on, servicemen return to the United States after completing their one-year tours of duty. Boarding military planes and commercial flights, they arrive home within just a day or two of leaving the war zone. Readjustment to civilian life takes longer. “Not a day goes by that I don’t have a flashback or a thought about Vietnam, about the incidences, the missions, or just the simple smell,” acknowledges one veteran. Another confides, “I still have this little trick. I don’t do it every night, but when I lie down, if there’s something bothering me, I say, ‘You’re warm, you’re dry, and there is no one shooting at you.’”

16. FALLEN TROOPS COME HOME

U.S. servicemen who die in Vietnam are flown back to the United States in flag-draped coffins and their bodies returned to their families. Those on the battlefield do their best to recover the bodies of fallen comrades. As casualties increase, managing the dead develops into a grim but efficient process. Remains are embalmed at U.S. facilities in Southeast Asia and sent home within a few days.



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