<http://www.asanet.org/about/Rhoades_Chapter8.cfm>

**A History of the American Sociological Association, 1905-1980, chapter eight,  
by Lawrence J. Rhoades**

**Vietnam War**

The Vietnam War emerged as an issue at the 1967 Annual Meeting when a demonstration was held outside the San Francisco Hilton and a resolution sponsored by the Sociology Liberation Movement calling for the "immediate end to the bombing of Vietnam and the immediate withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam" was passed during the Business Meeting.

The resolution was submitted to the 4,429 voting members in a referendum in 1968 with the following results: "By a vote of 1,874 to 989 the voting membership voted that the Association should not adopt an official policy on the issues; but, by a vote of 1,472 to 1,247 these same members voted to favor the Members' Resolution."

The resolution was reintroduced at the 1968 Business Meeting in Boston but it was defeated. In response to another resolution, however, Council transferred the 1969, 1972 and 1976 Annual Meetings out of Chicago because of the treatment anti-war demonstrators received during the 1968 Democratic Convention.

In 1969, Council "censured and condemned those persons—members and non-members—who disrupted the presidential address and plenary session" that year in San Francisco with an anti-war demonstration.

**Caucuses**

Several caucuses became active in Association affairs during the 1968 and 1969 Annual Meetings.

In 1968, Council responded to a resolution presented by the Caucus of Black Sociologists by resolving that "the ASA shall make every effort to ensure that black sociologists are brought into the fullest participation in all aspects of the governance and other activities of the Association."

That same year, Council endorsed in principle several provisions of a resolution presented by the ASA Radical Caucus that addressed sources of research funding, the conduct of research, and the publication of findings. Council referred the provisions to the Committee on Professional Ethics for inclusion in the proposed Code of Ethics.

In 1969, Council endorsed resolutions from the Caucus of Women Sociologists calling for "surveys of graduate departments on a regular basis, including listing of faculty and students by sex" and for the removal of "any barriers to equality that exist" in departments, universities, and institutions "as well as within its own jurisdictions."

(from chapter nine)

**Membership**

Total membership has not fluctuated much during the seventies even though the greatest number of new PhDs were produced during that decade. In 1969, total membership stood at 13,357. It peaked in 1974 at 14,654 and dropped to 12,865 in 1980.

Total membership figures, however, cloak a significant difference between trends in the member categories and the associate categories. Between 1972-78, member categories grew from 7,756 to 9,654 while associate categories declined from 6,178 to 3,907. Both the rate of increase in the member categories and the rate of decline in the associate categories, appear to be dropping.

Given that situation, the concern expressed by Larsen in 1975 still appears appropriate: "The likely reality is that the ASA will have to struggle to maintain its present level of membership.. Whatever we currently are doing will have to be strengthened merely to hold the line. Plans could be developed to help keep the organization attractive to the mix of members we now have. At the heart of that mix are the PhD sociologists who pursue teaching and research concerns."

Since this peak (1974) it seems that membership has declined, but there is some evidence of a modest increase in the 21st century

<http://www.asanet.org/images/research/docs/pdf/2010_asa_membership_brief.pdf>

Meanwhile Sections have proliferated

<http://www.asanet.org/sections/historyofsections.cfm>

The official 2013 sections officers/handbook/manual indicates, among other things, the history of the sections. In this history, it appears that the Section on Marxist Sociology was officially recognized as an ASA section in 1977. (see pdf file in Marxist Section of My Documents at home).