

**The Temptations—Ball of Confusion (That's What The World Is Today)
1970**

People movin' out,
People movin' in.
Why, because of the color of their skin
Run, run, run, but you sho' can't hide *line 4*

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,
Vote for me and I'll set you free
Rap on, brother, rap on *line 7*

The only person talkin' about love thy brother is the preacher
And it seems nobody's interested in learning
But the teacher *line 10*

Segregation, determination, demonstration, integration,
Aggravation, humiliation, obligation to our nation *line 12*

Ball of Confusion
Oh yeah, that's what the world is today, hey, hey *line 14*

The sale of pills are at an all time high
Young folks walkin' around with their heads in the sky
The cities aflame in the summertime and, oh
The beat goes on *line 18*

Evolution, revolution, gun control, the sound of soul
Shooting rockets to the moon
Kids growing up too soon
Politicians say more taxes will solve everything *line 22*

And the band played on

So, round and around and around we go
Where the world's headed, nobody knows *line 25*

Oh, Great googamooga, can't you hear me talkin' to you
Just a Ball of Confusion, oh yeah
That's what the world is today, hey *line 28*

Fear in the air, tension everywhere
Unemployment's rising fast,
The Beatles' new record's a gas *line 31*

And the only safe place to live
Is in an Indian Reservation

And the band played on
Eve of destruction, tax deduction
City inspectors, bill collectors
Mod clothes in demand
Population out of hand
Suicide, too many bills
Hippies moving to the hills,
People all over the world are shouting "End the War" *line 41*

And the band played on

Oh, Great googamooga, can't you hear me talkin' to you

Just a Ball of Confusion,
That's what the world is today, hey *line 45*

Available online at: http://www.temptationslyrics.4t.com/lyrics/ball_of_confusion.htm

Discussion questions:

- When:*** What era is being addressed in the song?
Who: From whose perspective was the song written?
Where: Where were the events addressed in the song likely to have happened?
What: Is the principle presented in the song still true?
Why: What events chronicled in the song validate the title?

Possible Answers:

- When:*** Late 60's, early 70's (See lines 17, 31, 40)
Who: Probably a working class adult (See lines 6, 21, 30, 35, 39) from an urban neighborhood (See lines 1,2,7, 40)
Where: Either in the United States, Europe or Russia—an industrialized nation (See lines 17, 19, 20, 31)
What: Opinions may vary
Why: References are made to the Civil Rights Movement, the Hippie Movement, riots associated with the Civil Rights Movement/Black Power Movement, the problems of easy access to drugs (See lines 11, 12, 15, 16, 22, 24, 25, 29, 39, 41)