



How does Gaye's album reflect the domestic unrest that existed during the war? Substantiate your arguments and use additional sources to contextualize your arguments.

What themes or lines from Gaye's lyrics are still applicable today?

Feel free to look for other lyrics but here are some notable ones.

Excerpts of lyrics from the album to consider:

What's going on:

Father, father
We don't need to escalate
You see, war is not the answer
For only love can conquer hate
Picket lines and picket signs
Don't punish me with brutality

What's Happening Brother:

Can't find no work, can't find no job my friend
Money is tighter than it's ever been

Say man, I just don't understand
What's going on across this land

Flyin' High (In The Friendly Sky):

Flying high in the friendly sky
Flying high without ever leavin' the ground, no
Rest of the folks are tired and weary
Oh Lord, and have laid their bodies down.
I go to a place where danger awaits me and it's bound to forsake me.
Flying high in the friendly sky
Without ever leaving the ground
And I ain't seen nothing but trouble baby
Nobody really understands, no no
And I go to the place where the good feelin' awaits me
Self Destruction in my hand
Oh Lord, so stupid minded
Oh and I go crazy when I can't find it
Well I know I'm hooked my friend
To the boy who makes slaves out of men.

Save the Children:

Who really cares?
Who's willing to try to save a world
That's destined to die
When I look at the world it fills me with sorrow
Little children today are really gonna suffer tomorrow
Oh what a shame, such a bad way to live
All who is to blame, we can't stop livin'

Mercy, Mercy Me (The Ecology):

Oil wasted on the ocean and upon our seas, fish full of mercury
Ah oh mercy, mercy me
Ah things ain't what they used to be, no no
Radiation underground and in the sky
Animals and birds who live nearby are dying

Right On:

Some of us were born
For races to win
Some of us are aware
That it's good for us to care
Some of us feel the icy wind
Of poverty blowing in the air
For those of us who simply like to socialize
For those of us who tend the sick
Ah, and heed the people's cries

Inner City Blues (Make Me Wanna Holler):

Inflation no chance
To increase finance
Bills pile up sky high
Send that boy off to die
Make me wanna holler
The way they do my life

I can't pay my taxes
Oh, make me wanna holler
And throw up both my hands
Yea, it makes me wanna holler
And throw up both my hands
Crime is increasing
Trigger happy policing
Panic is spreading
God know where we're heading
Oh, make me wanna holler
They don't understand