

Ch 20 The New Frontier and the Great Society

Sec 1 Kennedy and the Cold War

Election of 1960

1. Democrats – John F. Kennedy, Senator from MA
 - a. Two major hurdles: age (43 years old) and he was Roman Catholic
2. Republicans – Richard M. Nixon, vice-president
3. Election was the closest since 1888 with Kennedy winning by fewer than 119,000 votes
4. Two factors gave Kennedy the edge: television and civil rights
 - a. Sept. 26, 1960 – first televised presidential debate, Kennedy gave a strong performance giving him a big boost in the polls
 - b. Oct 1960 – Martin Luther King Jr. and several followers were arrested in Atlanta for sitting at a segregated lunch counter
 - i. King was sentenced to 4 months hard labor (officially for a minor traffic violation)
 - ii. JFK's brother Bobby persuaded the judge to release King on bail while the Eisenhower Administration and Nixon did nothing
 - iii. Gave African American support to Kennedy

Flexible Response – Kennedy's policy that involved preparing for a variety of military responses to

international crisis rather than focusing on the use of nuclear weapons

1. Created an elite branch of the army called the Special Forces (Green Berets)
2. Tripled overall nuclear capabilities of U.S.

Crises Over Cuba

1. Jan 3, 1961 – revolutionary leader Fidel Castro openly declares himself a Communist and welcomes aid from the Soviet Union
 - a. Castro took control of Cuba in 1959 and was hesitantly recognized by the U.S.
2. Bay of Pigs
 - a. Summer 1960 – Eisenhower authorizes the CIA to train Cuban exiles for an invasion of Cuba
 - b. April 17, 1961 – Cuban exiles land on Cuba's southern coast (Bay of Pigs)
 - i. Nothing went as planned and the exiles were quickly surrounded with some being killed and others taken as prisoners
 - c. Disaster for Kennedy, forced to pay a \$53 million dollar ransom in food and medical supplies for the release of the exiles

Cuban Missile Crisis

1. Nikita Khrushchev, leader of Soviet Union, had become a powerful ally to Castro's

- a. Khrushchev promises to defend Cuba with Soviet arms, including nuclear weapons
2. Oct 14, 1962 – U-2 photos reveal that Soviets were secretly building missile bases on Cuba, which could reach U.S. cities in minutes
3. Oct 22 – Kennedy delivers a speech to the nation acknowledging the existence of Soviet missiles in Cuba
4. With Soviet ships, presumably carrying more missiles, heading towards Cuba, Kennedy orders the navy to quarantine Cuba and prepares for an invasion of Cuba
5. Soviet ships halted and Khrushchev agrees to remove missiles in return for a U.S. promise not to invade Cuba

Berlin Crisis

1. West Berlin's prospering economy led to a steady stream of refugees entering from East Germany
2. Khrushchev threatened to close all roads to West Berlin in order to protect communism
3. Berlin Wall – Aug 13, 1961, East German troops began construction on the concrete wall separating East and West Berlin designed to prevent its citizens from fleeing to the West, stood until 1989

Searching for Ways to Ease Tensions

1. Hot Line – communication link established in 1963 to allow leaders of the U.S. and the Soviet Union to contact each other in times of crisis
 - a. Designed to decrease the possibility of nuclear disaster
2. Limited Test Ban Treaty – 1963 treaty in which the U.S. and Soviet Union agreed not to conduct nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere

Sec 2 The New Frontier

New Frontier – Kennedy's legislative program

1. Medical care for the elderly
2. Rebuilding of poor urban areas
3. Aid for education
4. Bolster national defense
5. Increase international aid
6. Expand the space program
7. Kennedy lacked a popular mandate (clear indication that the voters approved of his plan) b/c he had won by such a slim margin

Stimulating the Economy

1. 1960 – U.S. was stuck in a recession
2. Kennedy's advisors proposed increasing gov't spending and lowering taxes for companies and individuals (deficit spending)

3. Dept. of Defense – received a 20% budget increase for new nuclear missiles, submarines, and an expansion of the armed services
4. Minimum wage was increased to \$1.25/hour

Addressing Poverty Abroad

1. Peace Corps – program of voluntary assistance established in 1961 to provide aid to Asia, Africa, and Latin America
2. Alliance for Progress – offered economic and technical assistance to help Latin American countries improve their living standards

Race to the Moon

1. April 12, 1961, the Soviets put the first human into space
2. In response, Kennedy suggests that the U.S. commits itself to landing a man on the moon
 - a. NASA begins to construct new launch facilities at Cape Canaveral, FL and a mission control center in Houston, TX
3. Feb 20, 1962, John Glen orbited the earth 3 times
4. July 20, 1969 – Neil Armstrong walks on the moon
5. Impact of Space Program – called for better education and expanded science programs, numerous advances in technology, and spurred the economy

Tragedy in Dallas

1. In 1963, Kennedy had become in many ways a much different leader than he was in 1961 and 1962
 - a. Approval rating was at 60%
2. Kennedy went to Texas to mend political fences with members of the state's Democratic party
3. Nov 22, 1963 – riding in an open limousine with his wife Jacqueline, Texas Gov. John Connally, and his wife, Kennedy is shot as his motorcade approached the Texas School Book Depository
4. Dallas police charged Lee Harvey Oswald with the murder of Kennedy
 - a. Oswald's prints were found on the rifle used to kill the president
 - b. After receiving a dishonorable discharge from the marines he lived in the Soviet Union
 - c. Oswald was an active Castro supporter
5. Nov 24, 1963 – Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby shoots Oswald as he is being transferred from one jail to another
6. Warren Commission – group headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren that investigated the Kennedy assassination and concluded that Oswald had acted alone
7. Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in as President

Sec 3 The Great Society

LBJ

1. Johnson's presence on the ticket had helped Kennedy win key states in the South and compensated for his drawbacks
2. Johnson proved to be a master of party politics and behind the scenes maneuvering
3. "The Johnson Treatment" – Johnson's legendary ability to persuade senators to support his bills

Johnson's Domestic Agenda

1. Pushed Kennedy's proposed tax cuts through Congress in Feb of 1964 – over \$11 billion
 - a. Stimulated consumer spending meaning higher corporate profits which actually increased tax revenues
2. Johnson declares an "unconditional war on poverty in America in 1964"
 - a. Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) – Aug 1964, provided funds for youth programs, antipoverty measures, small business loans, and job training

Election of 1964

1. LBJ (Dem) vs. Barry Goldwater (Rep)
2. Johnson believed gov't could and should help solve the nation's social and economic problems, Goldwater didn't

3. Goldwater suggested that nuclear weapons be used on Cuba and North Vietnam
4. LBJ received 61% of popular vote, highest % since 1936, and 90% of electoral vote
5. Democrats also increased their majority in Congress

Great Society – LBJ’s program to reduce poverty and racial injustice and to promote a better quality of life in the U.S.

1. Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 – nation’s first major federal aid package for education
2. Medicare – provides hospital insurance and low-cost medical insurance for almost every American age 65 or older
3. Medicaid – extended health insurance to welfare recipients
4. Established the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – appointed the first African American cabinet member in history to run it, Robert Weaver
5. Immigration Act of 1965 – law that replaced the national origins system made it easier for non-European immigrants to settle in the U.S.
 - a. Established an annual quota of 170,000 immigrants from the Eastern Hemisphere and 120,000 from the Western Hemisphere
 - b. No more than 20,000 persons from any one nation could enter the U.S. each year

6. Water Quality Act of 1965 – required states to clean up rivers because of pesticide pollution

Warren Court – Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren, noted for its activism in the areas of civil rights and free speech

1. Reapportionment – the way in which states redraw election districts based on the changing number of people in them
 - a. States failed to change their districts to represent population changes so voters in rural areas had more representation and more power than urban areas
 - b. *Reynolds v. Sims* (1964) – Court ruled that congressional district boundaries should be redrawn so that they would be equal in populations
2. Greatly expanded the rights of people accused of crimes: exclusion of illegally seized evidence, free legal counsel, and presence of lawyer during questioning
 - a. *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) – all suspects must be read their rights before questioning
 - b. Miranda Rights
 - i. Suspects have a right to remain silent
 - ii. Anything they say may be used against them
 - iii. They have a right to a lawyer before and during interrogation

Impact of the Great Society

1. No post WWII president extended the power and reach of the federal government more than Johnson
2. Created a new awareness for social problems (poverty and civil rights)
3. Massive tax cut spurred the economy but costs of the Great Society contributed to a growing budget deficit