THE NEW FRONTIER AND
THE GREAT SOCIETY

Chapter 28:
Kennedy and Johnson
lead America in the
1960s
KENNEDY AND THE COLD WAR
Chapter 28, Section 1
The Democratic nominee for president in 1960 was a young Massachusetts senator named John Kennedy. He promised to “get America moving again.” Kennedy had a well-organized campaign and was handsome and charismatic.

People Feared:
- his age (43)—would be second-youngest president
- his religion—Catholicism
  - Americans worried would lead to pope having influence of American policies
  - He put people at ease by openly discussing the issue
### Youngest U.S. Presidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Theodore Roosevelt</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>322</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>John F. Kennedy</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Bill Clinton</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>154</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ulysses S. Grant</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Barack Obama</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Grover Cleveland</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>351</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Franklin Pierce</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>James Garfield</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
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<td>9</td>
<td>James K. Polk</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>122</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Millard Fillmore</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>184</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chester A. Arthur</td>
<td>50</td>
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</table>

Note: Roosevelt was sworn in after the assassination of William McKinley in 1901, making Kennedy the youngest president actually voted to the office. At 69, Ronald Reagan was the *oldest* president to take office.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE: Richard Nixon

- The Republicans nominated Richard Nixon, Ike’s Vice-President gained famed as member of HAUC
- The candidates agreed on many domestic and foreign policy issues
- Two factors helped put Kennedy over the top: T.V. and Civil Rights

Nixon hoped to ride the coattails of the popular President
TELEVISIONED DEBATE AFFECTS VOTE

• On September 26, 1960, Kennedy and Nixon took part in the first televised debate between presidential candidates
  • Nixon, a foreign policy expert, hoped to show Kennedy’s inexperience

• Kennedy looked and spoke better than Nixon—coached by TV producers

• Journalist Russell Baker said, “That night, image replaced the printed word as the national language of politics”

• Televised Debates: First one in history and changed the way campaigns are run, many people credit this for Kennedy’s win over Nixon.
JFK: Confident and Youthful

- Television had become so central to people's lives—many blamed Nixon's loss to his poor appearance in the televised presidential debates
  - Nixon, according to one observer, resembled a "sinister chipmunk"
- JFK looked cool, collected, presidential
A second major event of the campaign took place in October, 1960.

Police arrested Martin Luther King for conducting a “Sit-In” at a lunch counter in Georgia.

King was sentenced to hard labor.

Sit-Ins were non-violent protests over the policy of whites-only lunch counters in the South.
KENNEDY AND CIVIL RIGHTS (Cont.)

- While the Eisenhower Administration refused to intervene, JFK phoned King’s wife and his brother, Robert Kennedy, worked for King’s release.

- The incident captured the attention of the African-American community, whose votes JFK would carry in key states.
CLOSEST ELECTION SINCE 1884

- Kennedy won the election by fewer than 119,000 votes
- Nixon dominated the west, while Kennedy won the south and the east coast
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Home state</th>
<th>Running mate</th>
<th>Electoral vote</th>
<th>States carried</th>
<th>Popular vote</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John F. Kennedy</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Lyndon B. Johnson</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>34,220,984</td>
<td>49.70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Nixon</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>34,108,157</td>
<td>49.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry F. Byrd</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Strom Thurmond, Barry Goldwater</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>286,359</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Kennedy wins close election

Election of 1960

Kennedy (Democratic [D])
303 electoral votes

Nixon (Republican)
219 electoral votes

Byrd (not a candidate [B])
15 electoral votes

*One Nixon elector voted outside the party’s endorsement.
“ASK NOT . . .”

In his inaugural address, JFK uttered this famous challenge:

“Ask not what your country can do for you --- ask what you can do for your country”

Delivered Friday, January 20, 1961
THE CAMELOT YEARS

• Critics argue his smooth style lacks substance—but the public loved it

• During his term in office, JFK and his beautiful young wife, Jacqueline Kennedy—captivated the nation with her eye for fashion and culture
  – She invited many artists and celebrities to the White House

• The press loved the Kennedy charm and JFK appeared frequently on T.V.

• The Kennedys were considered American “Royalty” (hence “Camelot” reference)
THE KENNEDY MYSTIQUE

- The first family fascinated the American public
- For example, after learning that JFK could read 1,600 words a minute, thousands enrolled in speed-reading courses
- Jackie, too, captivated the nation with her eye for fashion and culture
THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST

• JFK surrounded himself with what one journalist described as the “best and the brightest”—his advisors and cabinet were the best available talent
  – McGeorge Bundy (Harvard University Dean)—National Security Advisor
  – Robert McNamara (President of Ford Motor Company)—Secretary of Defense
  – Dean Rusk (President of the Rockefeller Foundation)—Secretary of State

• Robert Kennedy, of all of his elite advisors he relied most on his 35-year-old brother Robert, whom JFK appointed attorney general

RFK was John’s closest friend and advisor
A NEW MILITARY POLICY

• Controlling the Soviet Threat
  – JFK believed Eisenhower administration had not done enough to control Soviet threat, including allowing communism to develop at America’s doorstep—Cuba

• Defining a Military Strategy
  – JFK believes must redefine nation’s nuclear strategy—does not want to use brinkmanship in order to deal with minor conflicts
  – Flexible response
    • fight conventional wars and keep nuclear arms balanced—use if necessary
  – JFK increases defense spending in three areas:
    • strengthens conventional forces (troops, ships, artillery, etc.)
    • creates army Special Forces (Green Berets)
    • triples nuclear capabilities (trying to keep a balance of nuclear power with the Soviet Union)
ON NO ACCOUNT TO BE USED - BECAUSE THE ENEMY MIGHT RETALIATE

ON NO ACCOUNT TO BE USED - BECAUSE THE ENEMY MIGHT RETALIATE
THE CUBAN DILEMMA

- Cold War: a struggle between the communist states and the free-market economies of Europe and the United States
- Fidel Castro deposed a pro-American military dictatorship in Cuba
- U.S. recognized and supported Castro but he (along with other Latin American countries) grew tired of U.S. aid to the world but nothing to their neighbor (Marshall Plan, Eisenhower Doctrine, etc.)
- Castro declares himself communist
  - Seized U.S. properties in Cuba—Eisenhower cuts off diplomatic relations
  - 10% of Cuban population goes into exile; mostly to U.S.
- Castro's Cuba quickly became militarily and economically dependent on the Soviet Union - bringing the Cold War to within 90 miles of the Florida coast
THE BAY OF PIGS: April 1961

- CIA secretly trained exiles for an invasion of Cuba
- Kennedy learned of the plan only nine days into his presidency
- On the night of April 17, 1961, some 1,400 Cuban exiles, supported by the U.S. military, landed in the Bay of Pigs
- Nothing went right—air strike failed to knock out Cuban air force and distraction group never reached shore—so the exiles were met by 25,000 Cuban troops
THE BAY OF PIGS (Cont.)

- Cuba sensationalized the defeat of “North American mercenaries” and made the U.S. “look like fools to our friends, rascals to our enemies, and incompetents to the rest”

- Kennedy paid $53 million in food and medical supplies to get surviving commandoes released.
Cartoonists ridiculed Kennedy for the Bay of Pigs fiasco. In this drawing from the *Washington Star*, the Bay of Pigs is portrayed as a giant chicken which has come home to roost, causing new troubles soon to hatch out for Kennedy.

The Bay of Pigs mission was said to have blown up in Kennedy's face.
Operation Mongoose, also known as The Cuban Project, is the general name for CIA covert operations and plans initiated by President John F. Kennedy which authorized aggressive covert assault on Communism in the Cuban Republic and the assassination of Castro.

The Cuban Project played a significant role in the events leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.
Cuban Missile Crisis

- Nikita Khrushchev sends weapons to Cuba, including nuclear missiles
- JFK warns Soviets that missile attack will trigger war on U.S.S.R.
- U.S. Navy quarantined Cuba while Soviet ships approached Cuba
For 13 days in October, 1962 the world stood still as the threat of nuclear war gripped the planet.
CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS (Cont.)

• Soviets avoid confrontation at sea and reach agreement with U.S.
  ▪ U.S.S.R.
    ▪ Removal of the missiles from Cuba under U.N. supervision
  ▪ U.S.
    ▪ Public pledge by the U.S. not to invade Cuba
    ▪ Secret U.S. commitment to remove the missiles from Turkey within a reasonable time

• Results of the Cuban Missile Crisis
  – Khrushchev’s prestige severely damaged in U.S.S.R.
  – JFK criticized for brinkmanship and for not ousting Castro
  – Cuban exiles switch to GOP
  – Castro bans flights to and from Miami
CRISIS OVER BERLIN

- In 1961, Berlin, Germany was a city in great turmoil.
- In the 11 years since the Berlin Airlift, almost 3 million East Germans (Soviet side) had fled into West Berlin (U.S. controlled) to flee communist rule.
SOVIETS SEEK TO STOP EXODUS

- The Soviets did not like the fact that East Berliners were fleeing their city for the democratic west.
- Their departure hurt the economy and the prestige of the USSR.
- Just after midnight on August 13, 1961 the Soviets began construction of a 90-mile wall separating East and West Berlin.

East Germany begins construction on the Berlin Wall, which becomes a primary symbol of the Cold War and Soviet oppression.
Refugees from East Germany or East Berlin to West

<table>
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<td>1963-1964</td>
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<td>1964-1965</td>
<td>42,632</td>
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<td>1965-1966</td>
<td>41,876</td>
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Pionier- und signaltechnischer Ausbau der Staatsgrenze zu BERLIN-West
(gegenwärtig)

East Berlin

Vordere Sparrelement 162 km
Kfz Sperre 92 km
Kontrollstreifen 165 km
Kolonnenweg 172 km
Lichttrasse 177 km
Beobachtungstürme u. Führungsstellen 190 Stck.
Flächensperren 38 000
Höckersperre 19 km
Grenzsiegeln 148 km
Grenzmauer 68 km

West Berlin

Anlage 2
GV/S-Nr.: G1691 880
EASING TENSIONS

• Both Khrushchev and Kennedy began searching for ways to ease the enormous tension between the two superpowers

• In 1963 they established a hot line between the White House and the Kremlin

• Later that year, the superpowers signed a Limited Test Ban Treaty that served to ban nuclear testing in the atmosphere
THE NEW FRONTIER

Chapter 28, Section 2
KENNEDY’S VISION OF PROGRESS: A New Frontier

- **New Frontier**—name given to Kennedy’s domestic policies
  - called on “Americans to be ‘new pioneers’ and explore ‘uncharted areas of science and space, . . . unconquered pockets of ignorance and prejudice, unanswered questions of poverty and surplus’”
  - The economy, education, medical care for the elderly and the poor, and space exploration were all part of his vision

- Majority of his policies do not get past congress (provide medical care for the aged, rebuild blighted urban areas, and aid education)
  - JFK is unable to get many of his policies past the same Republican-Southern Democrat coalition that wouldn’t pass Truman’s Fair Deal
  - He also lacks mandate—clear voter support for his agenda (won election by the smallest of margins)
STIMULATING THE ECONOMY

• By 1960, U.S. in recession—a moderate slowdown of the economy
  – Unemployment was at 6%, the highest since WWII
  – America’s economy was lagging behind other Western democracies and the Soviet Union

• JFK administration pushes for lower taxes and deficit spending—spending more money than the government collects in order to stimulate growth
  – Kennedy got congress to approve 20% increase for defense spending, increased minimum wage, extended unemployment insurance, etc.
Pump Prime—Deficit Spending

- **U.S. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK**
- The Outstanding Public Debt as of 30 April 2015 at 12:38:53 PM GMT is:

\[
$18,155,412,727,110.06
\]

- The estimated population of the United States is **320,490,316** so each citizen's share of this debt is **$56,648.87**
- The National Debt has continued to increase an average of **$2.22 billion per day** since September 30, 2012!!
Pump Prime—Deficit Spending

• **U.S. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK**
• The Outstanding Public Debt as of 6 Feb 2015 at 5:39:53 PM GMT is:

$18,104,297,792,147.81$

• The estimated population of the United States is 319,954,080 so each citizen's share of this debt is $56,584.05
• The National Debt has continued to increase an average of $2.37 billion per day since September 30, 2012!!
Pump Prime—Deficit Spending

- **U.S. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK**
- The Outstanding Public Debt as of 30 April 2014 at 1:27:24 PM GMT is:

$17,444,694,620,408.07$

- The estimated population of the United States is 318,125,845 so each citizen's share of this debt is $54,835.83
- The National Debt has continued to increase an average of $2.39 billion per day since September 30, 2012!!
Pump Prime—Deficit Spending

• U.S. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK
• The Outstanding Public Debt as of 9 May 2013 at 12:19:22 PM GMT is:

$16,798,297,715,341.45$

• The estimated population of the United States is 314,926,356 so each citizen's share of this debt is $53,340.40
• The National Debt has continued to increase an average of $3.80 billion per day since September 28, 2007!
Pump Prime—Deficit Spending

- **U.S. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK**
- The Outstanding Public Debt as of 14 Feb 2013 at 12:53:47 PM GMT is:

$16,500,545,337,937.89$

- The estimated population of the United States is **314,421,877** so each citizen's share of this debt is **$52,479.00**
- The National Debt has continued to increase an average of **$3.81 billion per day** since September 28, 2007!
Pump Prime—Deficit Spending

- **U.S. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK**
- The Outstanding Public Debt as of 16 May 2012 at 08:14:32 AM GMT is:

$15,683,280,572,927.08$

- The estimated population of the United States is 312,775,679 so each citizen's share of this debt is $50,142.26
- The National Debt has continued to increase an average of $3.95 billion per day since September 28, 2007!
Pump Prime—Deficit Spending

- U.S. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK
- The Outstanding Public Debt as of 6 May 2011 at 08:15:32 AM GMT is: $14,340,271,851,983.00

- The estimated population of the United States is 310,516,901 so each citizen's share of this debt is $46,181.94
- The National Debt has continued to increase an average of $4.05 billion per day since September 28, 2007!
Pump Prime—Deficit Spending

- **U.S. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK**
- The Outstanding Public Debt as of 21 May 20 at 02:32:32 AM GMT is:

$12,982,244,994,417.19$

- The estimated population of the United States is **308,414,887** so each citizen's share of this debt is **$42,093.44**
- The National Debt has continued to increase an average of **$4.12 billion per day** since September 28, 2007!
ADDRESSING POVERTY ABROAD

- **Peace Corps**—volunteers assist developing nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America
  - Part of the goal was to deter spread of communism in Latin America
  - “Kennedy’s Kiddie Korps” became a huge success
  - By 1968, more than 35,000 volunteers had served in 60 nations around the world
  - NOTE: Since 1961, over 200,000 Americans have joined the Peace Corps and have served in 139 countries

- **Alliance for Progress**—offered economic and technical assistance to Latin American countries
  - Part of the goal was to deter spread of communism in Latin America
  - While the money brought some development, it did not change fundamental reforms
RACE TO THE MOON

- In April 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri A. Gagarin is first man in space
  - Kennedy saw the space race as a challenge and sought to surpass the Soviets—Race to the Moon: main goal of JFK was send a man to the moon before the USSR
- In May 1961, the U.S. too put a man in space and a year later put a communications satellite into space
- Meanwhile, America’s space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) began construction on new launch facilities in Cape Canaveral, Florida and a mission control center in Houston, Texas
A MAN ON THE MOON

- On July 20, 1969, an excited nation watched as U.S astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.

- The new focus and funding on the space program (science and technology)
  - allowed for University science programs to grow, new industries to form and new technologies to arise
  - industries sprang up in Southern and Western states

“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”
ADDRESSING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

• Michael Harrington’s book, *The Other America*, brings attention to poverty
  – Harrington profiled the 50 million people who scraped by each year on less than $1,000
  – The number of poor shocked Americans

• In 1963, Kennedy called for “a national assault on the causes of poverty”

• He also ordered his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy to investigate racial injustice in the South

• Finally, he presented Congress with a sweeping civil rights bill and a sweeping tax cut bill to spur the economy
TRAGEDY IN DALLAS

• On a sunny day on November 22, 1963, Air Force One (the president’s plane) landed in Dallas with JFK and Jackie.
• Kennedy was in town to mend differences with the state’s Democratic party.
• JFK received warm applause from the crowd that lined the downtown streets of Dallas as he rode in the back seat of an open-air limousine.
JFK SHOT

• While greeting the crowds in an open-air limousine, the motorcade approached the Texas Book Depository and shots rang out
  – JFK was shot in the neck and then the head—he was pronounced dead after doctors tried to revive him

• Vice president Lyndon Johnson succeeded JFK—taking the oath of office on Air Force One in front of Jackie Kennedy
Zapruder Film: picture sequence shot by private citizen Abraham Zapruder. Although it is not the only film of the shooting, it has been called the most complete.
• On the same day—Ex-Marine Lee Harvey Oswald, a former visitor to the Soviet Union and a Castro supporter, was charged with the murder.

• The former sniper allegedly shot the president from the Texas School Book Depository.

• Two days later Jack Ruby, a nightclub owner, then shot Oswald in front of a live television audience.
JFK LAID TO REST

• All work stopped for Kennedy’s funeral as America mourned its fallen leader
• The assassination and the televised funeral became historic events

Three-year old John Kennedy Jr. salutes his father’s coffin during the funeral
Arlington National Cemetery experts said in 2001 that it cost about $200 a month to keep the flame burning.

On December 10, 1963, a group of Catholic schoolchildren were sprinkling the temporary flame with holy water. The cap came off the bottle and water poured onto the flame, putting it out. A cemetery official quickly relit the flame by hand. In August 1967, an exceptionally heavy rain extinguished the permanent flame. A nearby electrical transformer flooded as well, depriving the spark igniter of power and preventing the flame from being relit. After the rain ended, a cemetery official relit the flame by hand. Two of the gravesite's flagstones had to be removed to access the transformer and repair it.
The bizarre chain of events led many to believe that Oswald was part of a conspiracy.

Warren Commission investigated the assassination and concluded that Oswald had indeed acted alone.

The 1979 investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), concluded that Oswald assassinated President Kennedy as a result of a probable conspiracy.

- This conclusion of a likely conspiracy contrasts with the earlier conclusion by the Warren Commission that the President was assassinated by a lone gunman.

- Conspiracy theories existed since JFK’s death but they intensified after the HSCA’s findings.
Warren Commission Exhibits 893 and 894, National Archives.
BULLET FROM ASSASSIN'S GUN 60' HIGH

BULLET HOLE IN SHIRT 5 3/4" BELOW COLLAR

BULLET HOLE TIE KNOT

ENTRY NEAR RIGHT ARM PIT

5TH RIB SHATTERED

EXIT UNDER RIGHT NIPPLE

RIGHT WRIST SHATTERED

WOUND IN LEFT THIGH

THE REMARKABLE PATH OF THE PRISTINE BULLET, ACCORDING TO WARREN COMMISSION

KENNEDY

CONNALLY
Johnson presented his goals for the Great Society in a speech at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan on May 22, 1964.
FROM THE TEXAS HILLS TO CAPITOL HILL

• Won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1937
• As Congressman, Lyndon Baines Johnson caught the eye of FDR
• FDR helped Johnson secure key committee assignments in Congress
• In 1948, LBJ narrowly won a seat in the Senate and by 1955 he becomes Senate majority
CONTINUING KENNEDY’S LEGACY

• Tax Cuts
  – Johnson urged Congress to pass the civil rights and tax-cut bills that Kennedy had sent to Capitol Hill
  – In 1964, Congress passed a tax reduction of over $10 billion dollars
  – Democrats hoped tax cut would lead to better economy and less deficit spending
    • People had more money to spend and they did which meant profits for businesses
    • Increased profits for businesses meant increased tax revenues which made up for lost revenue from tax break and then some
    • Lowered the federal budget deficit from $6 billion in 1964 to $4 billion in 1966
CONTINUING KENNEDY’S LEGACY (Cont.)

• Civil Rights
  – Johnson pushed through Kennedy’s idea for Civil Rights—1964 Civil Rights Act
  – The Act prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin, and granted the federal government new powers to enforce the law

– Voting Rights Act
  • Part of the Civil Rights Act—voting rights for all Americans
  • The act prohibited literacy tests or other discriminatory practices for voting
  • The act insured consistent election practices
THE WAR ON POVERTY

• In 1964, LBJ declares “unconditional war on poverty”
• In August of 1964 he pushed through Congress a series of measures known as the Economic Opportunity Act
• The Act provided $1 billion to aid poverty stricken citizens
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

- **Job Corps**—youth training program (vocational training and job search skills)
- **VISTA**—(Volunteers In Service To America) places individuals with community-based agencies to help find long-term solutions to the problems caused by urban and rural poverty
- **Project Head Start**—an education program for underprivileged preschoolers with a special focus on helping develop the early reading and math skills
- **Community Action Program**—encouraged poor people to participate in public-works programs

Project Head Start is still an effective program today!
THE 1964 ELECTION: Barry Goldwater

- 1964 Election: Goldwater vs. Johnson—LBJ wins in landslide
- In 1964, the Republicans nominated conservative senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona to oppose Democrat Lyndon Johnson
- Goldwater opposed LBJ’s social legislation—believed government should not solve social and economic issues
- Goldwater further alienated voters by suggesting the use of nuclear weapons in Cuba and North Vietnam
THE 1964 ELECTION: Landslide Victory

- LBJ promises not to send troops to Vietnam
- For many Americans it was an anti-Goldwater vote
  - Voters believed that government could and should help solve the nation’s problems
  - Voters see Goldwater as a War Hawk
    - Hawk: Pro War
    - Dove: Anti-War
- LBJ won in a landslide
- The Democrats also increased their majority in Congress
  - which means Southern Democrats are no longer needed to pass bills
In May of 1964, LBJ summed up his vision for America in a phrase: “The Great Society”

The Great Society—LBJ’s domestic policy aimed at ending poverty and discrimination

By the time he left the White House in 1969, Congress had passed 206 of LBJ’s Great Society legislative initiatives
EDUCATION

• Johnson considered education “the key which can unlock the door to the Great Society”
  – **Elementary and Secondary Education Act** provided $1 billion to schools for textbooks, library materials, and special education
  – **Higher Education Act** funded scholarships and low-interest loans for college students
  – **National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities** was created to financially assist painters, musicians, actors, and other artists
HEALTHCARE

- LBJ and Congress enhanced Social Security by establishing Medicare and Medicaid

- **MediCARE**: provided hospital insurance and low-cost medical care to the elderly

- **MedicAID**: provided health benefits to the poor
HOUSING

- Legislation shifts political power from rural to urban areas
- Some of the legislation was:
  - Omnibus Housing Act appropriated money to build some 240,000 units of low-rent public housing and helping low- and moderate-income families pay for better private housing
  - Forming of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) — formed to administer federal housing programs (improve urban conditions)
    - Appointing Robert Weaver, the first African-American cabinet member in American history, as Secretary of HUD
  - Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Area Redevelopment Act funded slum rebuilding, mass transit, and other improvements for selected "model cities"
The Great Society also brought reform to immigration.

The Natural Origins Acts of the 1920s strongly discriminated against immigration by those outside of Western Europe.

The Immigration Act of 1965 ends quotas (1920’s National Origins Acts) based on nationality and thus opened the door for many non-European immigrants to settle in the U.S.
Silent Spring: book by Rachel Carson’s that exposed the dangers of pesticides and other harmful environmental threats

- claimed detrimental effects of pesticides on the environment, particularly on birds claiming that DDT had been found to cause thinner egg shells and result in reproductive problems and death
- Carson accused the chemical industry of spreading disinformation, and public officials of accepting industry claims uncritically
- Its title was meant to evoke a spring season in which no bird songs could be heard, because they had all died from pesticides

Silent Spring led to the Water Quality Act of 1965—required states to clean up their rivers and lakes

LBJ also ordered the government to search out and clean up corporate polluters of the environment
CONSUMER PROTECTION: Auto Industry

- *Unsafe at Any Speed* book by Ralph Nader that detailed resistance by car manufacturers to the introduction of safety features
- **National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act** set federal safety standards for the auto and tire industries
  - Required new safety features such as: head rests, energy-absorbing steering wheels, shatter-resistant windshields, safety belts, etc.
- **Highway Safety Act** required states to set up highway safety programs
  - Roads were improved by better delineation of curves (edge and center line stripes and reflectors), use of breakaway sign and utility poles, improved illumination, addition of barriers separating oncoming traffic lanes, and guardrails, etc.
- Department of Transportation was created to deal with national air, rail, and highway transportation.
CONSUMER PROTECTION:

- **Wholesome Meat Act**—Also called "Equal To" law, required that states have inspection programs "equal to" that of the federal government.

- **Truth in Packaging Act** set standards for labeling consumer products.

- LBJ said, “Americans can feel safer now in their homes, on the road, and at the supermarket.”
THE WARREN COURT

- **Warren Court**: Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren—took an activist stance on the leading issues of the day
  - Rejects loyalty oaths
  - Free Speech
    - Limited the power of communities to ban books and films
    - Allowed students to wear black armband to school by antiwar students
  - reaffirmed the separation of church-state—no sanctioned prayer in public schools
Reapportionment—way states redraw election districts by population

- By 1960, 80% of Americans lived in cities and suburbs, however many states failed to change their districts
  - rural areas had more representation (power) than those in urban areas

Through key cases **Baker v. Carr (1962)** and **Reynolds v. Sims (1964)**, court rules districts must have approximately equal population—“one person, one vote”

Led to a shift in political power from rural to urban areas
Ohio's 27th Senate District is defined as comprising Ohio House Districts 41, 42 and 45.

Ohio's 41st House District
Ohio Congressional District 13
Gerrymandering

How Gerrymandering can influence electoral results on a non-proportional system. Example for a state with 4 districts and a 36:28 Green (G) party majority. **Top left:** Magenta (M) party wins the urban district, while G party wins the 3 rural/suburban districts — the result expresses and enhances the fact that G is the state-wide majority party. **Top right:** by redesigning the 4 districts, there is a 2:2 tie, with G dominating the 2 new rural districts and M dominating the 2 new urban/suburban districts — closer to proportionality, but masking the fact that G is the state-wide majority party. **Bottom left:** Creating 4 mixed-type districts can yield a 4:0 win to G — a disproportional result considering the state-wide reality. **Bottom right:** With classical Gerrymandering techniques it is even possible to ensure a 1:3 win to the state-wide minority M party.
WARREN COURT: Rights of the Accused

- Warren Court rulings expand rights of people accused of crimes:
  - *Mapp v. Ohio (1961)*—illegally seized evidence cannot be used in court
  - *Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)*—courts must provide legal counsel to poor
  - *Escobedo v. Illinois (1964)*—accused has the right to have an attorney present when questioned by police
  - *Miranda v. Arizona (1966)*—all suspects must be read their rights before questioning
Miranda v. Arizona (1966)

- Origins of the Case—In 1963, Ernesto Miranda was arrested at his home in Phoenix, Arizona, on charges of kidnapping and rape. After two hours of questioning by police, he signed a confession and was later convicted, largely based on the confession. Miranda appealed. He claimed that his confession was invalid because it was coerced and because the police never advised him of his right to an attorney or his right to avoid self-incrimination.

- The Ruling—The Court overturned Miranda's conviction, holding that the police must inform criminal suspects of their legal rights at the time of arrest and may not interrogate suspects who invoke their rights.

- Significance—The Miranda Warning (to Mirandize a suspect): “You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you.”
IMPACT OF GREAT SOCIETY

- The Great Society and the Warren Court changed the United States
- No president in Post-WWII era extended the power and reach of the federal government more than LBJ
- Poverty drops from 21% of population in 1962 to 11% in 1973
- Massive tax cut spurs economy
- Great Society contributes to deficit
- Debate over finances, effectiveness of programs, and government’s role continued for years—and still continues today