

Expanding the Liberal State

- I. John Kennedy
 - A. The 1960 campaign was between two young candidates, Republican Richard M. Nixon and Democrat John Fitzgerald Kennedy (MA)
 - B. Election of 1960—JFK was a handsome, privileged son of an ambassador to Britain who won overcame his unconventional youth and Catholicism to win a plurality and take the election
 - C. The “New Frontier”—Kennedy’s massive reforms were sometimes slighted by Republicans but he managed to decrease the tariff and give a large tax cut for economic growth
 - D. Kennedy’s personality was an integral part of his presidency
 - E. Assassination—although still a controversy as to what happened, Chief Justice Earl Warren and Lyndon Johnson put out a report that on November 22, 1963, Kennedy was shot in the head and throat by Marxist Lee Harvey Oswald who was then killed by Jack Ruby; some believe that there was further conspiracy
- II. Lyndon Johnson
 - A. Lyndon Baines Johnson was the vice president and successor of John F. Kennedy who was from the hill country of western Texas and managed to become the senate majority leader and VP by tremendous ambition
 - B. “The Great Society”—along with the New Frontier, Johnson’s legislative record matched Roosevelt between 1963 and 1966.
 - C. Johnson easily won reelection over the conservative Republican Barry Goldwater (AZ) with 61% of the popular vote, the highest plurality ever
- III. The Assault on Poverty
 - A. Medicare—After twenty years of battles, Johnson finally got Medicare benefits passed so that the government assumed medical expenses for the elderly
 - B. Medicaid—Johnson also passed Medicaid to give healthcare to the poor
 - C. Following Kennedy, Johnson waged a war on poverty centered on the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) which relied on Community Action to create opportunities for the poor
 - D. Community Action Program—allowed the poor to help themselves and teach them administrative roles, however a few groups managed to ruin the public view of it as a whole
 - E. Vietnam funding took away from the OEO which scored some victories but ultimately dwindled
- IV. Cities, Schools, and Immigration
 - A. The Housing Act—offered city money to preserve open spaces and improve cities
 - B. Developed Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - C. Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965—gave aid to public and private schools based on students’ financial condition
 - D. Immigration Act of 1965—eliminated preferred races doctrine (“national origins”) but continued to restrict immigration
- V. Legacies of the Great Society
 - A. Great Society programs added to the federal deficit but a tax cut from Johnson in 1964 spurred enough economic growth to help lower the deficit
 - B. Millions of elderly and poor people got healthcare
 - C. Great Society programs decreased poverty dramatically, from 21% of Americans living in poverty in 1959 to 12% in 1969

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