Kennedy and the Cold War
Chapter 17 Sect. 1

Kennedy becomes President
- Kennedy was from a rich politically powerful family
- Nixon was a self-made man
- Kennedy seemed youthful next to Nixon: His good looks made him appear younger
- He was a smooth debater and great speech giver.
- Nixon was tied to Eisenhower since he was his Vice President and seemed old, not part of the new USA

Election of 1960
- Kennedy: "New Frontier"
- Kennedy felt we were falling behind the Soviets technologically and neglecting the poor of the 50’s
- Nixon defended Eisenhower, making him seem against new ideas and change
- Protestants worried about Kennedy being Catholic
- Kennedy barely won the popular vote, but cruised in the electoral vote
- Kennedy’s support of Martin Luther King when he was arrested helped with the African-American vote.
Kennedy takes Office

- His platform centered on change and anti-communism
- Kennedy’s advisors “Best and Brightest”, they were all young.
- Closest person to Kennedy on cabinet, was his brother, Bobby Kennedy, he was Attorney General. Went to him for a lot of advice.
- However Kennedy relied on his advisors more than Cabinet.

Essential Questions

1. What was the name of Kennedy’s platform and what does it mean?
2. What 2 things was Kennedy a first for in the White House?
3. Who were the Best and Brightest?
4. Who did Kennedy lean on the most for advice?

Bay of Pigs

- Kennedy criticized Eisenhower for not taking a stronger stand against Fidel Castro.
- CIA had trained 1,500 Cuban-Americans soldiers to invade Cuba.
- Kennedy gave the okay to invade.
- The attack was a disaster.
- The ground assault failed because the air support was beaten.
- Kennedy failed to send help for soldiers.
- This strained Soviet-American relations.
- This attack moved Cuba to the Soviets.
The Berlin Crisis

- Khrushchev saw Kennedy’s failure to intervene in Cuba as weakness.
- Khrushchev demanded that the US recognize East Germany and withdraw from West Berlin.
- West Berlin was a problem for the Soviets because so many East Berliners were trying to escape there.
- Kennedy responded by building up troops in West Berlin. They waited for a Soviet response.
- Soviets decided not to attack and built the Berlin Wall instead.

Essential Questions

1. Describe how the attack on the Bay of Pigs went?
2. What were the effects of the Bay of Pigs?
3. What did Khrushchev demand in Berlin?
4. When the Americans sent more troops to defend Berlin, what was the Soviet response?

Cuban Missile Crisis

- Hardliners in the Soviet Union pushed Khrushchev to challenge Kennedy.
- US had placed missiles in Turkey along Soviet border years before.
- Therefore the Soviet wanted to install missiles in Cuba.
- U-2 spy plane detected (SAMS) “surface to air missiles” being installed in Cuba.
Kennedy’s Response

• Kennedy favored a **Naval blockade** of Cuba instead of an invasion, when he heard the Soviets were sending more boats with **supplies for missiles to Cuba**
• Khrushchev warned that a blockade would mean **war**
• Khrushchev decided to order his boats to **return to the Soviet Union** to avoid war
• Khrushchev agreed after the crisis to remove the missiles if the US agreed not to attack Cuba
• Kennedy agreed.
• This was the **closest the world ever came** to nuclear war
• Both sides decided to **ease tensions** after the incident. The set up a **hotline** to let leaders communicate in a crisis.

Kennedy’s Foreign Policy

• Wanted peace for all men and women of the world
• **Peace Corps**: trained and sent volunteers to Africa, Asia, and Latin America to help aid foreign countries
• This helped increase **good will** toward the US around the world
• **Alliance for Progress**: gave billions to Latin America to build schools, hospitals, etc. to **counter the spread of communism**.
• When it came to **foreign policy**, he continued the **practice** of containment and nuclear arms buildup of the previous Presidents.

**Essential Questions**

1. Why did the Soviet Union want to install missiles in Cuba?
2. What was Kennedy’s response to the Soviet Union placing missiles in Cuba?
3. How did Khrushchev deal with the Blockade?
4. How did the Soviets and Americans ease tensions after the Cuban Missile crisis?