The Great Society
Chapter 17 Sect. 3

Lyndon B. Johnson LBJ

- Very talented man
- Unlikely combination with Kennedy
- Kennedy needed a Southerner to help him get Southern Democratic votes
- Committed to civil rights
- By 1960 most powerful Democrat in Washington
- He disliked his loss of power after becoming Vice President.

Enacting Kennedy’s Agenda

- He kept Kennedy’s advisors and cabinet
- He called on Congress to pass Kennedy’s programs
- Kennedy dreamed of fighting poverty
- In 1964 LBJ announced a “War of Poverty”
- The Economic Opportunity Act funded antipoverty programs.
- Job Corps: work training for unemployed youth.
- VISTA: domestic version of Peace Corps
Other Initiatives

- LBJ got Congress to pass many of the laws they wouldn’t for Kennedy
- LBJ passed the Tax Reduction Act of 1964.
- Later in 1964 Congress would pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Johnson used his personality and technique to pass laws that Kennedy could not years before.

Essential Questions

1) Who took over when JFK was assassinated?
2) How was LBJ different from JFK?
3) Name some programs of the “War on Poverty”?
4) How was LBJ able to pass laws that Kennedy could not?

The Great Society

- LBJ was ambitious and considered himself a “Roosevelt New Dealer”
- “Great Society” Domestic policy.
- Election of 1964: Johnson won very easily- biggest landslide of century
- There was a clear mandate for the Great Society.
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act: First large scale funding for Public Education
- Head Start Program.
The Great Society

- **HUD**: Housing and Urban Development
- **Medicaid** was passed: Medical Care for the poor
- **Medicare** was passed: Medical Care for people above 65.
- LBJ passed many laws to help the environment too.
- Lady Bird Johnson, LBJ’s wife got LBJ to pass the **Highway Beautification Act**, provided for roadside landscaping.

Decline of the Great Society

- Majority of laws passed between 1965-1966: 181 of 200 programs passed
- But **Republican gains in midterm elections** 1966 showed that America was concerned with this rapid change.
- After 1966 the Great Society slowed, but still passed a few programs.
- One was the creation of **PBS for television** and **NPR for the radio**.

Essential Questions

1. Who won the election of 1964?
2. Why was the election of 1964 a mandate for LBJ? What did this allow him to do?
3. What programs were a part of LBJ’s Great Society?
4. Why did the Great Society begin to decline in 1966?
Johnson’s Foreign Policy

- Another factor that led to the decline of the Great Society was the Vietnam War. **2.5 billion a month**
- Johnson was committed to stopping the spread of communism like Kennedy and **chose to fund this over the Great Society.**
- He sought **better relations** with the Soviets
- **Pueblo incident:** N. Koreans caught an American spy boat: LBJ negotiated for its release.

Essential Questions

1. Why did Johnson’s stance on Communism lead to a decline of the “Great Society”?
2. What was Johnson’s stance on communism?