

# THE STORMY 60'S Themes

- ✓ **COLD WAR**
- ✓ **A CONFIDENT NATION (1961 to 1963)**
- ✓ **A SHOCKED NATION (1963 to 1964)**
- ✓ **CIVIL RIGHTS**
- ✓ **A DIVIDED NATION (1965 to 1970)**

**Was the US a country near collapse?**



# PRESIDENT KENNEDY




- 35<sup>th</sup> President of the U.S., 1961-63
- Served in WWII
- Senator from Massachusetts
- Popular president

**ACHIEVEMENTS / EVENTS**

- New Frontier
- Space race—put a man on the moon
- Berlin Wall built
- Alliance for Progress and Peace Corp
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- U.S. involvement in Vietnam
- Negotiates first nuclear test ban treaty with Soviets
- Assassinated, Nov. 1963 by Lee Harvey Oswald?

# Special Facts of 1960



- 50% of the nation is under 25 in the census of 1960.
- Birth Control Pill invented in 1960.
- Many believed that the US was losing the Cold War to the Russians.
- Kennedy's election marks a change in power from the older generation to the WWII generation.
- The youth of the nation is full of idealism.



# 1960 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**The first televised presidential debates in US History took place between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon**

*These debates impacted how the presidency would be perceived by Americans.*

# 1960 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



**John Kennedy**  
**Won a close and disputed election.**  
**Youngest president to be elected.**  
**42 years of age.**

## The Election of 1960

### A New Type of Candidate

- Democratic Senator John F. Kennedy had served in the House and Senate for 14 years when he ran for President in 1960.
- Still, some questioned his candidacy because of his young age, 43, and his Roman Catholic religious beliefs.
- Kennedy proved to be an engaging television personality during the 1960 presidential debates, the first such debates to be televised.

### A Narrow Kennedy Victory

- Kennedy won the 1960 election by an extremely close margin.
- Kennedy was separated from his opponent, Republican Richard Nixon, by fewer than 119,000 popular votes out of nearly 69 million cast.
- Because of the close election, Kennedy entered office without a mandate, or public endorsement of his proposals.

## KENNEDY PRESIDENCY

### The Camelot Years

#### The Kennedy Mystique

- Kennedy wins presidency in close election
- Critics argue his smooth style lacks substance
- Kennedy White House known as Camelot for its glamour, culture, wit
- First Lady admired for her elegance; constant articles about family

#### The Best and the Brightest

- JFK's advisers called "the best and the brightest"
- Brother Robert Kennedy named attorney general

## Kennedy's New Frontier Domestic Program



- Federal funding for education
- Medical care for the elderly
- Government intervention to halt the recession with tax cuts.
- End to racial discrimination.

### Established

- Alliance for Peace and Peace Corps to help Third World countries
- President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity to end racial discrimination in hiring of govt employees.

### New Frontier impossible to complete

- Due to conservative Congress.
- Disappointed many civil rights activists = feared splitting Democratic Party.

New Frontier ideas led to President Johnson's "Great Society"

### Influence of Alliances for Progress

Percentage of Children of School Age Population (ages 5-14)



**Alliance for Peace statistics in Latin America.**

## Kennedy's Domestic Programs

- In a speech early in his presidency, Kennedy said that the nation was poised at the edge of a "New Frontier."
- This phrase came to refer to Kennedy's proposals to *improve the economy, assist the poor, and speed up the space program.*
- Kennedy's efforts to improve the economy included ordering a federal investigation into steel price fixing and proposing a large tax cut. His tax cut proposal, however, became stuck in Congress.
- Many of Kennedy's proposals aimed to combat poverty and inequality. Although some were rejected by Congress, others were passed.
- These included an increase in the *minimum wage, funding for urban renewal, abolishment of poll taxes, and the Equal Pay Act*, which required all employees doing the same work in the same workplace to receive equal wages.

## Other Kennedy Initiatives

**Although Kennedy served a shortened presidency, he was able to initiate a variety of programs, including:**

- Improved surplus food to unemployed Americans
- Largest defense buildup in peacetime history
- Help to communities plagued by long-term unemployment
- Extension of Social Security benefits
- Expansion of National Park System
- Doubling of federal resources combating water pollution
- Construction of the world's largest nuclear power plant
- Tightening of food and drug laws
- Encouragement of free trade
- Signing of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- Changes in the welfare system
- Creation of first federal program to address juvenile delinquency

## The Space Program

- The Soviet Union's launch of the *Sputnik* satellite in 1957 inspired the United States to work toward placing a manned spacecraft in orbit.
- In April 1961, Soviet astronaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to travel in space. Americans worried that their technology was falling behind that of the Soviet Union.
- Funding for the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#) was increased. In 1961 and 1962, American astronauts made initial space flights.
- On July 20, 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon.

## The Space Program



- U.S. Astronaut John H. Glenn, Jr., standing in front of the spacecraft *Friendship 7*.
- First astronaut to orbit the earth's surface 3 times.

## KENNEDY FOREIGN POLICY

### A New Military Policy

#### Defining a Military Strategy

- JFK believes must redefine nation's nuclear strategy
- **Flexible response**—fight conventional wars, keep nuclear arms balanced
- JFK increases defense spending in three areas:
  - strengthens conventional forces
  - creates army Special Forces (Green Berets)
  - triples nuclear capabilities

## KENNEDY FOREIGN POLICY

### Crisis over Berlin

#### The Berlin Crisis

- By 1961 20% of Germans flee to West Berlin; economic drain on East
- Khrushchev wants to close access roads to West Berlin; JFK refuses
- Soviets isolate West Berlin from East Germany with **Berlin Wall**

#### Searching for Ways to Ease Tensions

- Khrushchev, Kennedy conscious of danger of quick decisions
- Establish **hot line**—direct phone between White House, Kremlin
- **Limited Test Ban Treaty** bans nuclear tests in atmosphere



# BERLIN WALL



Taking advantage of a demoralized US after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion and the U-2 spy plane incident, Khrushchev orders Allies out of West Berlin....

# BERLIN WALL



A young woman and her boyfriend talking to the woman's mother, who is on the east side of the Berlin Wall (1962).

# BERLIN WALL



•1961, Soviet Union built the Berlin Wall to force Allies out of West Berlin. Became a symbol of the Cold War. Berlin would be a divided city.

# BERLIN WALL



•Families and friends found themselves separated and most Berliners were lucky just to establish visual contact over the Wall.

•Stretching for more than 100 miles, escape was virtually impossible because of mines, attack dogs and armed guards with shoot-to-kill orders.

# BERLIN WALL



•At least 2.7 million people attempted to escape by climbing, vaulting, tunneling or crashing through checkpoints. Others attempted to swim the canals or stow away in cargo shipped across the border.

# BERLIN WALL



•Unsuccessful attempts resulted in death, mostly at the hands of East German guards. Official figures show that more than 400 people have died trying to escape from East Germany; human rights activists, however, estimate the figure to be closer to 800.



## BERLIN WALL



President Kennedy speaking to West Berliners urging the Soviets to tear down the Berlin Wall.

On the evening of Nov. 9, 1989, restrictions between the two Berlins were lifted. Celebrations around the world culminated with Germany being reunified as one country on Oct. 3, 1990.



This event symbolized the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the end to communism.



## KENNEDY FOREIGN POLICY

### Crises over Cuba

#### The Cuban Dilemma

- Revolutionary leader **Fidel Castro** declares himself communist
- seizes U.S. properties; Eisenhower cuts off diplomatic relations
- 10% of Cuban population goes into exile; mostly to U.S.

#### The Bay of Pigs

- Cuban exiles, CIA plan invasion to topple Castro
- Plans go wrong; exile forces killed, taken prisoner
- JFK pays ransom in food, medicine; mission is public embarrassment

## BAY OF PIGS



- CIA operative to overthrow Fidel Castro's dictatorship
- U.S. feared Castro was becoming an ally with the Soviet Union.
- Failed invasion of Cuba in April of 1961.
- Embarrassment for President Kennedy because the U.S. tried to cover up their involvement.

# KENNEDY FOREIGN POLICY

## Crises over Cuba

### The Cuban Missile Crisis

Interactive

- Nikita Khrushchev sends weapons to Cuba, including nuclear missiles
- JFK warns Soviets that missile attack will trigger war on U.S.S.R.
- Soviets avoid confrontation at sea; reach agreement with U.S.

### Kennedy and Khrushchev Take the Heat

- Khrushchev's prestige severely damaged in U.S.S.R.
- JFK criticized for brinkmanship, also for not ousting Castro
- Cuban exiles switch to GOP; Castro bans flights to and from Miami



### CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS OCT. 1962

Fourteen Days in October:  
**THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS**

**Major countries and leaders involved**

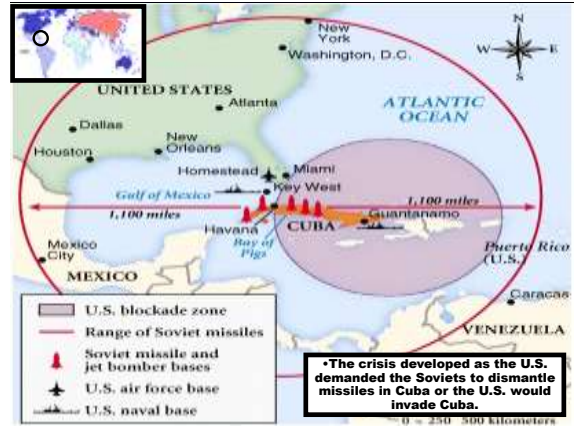
US	President Kennedy
Cuba	Fidel Castro
Soviet Union	Nikita Khrushchev







Photographed from an RF-101 Voodoo, this view of a Soviet SA-2 (surface-to-air) missile pattern provided additional evidence of the Russian arming of Cuba.



The crisis developed as the U.S. demanded the Soviets to dismantle missiles in Cuba or the U.S. would invade Cuba.



Soviets refused to dismantle missile sites unless U.S. dismantled missile sites in Turkey.



Adlai Stevenson shows aerial photos of Cuban missiles to the United Nations in November 1962.



President Kennedy in the Oval Office with General Curtis LeMay and reconnaissance pilots who flew the Cuban missions. Third from the left is Major Richard Heyser who took the first photos of Cuban missiles.



U.S. and Soviets prepared for war... U.S. placed a blockade around Cuba and warned Soviets not to break through the blockade. The Soviets sent their Naval fleet to protect Cuba.



•Last minute decision made: Soviets would dismantle missile sites in Cuba in return for U.S. not invading Cuba.  
 •U.S. would later dismantle missile sites in Turkey..... Not part of original deal.



•Kennedy and Khrushchev both realized how close they came to nuclear war.  
 •The “monster” of nuclear war must never be released.  
 •Both leaders vowed to better communicate with one another.  
 •US and Soviet Union would sign their first nuclear arms limitation treaty in 1963.

### Kennedy Is Assassinated

- On November 22, 1963, Kennedy was shot while riding in an open limousine through Dallas, Texas. He had traveled to Texas to mobilize support for his upcoming reelection campaign.
- Shots fired from the sixth-floor window of the empty Texas School Book Depository mortally wounded Kennedy, making Vice President Lyndon Johnson the new President.
- The prime suspect in Kennedy’s murder, Lee Harvey Oswald, was murdered by a man named Jack Ruby two days later, while being transferred from one jail to another.
- To investigate Kennedy’s murder, President Johnson appointed The President’s Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, better known as the Warren Commission, after its chairman, Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren.
- The Warren Commission determined that Oswald had acted alone. However, theories that Oswald and Ruby had belonged to a conspiracy persisted.





## THE NATION MOURNS



Lee Harvey Oswald, "*the lone gunman*", killed JFK.....Oswald murdered by Jack Ruby two days after JFK's murder.....

## THE NATION MOURNS



## THE NATION MOURNS



## THE NATION MOURNS



## THE NATION MOURNS



## THE NATION MOURNS



# THE COLD WAR 1961 TO 1975

## 1. Presidents

- John F. Kennedy      Lyndon Johnson  
Richard Nixon
  - Kennedy Administration: 1961 to 1963
    - Kennedy barely defeated Richard Nixon
    - Kennedy was a popular figure and set up U.S. involvement in Vietnam
      - "New Frontier"
        - Put a man on the moon
    - Cold War struggles:
      - failed Bay of Pigs Invasion--April 1961
        - overthrow dictator Fidel Castro
      - Cuban Missile Crisis--Oct. 1962
      - Build up to Vietnam--"domino theory"
    - Kennedy is Assassinated: Nov. 23, 1963
      - Lee Harvey Oswald
- 
- 1968 Presidential election: Major issues
    - Vietnam and anti-war movement
      - President Johnson withdraws because of war....
      - Nixon won with only 43.4% of the popular vote.
  - Nixon's Presidency: 1969 to 1974
    - Nixon reduces U.S. involvement in Vietnam
      - "Vietnamization" policy
        - return the war to the South Vietnamese
      - anti-war protests----Kent State Massacre
    - 1972 election Nixon wins easily.
    - Paris Peace Accords signed 27 Jan 1973 by NV and US
      - US troops withdraw by Mar '73
    - 1975, Saigon falls to NVN and SVN becomes Communistic-----U.S. loses Vietnam War
- 
- LBJ's Presidency: 1963 to 1969
  - US in Vietnam War
    - America wanted to maintain its influence in Asia.
      - stop the spread of Communism---containment
        - Domino theory
      - economics: maintain trade markets in Asia
      - security: keep the balance of power in Asia
      - political: the political party in power could not "allow Vietnam to 'fall' to the Communists."
    - Gulf of Tonkin Incident, Aug. 1964
      - Gulf Tonkin Resolution: Aug. 1964, Congress gives President Johnson a "blank check"
        - U.S. troops 50,000 in 1965 to 500,000 in 1968.
        - VC used guerilla warfare---U.S. used
          - Search and destroy missions
          - bombing
    - Tet Offensive---Feb. 1968--NVN invades SVN
      - American people want out of Vietnam
        - increased anti-war protests
        - counter culture