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NEW FRONTIERS: POLITICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE 1960s

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

After you finish reading and studying this chapter, you should be able to

1. Describe Kennedy's style and compare it with that of his predecessor and successor.
2. Assess Kennedy's domestic legislative achievements.
3. Assess the Kennedy record in foreign affairs.
4. Describe and account for LBJ's legislative accomplishments.
5. Explain why the Vietnam War became a quagmire for the United States and why LBJ changed his policy there in 1968.
6. Trace the transformation of the civil rights movement into the black power movement.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Kennedy's New Frontier
 - A. Election of 1960
 1. Nixon as politician
 2. Kennedy's background
 3. The campaign
 - a. Neutralization of religion
 - b. Television debates
 4. Results
 - B. Kennedy's administration
 1. Caliber of appointments
 2. Kennedy style

- C. Domestic record
 1. Congressional conservatism
 2. The tax-cut proposal
 3. Legislative successes
 - a. Foreign aid
 - b. Peace Corps
 - c. Trade expansion
 - d. Housing assistance
 - e. Increased minimum wage
 - f. Area development
 - g. Space race
 - D. The Warren Court
 1. School prayer
 2. Criminal justice
 - E. Growing movement for civil rights
 1. Kennedy's position
 2. Sit-ins
 - a. Mass movement
 - b. Student participants
 - c. Formation of SNCC
 - d. Importance of music
 3. Freedom rides
 4. Federal intervention
 - a. Integration of "Ole Miss"
 - b. Birmingham demonstrations
 - i. "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
 - ii. King's shift in strategy
 - c. JFK's changing position
 - d. Confrontation with George Wallace
5. March on Washington
- F. Foreign frontiers
 1. Bay of Pigs disaster
 2. Vienna Summit
 3. Berlin Wall
 4. Cuban missile crisis
 - a. The crisis
 - b. Kennedy's action
 - c. Resolution of the crisis
 - d. Aftereffects
 - i. Lowered tension
 - ii. Sale of wheat
 - iii. Washington-Moscow hotline
 - iv. Removal of obsolete missiles
 - v. Nuclear test ban treaty

- 5. Neutrality for Laos
 - 6. Vietnam
 - a. Diem's failure to reform or gain popular support
 - b. Kennedy's reluctance to escalate
 - c. Heightened opposition to Diem
 - d. Overthrow of Diem
 - G. The Kennedy assassination
 - Lyndon Johnson and the Great Society
 - A. Johnson's background and style
 - 1. Paradoxical personality
 - 2. Political experience
 - 3. Congressional leadership
 - 4. "Johnson treatment"
 - B. Early legislative achievements
 - 1. The tax cut
 - 2. The War on Poverty
 - C. The election of 1964
 - 1. Republicans seek a "choice"
 - 2. Goldwater's positions
 - 3. Johnson's appeal to consensus
 - 4. The Johnson landslide
 - D. Landmark legislation
 - 1. Health insurance
 - 2. Aid to education
 - 3. Appalachian redevelopment
 - 4. Housing and urban development
 - 5. Immigration Act of 1965
 - E. Civil rights movement
 - 1. Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - 2. Voting rights
 - a. Selma march
 - b. LBJ's support
 - c. Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - F. The development of black power
 - 1. The riots of 1965 and 1966
 - 2. Assessment of the urban black condition
 - 3. The focus on black power
 - a. Stokely Carmichael
 - b. The Black Panthers
 - c. Malcolm X
 - d. Assessment of black power
- III. The tragedy of Vietnam
- A. U.S. involvement
 - 1. General policies
 - 2. Costs of war
- B. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution
 - 1. Basis for the request
 - 2. Provisions of the resolution
 - C. Escalation in 1965
 - 1. Attack on Pleiku
 - 2. "Operation Rolling Thunder"
 - 3. Combat troops
 - D. The context for policy
 - 1. Consistency with earlier foreign policy goals
 - 2. Warnings from advisers
 - 3. The goal of United States involvement
 - 4. The erosion of support
 - E. The turning point of the war
 - 1. The Tet Offensive
 - 2. The presidential primaries
 - 3. Johnson's decision to move out
- IV. The crescendo of the sixties
- A. The tragedies of 1968
 - 1. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - 2. Robert Kennedy
 - B. Convergence on the election of 1968
 - 1. Chicago demonstrations
 - 2. The contrast of Miami
 - 3. The Wallace campaign
 - 4. The results

KEY ITEMS OF CHRONOLOGY

Montgomery bus boycott	1955-1956
John F. Kennedy's <i>Profiles in Courage</i>	1956
Barry Goldwater's <i>The Conscience of a Conservative</i>	1960
Sit-in movement began	February 1, 1960
John F. Kennedy elected president	1960
Bay of Pigs invasion	April 1961
Freedom rides	1961
Berlin Wall erected	1961
Supreme Court ruling on New York school prayer	1962
<i>The Other America</i>	1962
James H. Meredith desegregated the University of Mississippi	October 1962
Cuban missile crisis	October 1962
George Wallace took stand in schoolhouse door	June 1963
<i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i>	1963
"Letter from Birmingham Jail"	1963

March on Washington	August 1963
Birmingham church bombing	September 1963
Ngo Dinh Diem murdered	November 1, 1963
John F. Kennedy assassinated	November 22, 1963
Civil Rights Act	1964
Martin Luther King, Jr., awarded Nobel Peace Prize	1964
Tonkin Gulf Resolution	August 1964
Lyndon B. Johnson elected president	1964
Selma to Montgomery march	March 1965
Voting Rights Act	August 1965
Watts riots	August 1965
Immigration Act	1965
<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i>	1966
Department of Housing and Urban Development created	1966
Tet Offensive	January 31, 1968
Lyndon B. Johnson declined to run for reelection	March 31, 1968
Martin Luther King, Jr., assassinated	April 4, 1968
Robert F. Kennedy assassinated	June 6, 1968

TERMS TO MASTER

Listed below are some important people or terms with which you should be familiar after your study of this chapter. Identify each name or term.

- John F. Kennedy
- New Frontier
- Peace Corps
- Warren Court
- Gideon v. Wainwright*
- Miranda v. Arizona*
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Montgomery bus boycott
- sit-in
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- Congress of Racial Equality
- freedom riders
- James H. Meredith
- Eugene "Bull" Connor
- "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
- George C. Wallace
- March on Washington
- Bay of Pigs
- Cuban missile crisis
- Ngo Dinh Diem
- Lee Harvey Oswald
- Lyndon B. Johnson
- War on Poverty
- The Other America*
- Great Society
- Barry Goldwater
- The Conscience of a Conservative*
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Robert C. Weaver
- Immigration Act of 1965
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Selma to Montgomery march

- Voting Rights Act of 1965
- de facto* segregation
- de jure* segregation
- Stokely Carmichael
- Black Power
- Black Panther party
- Malcolm X
- Tonkin Gulf Resolution
- Rolling Thunder
- William C. Westmoreland
- Tet Offensive
- Robert F. Kennedy
- Hubert H. Humphrey
- silent majority

VOCABULARY BUILDING

Listed below are some words or phrases used in this chapter. Look in the dictionary for the meaning of each term you do not know.

pundit	feasible
trauma	auspicious
chameleon	impunity
agile	euphemism
charisma	abyss
tycoon	cocksure
avid	mystique
candor	grandiose
credence	torrent
felony	exacerbate
interrogate	bellicose
solace	preponderant
salacious	hyperbole
sublime	defoliant
intransigence	eke

EXERCISES FOR UNDERSTANDING

When you have finished reading the chapter, answer each of the following questions. If you have difficulty, go back and reread the section of the chapter related to the question.

Multiple-Choice Questions

Select the letter of the choice that best completes the statement.

- A crucial factor in the 1960 presidential campaign involved the
 - jailing of Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - shooting down of the U-2 spy plane.

- A. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s proposals for Birmingham.
 B. the War on Poverty.
 C. Kennedy's New Frontier.
 D. Barry Goldwater's platform in 1964.
10. "I would remind you that in the defense of liberty extremism is no vice," said
 A. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 B. John F. Kennedy.
 C. Barry Goldwater.
 D. Lyndon Johnson.
11. As a result of the Immigration Act of 1965, the majority of immigrants were
 A. western Europeans.
 B. Hispanics and Asians.
 C. Canadians.
 D. Arabs.
12. After the Selma to Montgomery march, Congress passed the
 A. Civil Rights Act of 1964.
 B. Highway Safety Act of 1966.
 C. Voting Rights Act of 1965.
 D. Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1965.
13. In 1966 the rallying cry of the civil rights movement became
 A. freedom now.
 B. we shall overcome.
 C. black power.
 D. burn, baby, burn.
14. Discrimination in hotels and restaurants was outlawed by
 A. the Supreme Court's *Brown* decision in 1954.
 B. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.
 C. presidential order of Kennedy.
 D. the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
15. Johnson sought to deescalate the Vietnam War because
 A. the Tet Offensive showed that the United States could not win.
 B. political challengers showed the high level of public opposition to the war.
 C. key national leaders called on him to end the war.
 D. all of the above

True-False Questions

Indicate whether each statement is true or false.

1. Allegations of JFK's sexual misconduct played a significant role in the 1960 election.

- C. failed Bay of Pigs invasion.
 D. decision to send troops to Vietnam.
2. One of Kennedy's major legislative accomplishments was
 A. the 1962 Trade Expansion Act that cut tariffs with Europe.
 B. the national program of Medicare under Social Security.
 C. federal aid to secondary education.
 D. strong legislation to protect the right of blacks to vote.
3. The freedom rides were organized by
 A. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 B. the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.
 C. the NAACP.
 D. the Congress of Racial Equality.
4. In the Birmingham campaign in 1962, Martin Luther King, Jr., signaled a change in strategy from
 A. educating whites about racism to using violence to achieve change.
 B. seeking federal enforcement and new laws to massive civil disobedience.
 C. massive civil disobedience to using violence to achieve change.
 D. changing southern white attitudes to obtaining federal enforcement and new laws.
5. The largest civil rights demonstration in American history was the
 A. Selma to Montgomery march.
 B. campaign in Birmingham, Alabama.
 C. March on Washington.
 D. freedom rides.
6. The Soviet Union built the Berlin Wall in the aftermath of the
 A. Bay of Pigs invasion.
 B. Cuban missile crisis.
 C. arrival of American combat troops in Vietnam.
 D. election of John F. Kennedy.
7. In the Cuban missile crisis, President Kennedy ordered
 A. surgical air strikes of Cuba.
 B. a quarantine of Cuba.
 C. the Bay of Pigs invasion.
 D. removal of U.S. missiles from Turkey.
8. Michael Harrington's *The Other America* influenced the
 A. Alliance for Progress.
 B. War on Poverty.
 C. Civil Rights Act of 1964.
 D. Supreme Court's decision on criminal justice.
9. The Jobs Corps, Head Start, and VISTA were all part of

2. In the 1960 presidential election, Nixon carried more states than Kennedy did.
3. In *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the Supreme Court ruled that a defendant had to be informed of basic rights.
4. The sit-ins in 1960 ignited the first mass movement in African-American history.
5. In his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Police Commissioner "Bull" Connor criticized the civil rights protesters.
6. Martin Luther King, Jr., received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
7. The Soviet Union violated international law by installing missiles in Cuba.
8. By the end of 1963, the United States had only 2,000 military advisers in Vietnam.
9. The effects of the 1964 tax cut helped finance the war on poverty.
10. The candidate who offered "a choice, not an echo" was George C. Wallace.
11. Malcolm X was a leader in the Black Muslim movement.
12. *De jure* segregation resulted from residential patterns.
13. The Tet Offensive had a great effect on U.S. public opinion.
14. Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., were assassinated in 1968.
15. In 1968, George C. Wallace received 13 percent of the popular vote for president.

Essay Questions

1. What was the significance of the Kennedy administration?
2. Was Lyndon Johnson more effective in domestic or foreign policy? Why?
3. Compare and contrast the achievements of the New Frontier and the Great Society.
4. Trace U.S. involvement in Vietnam from 1961 to 1986.
5. Discuss the changes in the civil rights movement from 1960 to 1968.
6. Contrast the ideas and strategies of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X.
7. Of the presidential elections in 1960, 1964, and 1968, which was the most important?
8. Why was 1968 an important year in American history?

ANSWERS TO MULTIPLE-CHOICE AND TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

Multiple-Choice Questions

1-A, 2-A, 3-D, 4-D, 5-C, 6-A, 7-B, 8-B, 9-B, 10-C, 11-B, 12-C, 13-C, 14-D, 15-D

True-False Questions

1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-F, 9-T, 10-F, 11-T, 12-F, 13-T, 14-T, 15-T