

Chapter 38: The Stormy Sixties, 1960-1968

You should be able to:

1. describe the high expectations Kennedy's New Frontier aroused and the obstacles it encountered in promoting its domestic policies
2. analyze the theory and practice of Kennedy's doctrine of "flexible response" in Asia and Latin America
3. describe Johnson's succession to the presidency in 1963, his electoral landslide over Goldwater in 1964, and his Great Society successes of 1965
4. discuss the course of the black movement of the 1960s, from civil rights to Black Power
5. outline the steps by which Johnson led the United States deeper into the Vietnam quagmire
6. explain how the Vietnam war brought turmoil to American society and eventually drove Johnson and the divided Democrats from power in 1968
7. describe the cultural rebellions of the 1960s and indicate the short term and long term consequences

Define:

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. free world | 9. ghetto |
| 2. nuclear proliferation | 10. black separatism |
| 3. exile | 11. hawk |
| 4. peaceful coexistence | 12. dove |
| 5. détente | 13. militant |
| 6. sit-in | 14. dissident |
| 7. establishment | 15. coattails |
| 8. literacy test | |

Answer:

1. What successes and failures did Kennedy's New Frontier experience at home and abroad?
2. How did the civil rights movement progress from difficult beginnings to great successes in 1964-1965 and then encounter increasing opposition from both black militants and "white backlash" after 1965?
3. What were Johnson's major domestic achievements, and why did they come to be overshadowed?
4. Why did the Vietnam War, and the domestic opposition to it, come to dominate American politics in the 1960s?
5. How was the cultural upheaval of the 1960s related to the political and social changes of the decade? Is the "youth rebellion" best seen as a response to immediate events, or as a consequence of such long term forces as population and economic prosperity? What were the long term results of the counter culture in all its varieties?
6. What led the United States to become so deeply involved in the Vietnam War?
7. Would the 1960s have unfolded in substantially different ways had President Kennedy not been assassinated? What political strengths did Kennedy possess that Johnson did not and vice versa?