

Topic #27 Overview

Main Themes:

1. How Lyndon Johnson used the legacy of John Kennedy plus his own political skill to erect his Great Society and fight the war on poverty with programs for health, education, job training, and urban development.
2. How the civil-rights movement finally generated enough sympathy among whites to accomplish the legal end of segregation, but the persistence of racism gave rise to the black power philosophy and left many problems unsolved.
3. How containment and the U. S. preoccupation with communism led the nation to use military force against leftist nationalist movements in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and, most disastrously, Vietnam.
4. How 1968 became a critical year for American liberalism.
5. The reasons for the rise of the New Left and the counterculture.

Objectives: [You should be able to explain each of these in some detail]

1. The new directions of domestic reform manifested by John Kennedy's New Frontier program.
2. The new elements added to Kennedy's program by Lyndon Johnson's Great Society proposals.
3. The reasons the African American movement became increasingly assertive in the 1960s.
4. The significance of Martin Luther King, Jr., to the civil-rights movement and the importance of other forces, including the Nation of Islam.
5. The new elements that Kennedy introduced in both the nation's defense strategy and its foreign policy.
6. The background and sequence of events leading to the Cuban missile crisis.
7. How the United States became committed to defending the government in the southern part of Vietnam and the reasons that U. S. involvement in Vietnam changed both quantitatively and qualitatively in 1965.
8. The reasons the 1968 Tet Offensive had such a critical impact on both American policy toward Vietnam and domestic policies.
9. The reasons why 1968 was such a critical year in American politics and in our relationship with other nations. The reasons for the rise of the New Left and the counterculture.
10. The problems of Native Americans and Hispanics and the nature of their protest movements.
11. The meaning of the New Feminism.