

21.A THE STORMY 60'S AND THE KENNEDY PRESIDENCY

KENNEDY'S "NEW FRONTIER" SPIRIT

- Election of 1960, Kennedy (D) (war hero) defeats Nixon (redbaiter) 1st TV Debates
- Young 43, energetic, Catholic, popular with young people.
- Inaugural Address/"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for for your country." Believed in FDR-Truman philosophy of strong Pres. Leadership.
- New Frontier

Kennedy called for American sacrifice to achieve the nations greatness.

Modernization in the areas of technology, science, education and social relations.

Accomplishments:

expand Social Security coverage

raise minimum wage

slum clearance projects in the cities

public housing projects

lowering tariff barriers

(Trade Expansion Act 1962)

improving medical education

(Medical Education Act 1963)

assisting economically distressed persons

(Area Redevelopment Act 1961)
(Manpower Dev. & Training Act 1962)

Failures:

Federal Aid to elementary and secondary education

Tax reduction

Medical care for the aged (Medicare)

Voting rights and equal treatment for Black Americans in public accommodations.

(later enacted during Johnson's "Great Society".

Significant Foreign Affairs:

-Peace Corps: 1961 Kennedy set up a new foreign aid agency, enrolled idealistic volunteers who receive token pay, work in needy countries, live as the people do and increase the quality of life there. They were mostly college graduates and technical people. Double-barreled tool:

1. Helping people in need with their infrastructure.
2. Countering Soviet influence in developing countries.(Asia, Africa, L.Amer.)

90 Countries have welcomed the Peace Corps.

-Cuba: 1961 Kennedy allowed Eisenhower Plan for training and arming Cuban

Insurgents to invade Castro's Cuba/complete failure Bay of Pigs

Cuban Missile Crisis 1962 (discussed in next question)

-Alliance for Progress Program of aid to improve conditions for millions in L.Amer.

-Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty 1963, Russia, Britain, U.S. ban aboveground

tests.

-Vietnam stepped up aid to So. Vietnam and their battle with communists Vietcong

(gave ok to CIA plan to assassinate S.Viet. President Diem)

Assassination November 1963 snipers bullet Lee Harvey Oswald

Warren Commission 10 month investigation determined that he acted alone.

Conspiracy Thesis ????