

22

**TRACE THE EVOLUTION OF PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON'S
"GREAT SOCIETY PROGRAM", WHAT WERE ITS OBJECTIVES?
WHY DID IT FAIL?**

- Extension of FDR's New Deal Programs 1964-68
- Johnson felt it necessary for gov't to be much more involved in improving the quality of life for Americans.
 - 1960 20% of the American population lived below the poverty line.
\$3K for a family of 4 per year.
- gov't returned to the hands on role in economics.

Objective: End poverty in America "war on poverty", improve the quality of life, raise the bar for lower classes.

programs: Medicare (low cost health care)
school aid bill (head start) breakfast for poor kids.
funds for instructional materials/college construct.
housing aid programs (rent subsidies)
anti-pollution (AQMD)
unwed mother assistance
major welfare programs (food stamps)
Civil Rights Act 1965-ban discrimination housing/voting.
wilderness conservation
new immigration policies-cutbacks,quotas
Office of Economic Opportunity-Job Corps.
VISTA- (domestic peace corps) volunteers train and
Counsel impoverished Americans.
Traffic Safety Act 1966-seat belt requirement
Truth in Packaging Act 1966-req. accurate labeling
on food and drugs

Why did it fail?

- rising inflation
- civil unrest (race riots 1965-68)
- Vietnam War
 - Gov't faced huge deficits
 - choice: fight poverty or fight communism

Thoughts to ponder: compare the programs of Wilson, FDR and Johnson, similarities?