# The 1960s

## Election of 1960

Eisenhower had served his terms, it’s JF Kennedy vs Nixon. Both centrists. Respected each other. Very close election.

## Bay of Pigs Invasion

After becoming president, JFK learns that Eisenhower was working with the CIA and Cuban freedom fighters to oust communist Cuba. Operation is ready when JFK takes office, he gives the green light. Invasion didn’t go as planned. US promised air support for the freedom fighters, but JFK decided to cut his losses and not give support. JFK made a public announcement about the failure.

## Kennedy as a Cold Warrior

JFK meets with Khrushchev in Vienna, Khrushchev is not impressed. Communist forces in East Berlin build the Berlin Wall to keep each side separate. JFK doesn’t approve but doesn’t do anything concrete. He made an iconic speech in Berlin saying “ich bin ein Berliner.”

## Cuban Missile Crisis

Russians think they can mess with JFK, Khrushchev builds missile sites in Cuban. Big national security threat. JFK quarantines Cuba and blocks Soviet ships, then starts talking with Khrushchev. JFK gets him to disable all the missile sites. In return, the US has to stop messing with the Castro regime in Cuba. JFK also secretly agreed to remove American missile sites in Turkey.

## JFK Assassinated

JFK was campaigning in Dallas in 1963. Lee Harvey Oswald was a card carrying Marxist, was in the marines and was a good marksman. Oswald killed JFK and left the building. Police are looking for him, stopped by a police officer. Oswald killed the officer and fled into the movie theater. Captured in the theater. Later he is moved between jails and Jack Ruby shoots Oswald, killing him.

## Election of 1964

Johnson is sworn in after JFK is killed, so he has momentum for the presidency. Johnson v Goldwater. Johnson wins in a landslide

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## LBJ’s “Great Society” and “War on Poverty”

* Food Stamp Act of 1964
* Elementary and Secondary Education Act
* Medicare and Medicaid
* Fair Housing Act
* National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities
* Aid to Families with Dependent Children
  + This may have caused a spike in unwed mothers

# Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s

## Sit-in at Woolworth in Greensboro and Freedom Riders

4 black students went to a whites only lunch counter and weren’t served. They refused to leave and silently protested.

Black bus riders would also ride on white-only buses.

## Project “C” in Birmingham, AL

Bull Connor is a city official and segregationist. Civil rights activists practiced non-violent protests and were met with police force. MLK is jailed during this time. This embarasses JFK in light of the Cold War.

## March on Washington

The next year, MLK and activists marched on Washington for “Jobs and Freedom.” MLK delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech

## 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing

A segregationist planted a bomb in a black church, killing 4 women.

## Civil Rights Legislation

Johnson allied himself with MLK and other civil rights activists.

* Civil Rights Act of 1964
  + Made segregation illegal in public facilities
* Voting Rights Act of 1965

## Race Riots

Civilians rioting and looting in cities, especially places like Detroit. 1965 Watts Riot in Los Angeles was started by a police officer pulling over 2 black men, brothers. One or both had been drinking, they were near their house. Neighbors start egging them on and it escalates into a riot.

## Civil Rights Violence

MLK wanted to make peace with whites but others used violence:

* Malcolm X
* Elijah Muhammad
* THe Black Panthers