


### Homework 14 Answers

1. According to Michael R. Beschloss, Dwight Eisenhower proved to be more effective as president than John F. Kennedy was during the Cold War. Beschloss argues Eisenhower was more effective overall because he was “magnificently suited to the 1950s.”<sup>1</sup>

Although he had many shortcomings, Eisenhower had many accomplishments in his presidency such as getting people to accept new reforms, lowering inflation, and making Americans more satisfied with themselves and the US.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, Kennedy was less effective overall because he had very little experience entering his presidency, only had “vague instincts” of where to lead the country, and had a much shorter term.<sup>3</sup>

Beschloss argues the skills that are most important for a president are the ability to ask something of the American people as well as the ability to get what they want out of Congress.<sup>4</sup> While Beschloss argues neither Eisenhower nor Kennedy were excellent at both of these skills, he still argues Eisenhower was more effective.

2. The mode of historical thinking that is most important to Beschloss’s analysis is comparison and contrast. This is because the Beschloss’s goal is to compare two Cold War era presidents—Dwight and Kennedy—and their power during the presidency. 

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<sup>1</sup> Michael R. Beschloss, “Eisenhower and Kennedy: Contrasting Presidencies in a Fearful World,” in *Perils of the Cold War* (1999), 7.

<sup>2</sup> Beschloss, 7.

<sup>3</sup> Beschloss, 10.

<sup>4</sup> Beschloss, 2.