

Section

2

Kennedy and Johnson



Section Audio



Spotlight Video

Essential Question

How were Kennedy and Johnson alike and different as presidents of the United States?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

poverty line (p. 883) Medicaid (p. 883)
Medicare (p. 883)

Academic Vocabulary

assign (p. 881) consist (p. 883)

Key People and Events

John F. Kennedy (p. 881)

New Frontier (p. 882)

Lyndon B. Johnson (p. 882)

Great Society (p. 883)

Job Corps (p. 883)

Civil Rights Act of 1964 (p. 883)

Reading Strategy

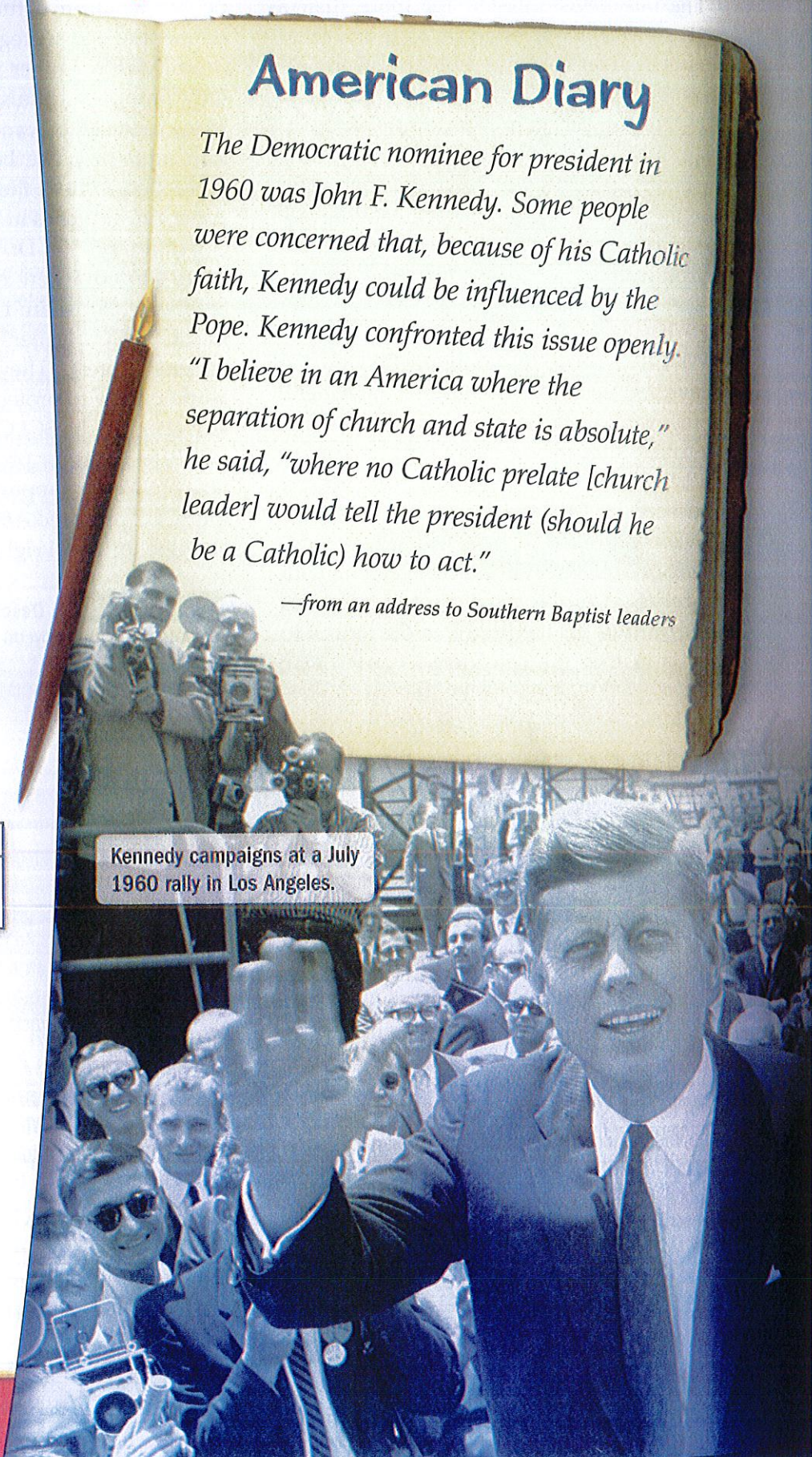
Taking Notes On a chart like the one below, list the major aspects of each of these plans.

New Frontier	Great Society

American Diary

The Democratic nominee for president in 1960 was John F. Kennedy. Some people were concerned that, because of his Catholic faith, Kennedy could be influenced by the Pope. Kennedy confronted this issue openly. "I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute," he said, "where no Catholic prelate [church leader] would tell the president (should he be a Catholic) how to act."

—from an address to Southern Baptist leaders



Kennedy campaigns at a July 1960 rally in Los Angeles.

Kennedy and the New Frontier

Main Idea John F. Kennedy's presidency appealed to many Americans who wanted change.

History and You Do you think that one person has the power to change things for the better? Read on to learn how many Americans welcomed the election of a young president in 1960.

In 1960 the nation prepared for a presidential election. The Republican candidate, Vice President Richard M. Nixon, pledged to continue the policies of President Eisenhower. The Democratic candidate, **John F. Kennedy**, promised new programs to "get the country moving again."

For much of the campaign, polls showed Nixon in the lead. One reason for this was the fact that Kennedy was Roman Catholic. No Catholic had ever been president, and many Americans feared that if Kennedy won he might show more loyalty to his church than to his country. Kennedy stressed to the country his belief in the separation of church and state.

A War Hero

Kennedy came from one of the country's wealthiest and most powerful families. His father, Joseph P. Kennedy, was a successful business leader and the American ambassador to Britain at the start of World War II.

John Kennedy joined the United States Navy during World War II and was **assigned**, or appointed, to active duty in the Pacific. When the Japanese sank the PT (patrol torpedo) boat he commanded, Kennedy saved the life of a crew member by swimming to shore with the injured man on his back.

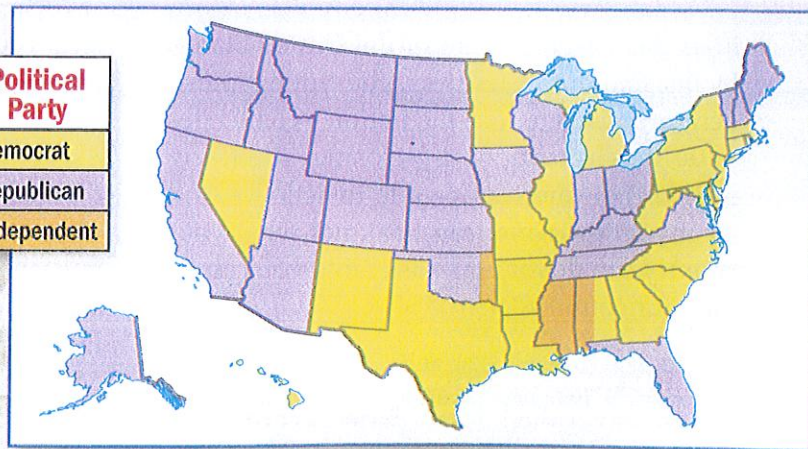
Kennedy's political career began in 1946 when he won a seat in Congress from Massachusetts. Six years later, he was elected to the United States Senate. After easily winning reelection to the Senate in 1958, Kennedy ran for the presidency in 1960.

A New President

The turning point in the 1960 election came when the candidates took part in the first televised presidential debates. Nixon, who was recovering from an illness, looked tired and sick. Kennedy appeared handsome and youthful.

By the Numbers Election of 1960

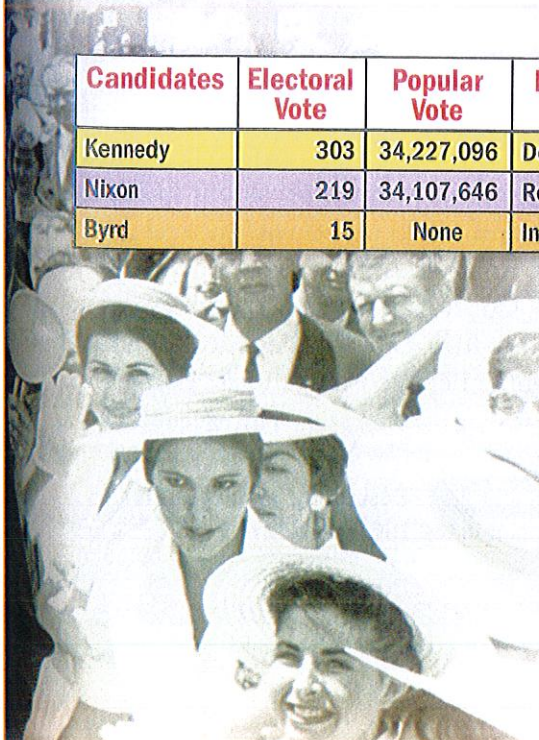
Candidates	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote	Political Party
Kennedy	303	34,227,096	Democrat
Nixon	219	34,107,646	Republican
Byrd	15	None	Independent



Map Skills

Region In what regions of the country did Kennedy receive the strongest support? In what regions was support for Nixon strongest?

Maps in **MOTION** See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.



Presidential Policies Presidents Kennedy and Johnson expanded civil rights by issuing executive orders and approving laws that affected many areas of African Americans' daily lives.

President Kennedy

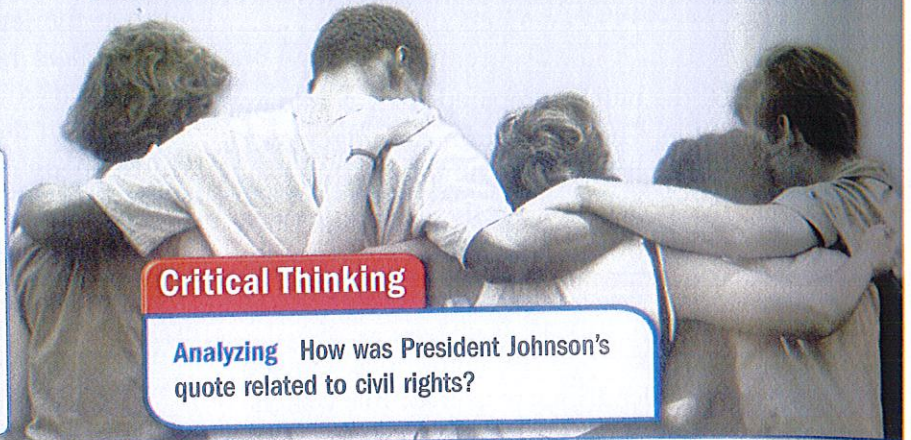
- Expanded African American voting
- Increased job opportunities
- Outlawed discrimination in federal housing
- Established Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity

"We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. . . . The heart of the question is—whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities. Whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated."

President Johnson

- Provided funds to poorer states for education
- Gave federal funding to poor African American colleges
- Signed legislation that outlawed discrimination in registering voters

"These are the enemies: poverty, ignorance, disease. They are the enemies and not our fellow man, not our neighbor. And these enemies too, poverty, disease and ignorance, we shall overcome."



Critical Thinking

Analyzing How was President Johnson's quote related to civil rights?

During the debate, he spoke with confidence about the future. Many viewers thought that Kennedy made a better impression.

In November, nearly 70 million voters turned out to choose between Nixon and Kennedy. The results were extremely close. In the popular vote, Kennedy won 49.7 percent, while Nixon received 49.5 percent. In the electoral vote, Kennedy gained a greater margin over Nixon—303 to 219 votes.

On January 20, 1961, Kennedy was sworn in as the 35th president of the United States. In his Inaugural Address, the young president promised to face the nation's challenges with determination. In closing, Kennedy roused the American people to action: "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Domestic Policies

Kennedy called for a **New Frontier** of social reforms. He backed federal aid for education and the poor. Congress, however, did not want to fund expensive programs.

Kennedy also supported civil rights but feared that moving too quickly would anger Southern Democrats whose support he needed. In 1963 Kennedy's civil rights bill passed in the House but stalled in the Senate.

Kennedy Assassinated

On November 22, 1963, Kennedy arrived in Dallas with his wife, Jacqueline. As the presidential motorcade rode through the streets, shots rang out. Kennedy was shot and later pronounced dead. Vice President **Lynndon B. Johnson** became president.

The assassination stunned the nation. In the midst of the grief, Lee Harvey Oswald, the man charged with the president's killing, was shot and killed as he was moved from one jail to another. A commission, headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, later stated that Oswald had acted alone. Many people believed that the assassination was a plot.

Reading Check **Describing** What was the turning point in the 1960 election?

The Great Society

Main Idea The Johnson administration expanded Kennedy's domestic plans with far-reaching programs in many areas.

History and You What sort of problems do cities have today? Read to find out about efforts by the federal government to solve these problems.

President Lyndon B. Johnson outlined a set of programs known as the "**Great Society**." His plan was to reduce poverty, promote equality, improve education, and rebuild decaying cities. Johnson had served 22 years in Congress. He used his legislative skills to persuade Congress to pass these programs.

War on Poverty

In 1964 President Johnson declared the War on Poverty as part of his plan for a Great Society. It **consisted**, or was made up, of programs to help people who lived below the **poverty line**—the minimum income needed to live. For example, Head Start provided preschool education for poor children, and the **Job Corps** trained young people seeking work.

Among the most important laws passed under Johnson were **Medicare** and **Medicaid**, both passed in 1965. Medicare established a health insurance program for all elderly people, financed through the Social Security system. Medicaid provided health and medical assistance to low-income families.

Other parts of the Great Society targeted cities and education. In 1966 the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was created to fund public housing projects. Another program, Model Cities, provided money to rebuild cities. Schools were helped by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Although a Southerner, Johnson was not a segregationist and supported civil rights for all Americans. With Johnson's backing, Congress passed the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**. The act banned discrimination against African Americans in employment, voting, and public places. It forbade discrimination not only by race but also by gender, religion, and national origin.

Reading Check **Explaining** What was the purpose of the Job Corps?

Section 2 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

1. Write a sentence for each of the following terms that explains its meaning: **assign**, **consist**, **poverty line**, **Medicare**, **Medicaid**.

Main Ideas

2. **Summarizing** What did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 accomplish?
3. **Explaining** What message did President Kennedy send with his Inaugural Address when he said "ask what you can do for your country"?

Critical Thinking

4. **Analyzing** Why do you think John F. Kennedy won the 1960 presidential election over Richard M. Nixon?
5. **Identifying** On a diagram like the one below, list the government plans that were part of Johnson's War on Poverty.



6. **Expository Writing** Take the role of an adviser to President Johnson. Write an essay that explains which of the president's domestic policies had the most impact on American citizens.

Answer the Essential Question

7. How were Kennedy and Johnson alike and different as presidents of the United States?