

**16.5**

# **Reform Under Johnson**



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Evaluate Johnson's policies up to his victory in the 1964 presidential election.
- Analyze Johnson's goals and actions as seen in his Great Society programs.
- Assess the achievements of the Great Society in creating economic opportunities for citizens.
- Analyze the effects of U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

# **Johnson's Path to Presidency**

**Lyndon B. Johnson was born & raised in Texas & started his career as a teacher for a Mexican American segregated school**

**1937 Elected to Congress working his way to Senate Majority leader in 1955**

**Johnson was a skilled politician who was able to build coalitions & work out compromises**

**Became Vice President for Kennedy to help carry the southern vote & Mexican American vote**



# Civil Rights Policies

After taking office, argued for the Civil Rights bill to pass to honor the legacy of JFK

**Civil Rights Act of 1964** outlawed discrimination in voting, education & public accommodations

Title VII prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex

# Economic Policies

**War on Poverty Bill-** Train the jobless, educate people, provide healthcare, & work for tax breaks

**Economic Opportunity Act-** Created the Job Corps to train people for work skills to acquire better jobs

**Volunteers would head into inner cities & reservations to train individuals**

**Head Start Program created daycare & programs to help students prepare for school**



# Johnson Election

1964- Johnson runs for office against **Barry Goldwater**, republican nominee whose views were opposite Johnson

Goldwater believed it was not the federal government's job to fight racism & poverty

Johnson wins election by a landslide, but Goldwater's ideas resonated with republicans

The conservative party would transform under his leadership leading to Reagan's Whitehouse bid



# The Great Society

**Johnson's vision to fix the nation to create prosperity for all Americans\***

**\*by fixing education, healthcare, environment, discrimination, & poverty**

**Medicare-** Medical Care for the Aged Program to provide insurance for those 65 yrs & older

**Medicaid-** Basic medical services for poor & disabled Americans not in Social Security



# Education & Consumer Protection

**Elementary & Secondary Education Act provided libraries, learning centers, & services in impoverished school district**

**Novels such as *Silent Spring & Unsafe at Any Speed* spoke out against pesticides & automobile industries lack of safety**

**Laws were created for safety standards for cars & traffic safety**

**U.S. Public Health enforced laws to improve water & air standards in the country**



# Immigration Policies



**Johnson decided to take charge of fixing the quota systems of the U.S.**

**Immigration & Nationality Act of 1965- Changed immigration law & allowed millions to enter the country**



# **\*\*\*Legacy of the Great Society**

**Poverty & infant mortality rates greatly declined &  
Medicare programs improved health care**

**Head Start & educational changes allowed people to  
escape poverty**

**National Endowment for the Arts &  
Humanities** allowed for artists &  
scholars to flourish

**Women & minority groups made great  
advancements & those with college  
degrees doubled**

# The Impact of the Warren Court

Chief Justice lead massive social, religious, & political issues in the Supreme Court

**The Warren Court-** Most liberal court in American History supporting civil rights, liberties, voting rights, & personal privacy

***Baker v. Carr-*** “One man, one vote” electoral districts had to reflect those living there

***Reynolds V. Sims-*** Any arrangement against “one man, one vote” went against 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment



# Redefine Civil Rights & Liberties

*Tinker v. Des Moines School District*- Students do not give up all their rights to free speech in school

**Judicial Interpretation**- Justices expand the Constitution beyond what the framers intended (such as free speech)

Evidence that was obtained “illegally” violated the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment & had to be excluded

People had the right to a lawyer before questioning & informed of Miranda Rights

# Church & State

***Engel V. Vitale-*** Public Schools cannot require students to recite a state-sanctioned prayer

***Abington V. Schempp-*** Bible reading in public schools violates 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment

Religious groups argue to this day that these decisions are hostile towards religion