

US History
Cold War - B
The Fog Of War – Robert McNamara

In the Fog of War Robert McNamara reflects on his time as Secretary of Defense. He developed eleven lessons that he learned from his experiences serving John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. You are to explain what events in his life led him to develop the first two lessons. Give specific examples.

Lesson 1 – Empathize with your enemy.

Define empathy –

What led McNamara to believe one should empathize with their enemy to resolve conflicts such as the Cuban Missile Crisis?

Lesson 2 – Rationality will not save us.

Define rationality.

What led McNamara to believe that one cannot always count on the rationality of people to prevent tragic and horrible outcomes such as nuclear war?