

**US History**  
**The Kennedy & Johnson Years**

**3. The New Frontier to the Great Society**

*The New Frontier*

-Domestic agenda became known as the New Frontier after a campaign speech

Helping the Poor –

-Michael Harrington's *The Other America* –

-Greatly influenced JFK

-Documented study of poverty in America

Area Redevelopment Act –

Conservative Congress –

-Due to a conservative congress JFK was unable to –

*Establishing Continuity*

-Johnson's experience in politics allowed him to manage the transition with skill and tact

-Promised the nation continuity between his administration and Kennedy's

“I felt from the first day in office that I had to carry on for President Kennedy. I considered myself the caretaker of both his people and his policies.” – LBJ

Examples of this continuity –

*The War on Poverty*

-Johnson was briefed on Kennedy's antipoverty initiative on his first full day in office

-After receiving an outline of the plan Johnson responded:

-"I'm sympathetic. Go ahead. Give it the highest priority. Push ahead full tilt."

Office of Economic Opportunity –

-OEO Programs –

-*Job Corps* –

-*Head Start* –

-*Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)* –

*1964 Presidential Election –*

The Candidates –

Democrats – Lyndon Johnson

Republicans – Barry Goldwater

The Result –

*The Great Society –*

Medical Programs –

Medicare –

Medicaid –

Educational Programs –

Elementary and Secondary Education Act –

Corporation for Public Broadcasting –

Housing Programs –

Omnibus Housing Act –

Environmental Programs –

-Very impressive environment record

-Water Quality Act of 1965

-Air Quality Act of 1967

*The Decline of the Great Society –*

Two Main Reasons for the Decline:

1. Foreign Policy

-Martin Luther King Jr. said the Great Society had been “shot down on the battlefields of Vietnam.”

2. Domestic Opposition