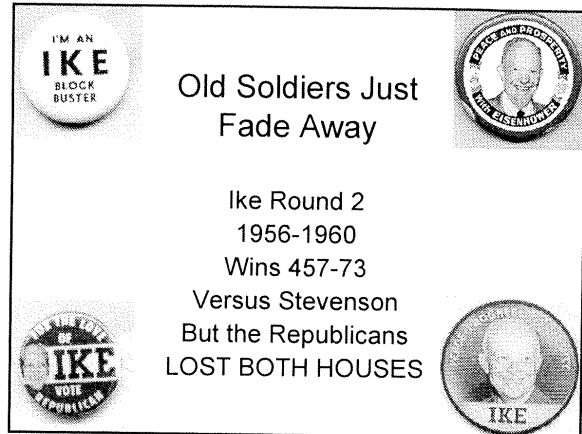


39 Vietnam

Chapter 39 (& a bit of 38)

Ike, JFK, LBJ and the Vietnam War

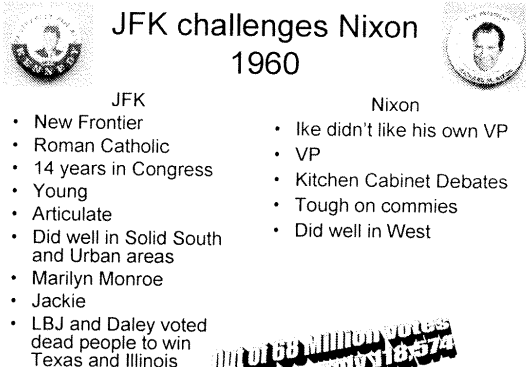


Ike Round 2
1956-1960
Wins 457-73
Versus Stevenson
But the Republicans
LOST BOTH HOUSES

Ike Legislation

- Landrum-Griffin Act (to control growing Union corruption, and stop secondary boycotts)
- NASA and NDEA to solve the "Missile Gap"
- Eisenhower doctrine used in Lebanon
- Cuba Falls
- Vietnam question arises
- Marshall Plan for S. America

JFK challenges Nixon 1960



JFK

- New Frontier
- Roman Catholic
- 14 years in Congress
- Young
- Articulate
- Did well in Solid South and Urban areas
- Marilyn Monroe
- Jackie
- LBJ and Daley voted dead people to win Texas and Illinois

Nixon

- Ike didn't like his own VP
- VP
- Kitchen Cabinet Debates
- Tough on commies
- Did well in West

OUT OF 68 MILLION VOTES
JFK WON BY ONLY 18,574

JFK— Camelot??

Positives

- Best and Brightest in Cabinet
 - McNamara quit as CEO of Ford to be Sec. of Defense
 - Bobby Kennedy was Attorney general
- Trade Expansion Act cut tariffs by 50%
- Alliance For Progress: L.A. Marshall Plan
- 1963 USSR-US pact to stop testing Nukes in atmosphere
- BOBBY sends Marshalls to protect Freedom Riders.
- Marilyn Monroe
- Nov. 22, 1963
- Peace Corps

Negatives

- Caved in to Dixiecrats
- Faced crippling inflation rates
 - Slashed taxes
- Man on the Moon???
- Berlin Wall went up
- French Atomic "Farce"
- "Brushfire" Wars in:
 - Laos
 - Congo
 - Vietnam (advisors)
- Leads to "Flexible Response" and increase in chance for war & increased military spending
- Bay of Pigs
- Cuban Missile Crisis

Bay of Pigs

- Designed by Ike's people
- Cuban refugees in US would attack Cuba
- US would support them by air
- Cuban peasants would arise, overthrow Fidel and welcome US return to power
- Everything goes wrong
- JFK does NOT support rebels
- Rebels captured and rat out US involvement

But now What

- Missiles still in Cuba
- If Khrushchev backs down—he is at best merely fired
- What to offer for no missiles in Cuba?
 1. Promise to NEVER attack Cuba
 2. Threaten Nuclear Armageddon.
 3. Give up US Jupiter ICBMs in Turkey??
 4. Recognition of Cuba
 5. Recognition of Communist China

What will it take?



LBJ 1964 Election



LBJ

- JFK's successor
- Great Society
 - "War on Poverty"
 - Civil Rights Act 1964
 - EEOC
 - Title VII
 - Expanded Soc. Sec.
 - Medicaid
 - Medicare
 - HUD
 - Head Start
 - 24th amendment

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DAISY
AD

Barry Goldwater

- "In your Heart You Know he's Right"
- "In you Guts you know he's Nuts"

Background to the War

- France controlled "Indochina" since the late 19th century
- Japan took control during World War II
- With U.S. aid, France attempted re-colonization in the postwar period

- The French lost control to Ho Chi Minh's *Viet Minh* forces in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu

- President Eisenhower declined to intervene **MILITARILY** on behalf of France.

- International Conference at Geneva

- Vietnam was divided at 17th parallel

- Ho Chi Minh's nationalist forces controlled the North
- Ngo Dinh Diem, a French-educated, Roman Catholic claimed control of the South

- A date was set for democratic elections to reunify Vietnam

- Diem backed out of the elections, leading to military conflict between North and South



U.S. Military Involvement Begins

- Repressive dictatorial rule by Diem
 - Diem's family holds all power
 - Wealth is hoarded by the elite
 - Diem Catholic
 - Buddhist majority persecuted
 - Torture, lack of political freedom prevail
- The U.S. aided Diem's government
 - Ike sent financial and military aid
 - 675 U.S. Army advisors sent by 1960.

U.S. Military Involvement Begins

- Kennedy elected 1960
- Increases military "advisors" to 16,000
- 1963: JFK supports a Vietnamese military *coup d'etat* - Diem and his brother are murdered (Nov. 2)
- Kennedy was assassinated just weeks later (Nov. 22)

- Advised to rout the communists by Secretary of State, Robert S. McNamara
- Tonkin Gulf Incident → 1964 (acc. to Johnson, the attacks were unprovoked)
- Tonkin Gulf Resolution
 - "The Blank Check" *

The Ground War 1965-1968

- No territorial goals
- Body counts on TV every night (first "living room" war)



- Viet Cong supplies over the Ho Chi Minh Trail

The Air War 1965-1968

- 1965: Sustained bombing of North Vietnam
- Operation Rolling Thunder (March 2, 1965)



- 1966-68: Ongoing bombing of Hanoi nonstop for 3 years! Esp. targets the Ho Chi Minh Trail.
- Massive Underground tunnels hid enemy
- Downed Pilots: P.O.W.s
- Carpet Bombing - napalm

The Tet Offensive, January 1968

- N. Vietnamese Army + Viet Cong attack South simultaneously (67,000 attack 100 cities, bases, and the US embassy in Saigon)
- Attack in the streets of every major city
- U.S. + ARVN beat back the offensive
- Viet Cong destroyed
- N. Vietnamese army debilitated
- BUT...it's seen as an American defeat by the media

▪ Nixon on Vietnam

- Nixon's 1968 Campaign promised an end to the war: *Peace with Honor*
 - Appealed to the great "Silent Majority"
- Vietnamization
- Expansion of the conflict → The "Secret War"
 - Cambodia
 - Laos
- Agent Orange (chemical defoliant)



• The Ceasefire, 1973

- *Peace is at hand* → Kissinger, 1972
 - North Vietnam attacks South
 - Most Massive U.S. bombing commences
- 1973: Ceasefire signed between
 - U.S., South Vietnam, & North Vietnam

1973-1975 = 18 = "Whew"

- *Peace with honor* (President Nixon)

•The Ceasefire, 1973

- Conditions:
 1. U.S. to remove all troops
 2. North Vietnam could leave troops already in S.V.
 3. North Vietnam would resume war
 4. No provision for POWs or MIAs
- Last American troops left South Vietnam on March 29, 1973
- 1975: North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam
- Saigon renamed Ho Chi Minh City

The Costs

1. 3,000,000 Vietnamese killed
2. 58,000 Americans killed; 300,000 wounded
3. Under-funding of Great Society programs
4. \$150,000,000,000 in U.S. spending
5. U.S. morale, self-confidence, trust of government, decimated

The Impact

- 26th Amendment: 18-year-olds vote
- Nixon abolished the draft → all-volunteer army
- War Powers Act, 1973 *
 - President must notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying military force
 - President must withdraw forces unless he gains Congressional approval within 90 days
- Disregard for Veterans → seen as "baby killers"
- POW/MIA issue lingered