**Building the Great Society**

* Lyndon B. Johnson wished to fight “war on poverty”



* LBJ was a W. Texan, grew up fairly poor
* While in the House, mentored by FDR
* LBJ became JFK’s running mate for 1960 election



* 1963 JFK is assassinated, making LBJ president

LBJ’s Domestic Agenda

* Wanted to continue legislation started by JFK
* Feb. 1964 Congress passed $10 billion tax reduction bill
* People spent more, business profits increased, increased tax revenues
* Passed *Civil Rights Act of 1964:* prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, sex & gov’t can enforce its provision



War on Poverty

* Legislation helping those in need



* *Economic Opportunity Act (EOA):* $1 billion for youth programs, sm. Business loans, & job training
* Job Corps Youth Training Program
* Project Head Start
* Community Action Program, poor participated in public works programs

1964 Election

* LBJ (D) vs. Barry Goldwater (R)
* Goldwater was against large gov’t programs
* Also wanted to use atomic weapons in Cuba and Vietnam



* LBJ won in a landslide
* Congress became even more Democratic majority i.e. easier to pass legislation

The Great Society

* LBJ got 206 measures passed
* Education: $1 billion federal aid for textbooks
* Healthcare: Social Security became Medicare & Medicaid
* Housing: Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev. (HUD) oversaw federal housing for low income people
* Immigration: *Immigration Act of 1965* ended immigration quotas
* Environment: *Water Quality Act of 1965* forced states to clean rivers up



* Consumer Protection: standards set for food & auto safety

Impact of Great Society

* Johnson extended power of federal gov’t
* Poverty fell 10% from ’62-‘73
* Federal budget deficit ballooned