

# CHAPTER 5 PART 2

Eisenhower → Nixon



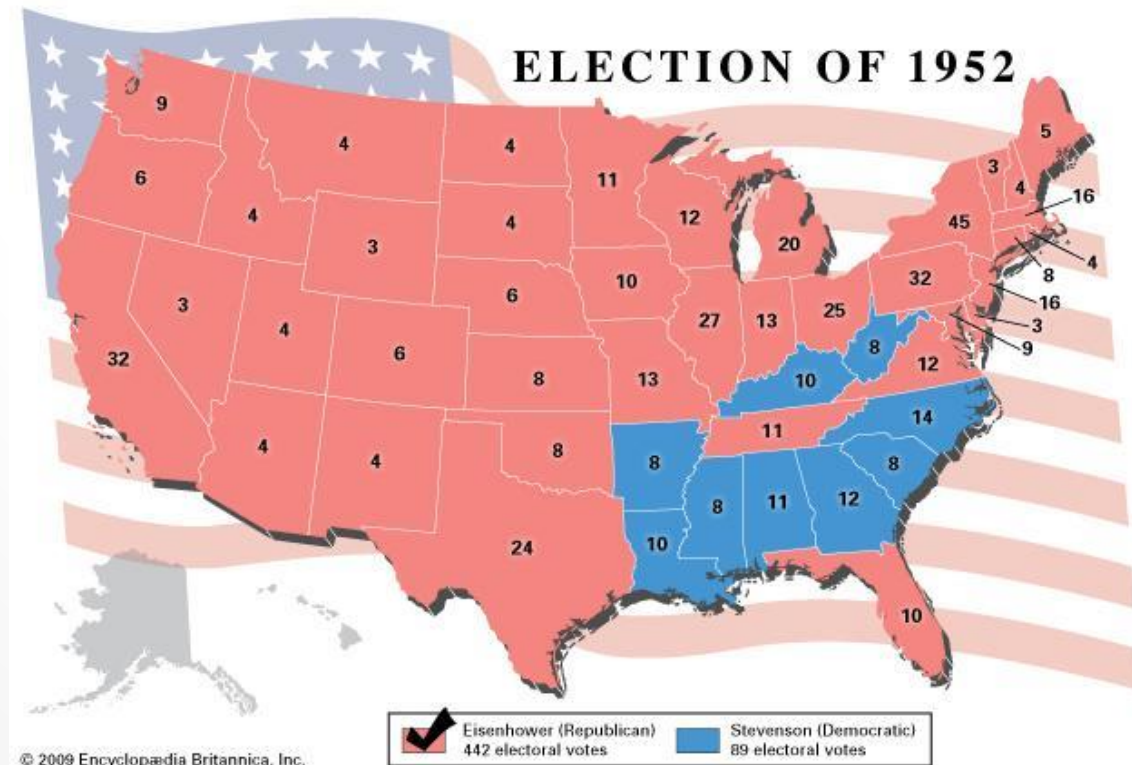
# THE RELUCTANT PRESIDENT

- Dwight D. Eisenhower
  - “Ike”
  - Returned to the USA in 1946
  - The Conquering Hero!
    - Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe
    - Appointed Governor of the U.S. occupation zones in Germany
- November 1945, Eisenhower returned to Washington to replace Marshall as Chief of Staff of the Army.



# BOTH SIDES WANT HIM

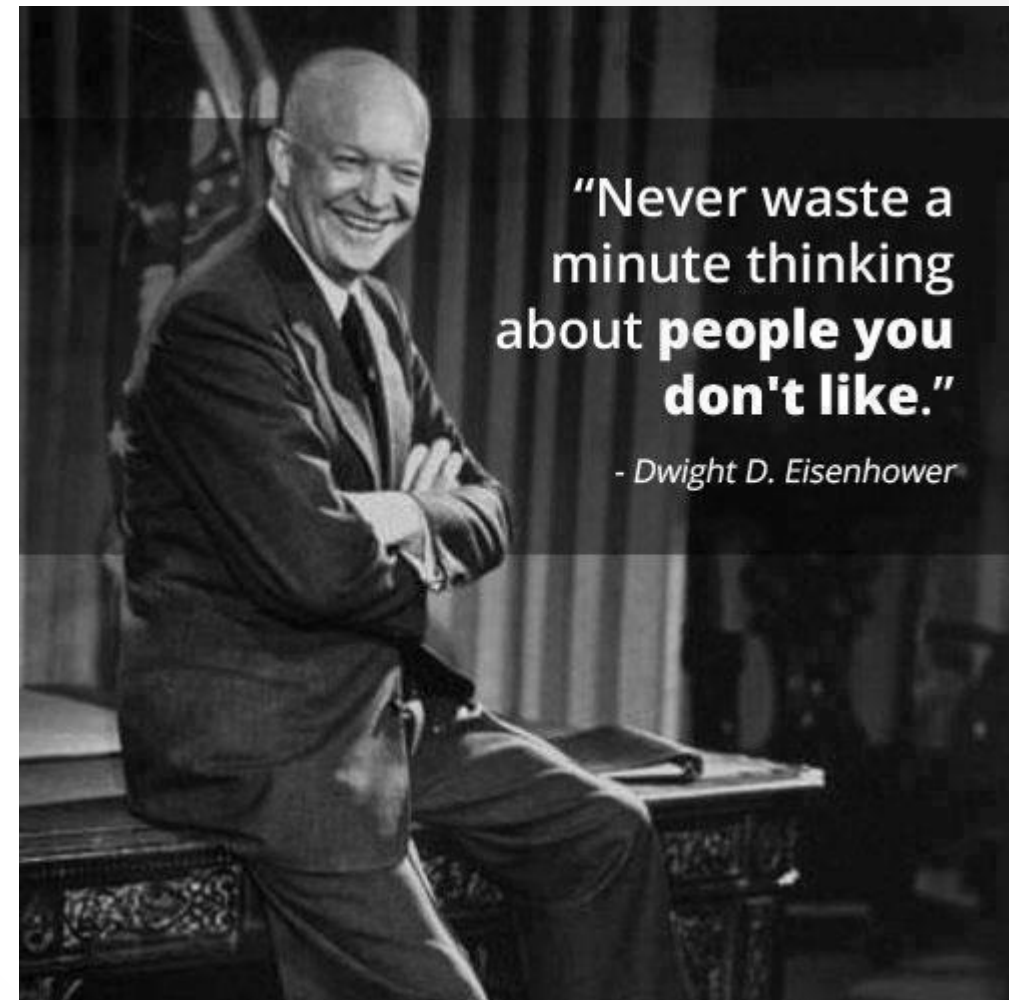
- First the Dems, then the Reps. Pursued Ike as their presidential candidate
- Initially he refused...
- In 1951 he accepted the Republican nomination
- <http://www.livingroomcandidate.org/commercials/1952>
- 1952 – ended 20 yrs of Dem. Presidents “soundly defeating” Dem. Adlai Stevenson



# “EISENHOWER TAKES THE MIDDLE ROAD”

- Approach to domestic policy...
  - ...mostly hands-off
- Felt the gov't was bloated enough by 20 yrs. of Democrats in charge
  - New Deal and other programs
- But, against Republicans said...
  - "Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes that you can do these things. Among them are a few Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or businessman from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid."

Nov. 8, 1954

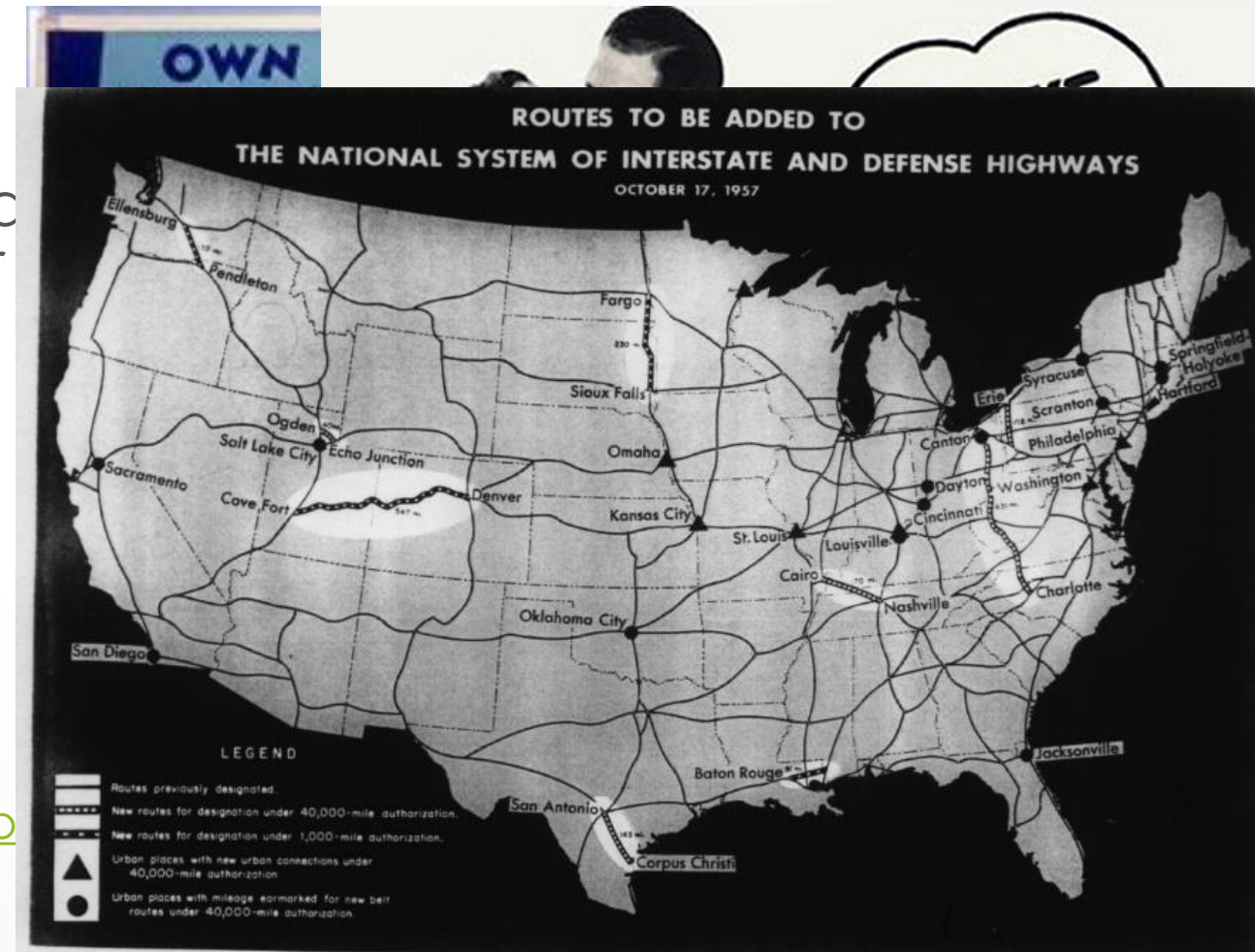


“Never waste a minute thinking about **people you don't like.**”

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

# NO NEW-NEW DEAL

- Did not put out his own version, but did incrementally strengthen programs for poor, unemployed, aged.
- Expanded social security
  - to benefit more Americans, including the elderly and unemployed, and also dumped more federal dollars into the **Federal Housing Administration** to help Americans purchase new homes.
- Increased minimum wage
  - .75-→\$1.00/hr.
  - <http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Media/Slideshow/2012/04/04/Minimum-Wage-and-What-It-Buys-You-1950s-to-Now?page=0>
- almost 300 additional investigators were hired to enforce the law
- Created Department of Health, Education, Welfare (all together)
- St. Lawrence Seaway
- Interstate Highway program, established in 1956





- In order to contain defense costs, the New Look brought about a shift in emphasis from conventional military capability to "air-atomic" capability in the form of the Strategic Air Command within a scaled-down overall military establishment. Land and naval forces were cut. Continental air defense was expanded. Although strategic air power attained a lower level than the Truman administration had projected, it became the centerpiece of U.S. security thinking, embodied in the doctrine of "Massive Retaliation."

- Nuclear Plans for the future:

- <http://www.darkroastedblend.com/2011/05/nuclear-everything.html>

an unrefueled intercontinental range, the B-36 was the primary nuclear weapons delivery vehicle of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) until it was replaced by the jet powered Boeing B-52 Stratofortress (which first became operational in 1955). The B-36 set the standard for range and payload for subsequent U.S. intercontinental bombers.

# MAINTAINING GROWTH

- Eisenhower inherited the greatest expansion of the U.S. economy in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - Unemployment low
  - Inflation at 2%
  - Family income rose 45%
    - Cars, TVs, Refrigerators
  - Suburbs and “Family Vacations”
  - Citizens saved for investments and retirement
- Eisenhower believed in a balanced budget and creating infrastructure to maintain growth...

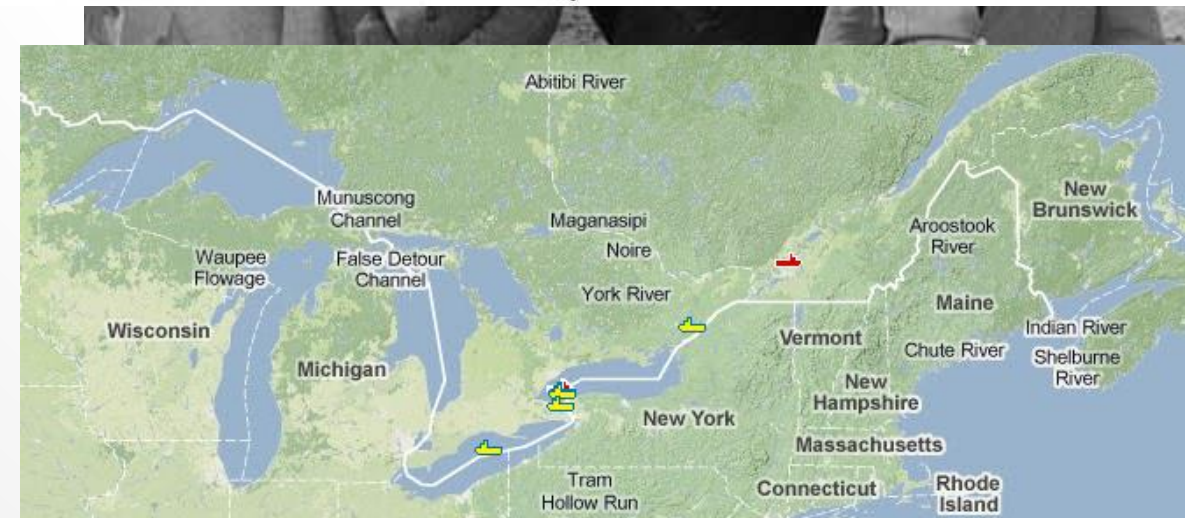
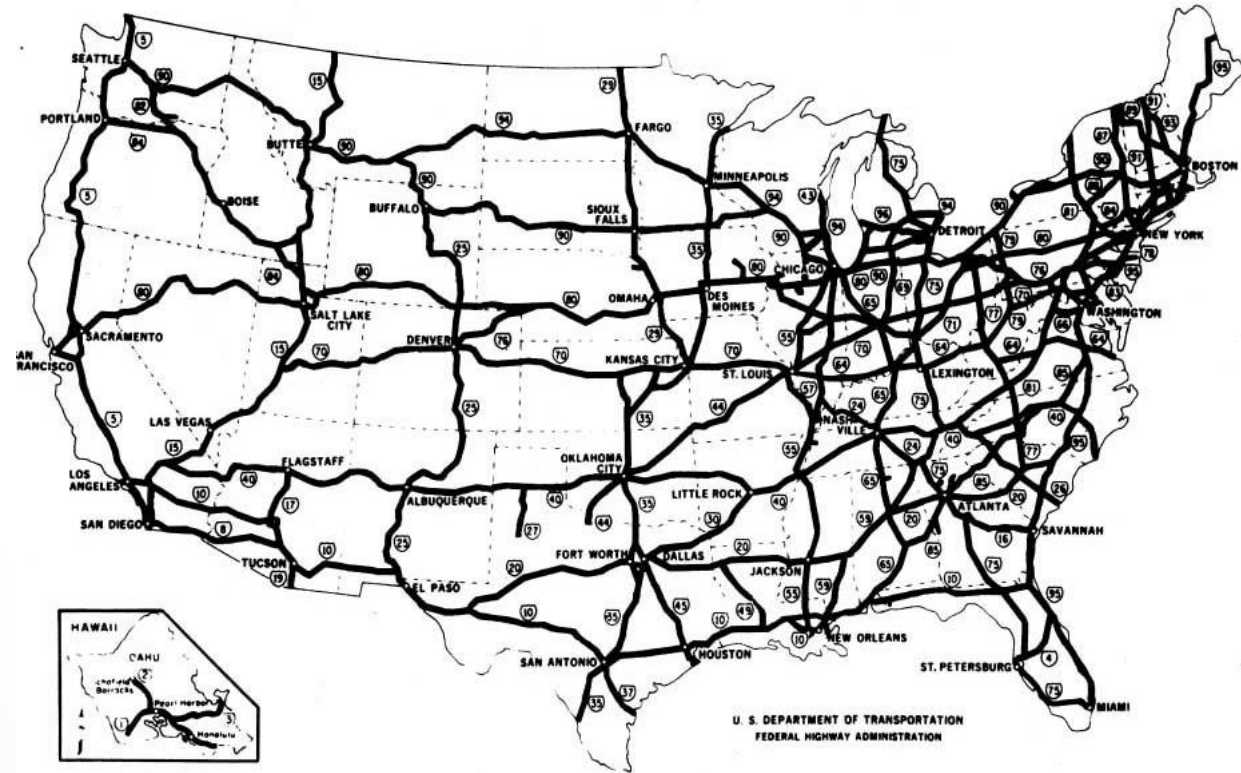


The new 1954 Chevrolet Deluxe Coupe. With three rows and Chevrolet offers the most beautiful dance of wheels & hills.



# SUPPORTING THE ECONOMY = NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

- What do they need?
- New Transportation Networks
  - Federal-Aid Highway Act (1956)
  - Largest public works project in U.S. History
  - Became the largest highway system in the world
  - Named: Eisenhower Interstate System
- Became, as Eisenhower argued, the “transportations arteries of the modern economy”
  - Trucks crossed the country in Days, instead of months
  - Roads were built to all corners of the country
- The other major project was the St. Lawrence Seaway (as previously discussed)





# BUT STILL IN 1960:

- 1 in 5 Amer. still in poverty
  - That's ~40 million people
- ½ lived in the "south"
- But rapidly increasing in Northern Cities
  - Influx of African Amer. looking for better jobs
    - Many in the auto industry
- Presidential Approval rating was ~70%
  - Poverty highest for children & elderly
  - "swept under the rug" as 1950s go down as the most prosperous decade



# MCCARTHYISM UNDER EISENHOWER

- Peaked in the first 2yrs. of Eisenhower's Presidency
- At the start of McCarthy's 2<sup>nd</sup> term, takes control of a minor committee –
  - The Committee on Government Operations
  - Many hoped this would curb his attacks
  - Instead – he used a subcommittee (The Senate Permanent Sub-Committee on Investigations) to launch new rounds of attacks
- He then appointed lawyers (J.F. Kennedy and others) as committee legal council
  - They tried to cover McCarthy's unsubstantiated attacks, disregard for constitutional rights, etc.
- Hearings were then broadcast on TV
  - This hurt McCarthy the most
  - People were repulsed by his demeanor and abusive verbal attacks

# EISENHOWER ORIGINALLY SUPPORTS MCCARTHY

- No due process, no constitutional protections, for accused
- Ike became outraged
  - Particularly when attacking the loyalty of the U.S. Army
    - Told a General he had the intelligence of a 5 yr old
  - Attacks on Ike not being strong enough of spying and Chinese to get pilots returned (captured during Korean War)

# IKE BEHIND THE SCENES

- In early 1954 encouraged Rep. lead senate to investigate McC.
- Senate Committee originally brought 46 charges
- Eventually censured on two counts
- McCarthy response...
  - Accuse them of deception and fraud
- 67-22 vote in favor of censure
  - Removed from HUAC
  - Remains in Senate until his death
  - “Acute Hepatitis”
    - Inflammation of the liver, Alcoholism

# EISENHOWER ON CIVIL RIGHTS

- May 7, 1954
  - Brown vs. Board of Education
  - Supported the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment (anyone?)
    - **The 14th Amendment** to the Constitution was ratified on July 9, 1868, and granted citizenship to “all persons born or naturalized in the United States,” which included former slaves recently freed.
    - The Fourteenth Amendment addresses many aspects of citizenship and the rights of citizens. The most commonly used -- and frequently litigated -- phrase in the amendment is "equal protection of the laws", which figures prominently in a wide variety of landmark cases, including Brown v. Board of Education (racial discrimination), Roe v. Wade (reproductive rights)
    - **On May 17, 1954, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren delivered the unanimous ruling in the landmark civil rights case Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. State-sanctioned segregation of public schools was a violation of the 14th Amendment and was therefore unconstitutional.**
    - **Overtured Plessy vs. Ferguson (1899)**
  - Show PG. 254 – Oxford and IB show their belief on the issue. (history of Americas, Oxford university Press, 2012)

# CIVIL RIGHTS RECORD CONT'D

- 1957 - 9 students to register for for H.S. in Little Rock, Arkansas
  - Stopped by angry mob
- State officials refused to act
  - Eisenhower sent in the army
  - The remained for the entire year
- 1958, Central High had its first black graduates
- Eisenhower used executive authority to continue desegregation of gov't and military
  - Working to finish what Truman started

# EISENHOWER'S DOMESTIC POLICIES:

- Oxford Press 2012: “An Assessment”
- “Ike’s middle of the road approach was the right one for the majority of U.S. citizens in the 1950s. It was popular, as evidenced by his high approval ratings. The hands-off approach to the economy and his motivation to expand and improve the nations infrastructure were a winning combination.”

# THE NEW FRONTIER: JFK 1961-63

- Nov. 22, 1963
  - Dallas Texas, Jacqueline Kennedy beside him
  - Open top Cadillac, Tex. Gov. John Connally sat in front seat
  - Texas had seemed to endorse the President's new civil rights bill...



# KENNEDY DOMESTIC POLICIES

- Like Truman and Eisenhower – preferred to go slow
- 3yrs in to his term, and after the success of the Cuban Missile Crisis...
  - Then began pushing for reform
- The “New Frontier”
  - Represented the New and Fair Deals
    - Specifically poverty, raise minimum wage, guarantee equal pay, urban renewal, initiate the Peace Corps, medical care for elderly
  - Promised Much, Delivered Little
    - Kennedy seemed to protect his popularity over domestic matters
      - (remember it's year 3 of term 1)

# THE PEACE CORPS

- New Frontiers ideological Center-piece
  - Intended to help improve the view of the U.S. overseas
  - Recruited thousands of young people to serve in disadvantaged areas of the world
  - **It also earned Kennedy the admiration of the first wave of “Baby Boomers”**

# OTHER MEASURES:

- Increased minimum wage
- Federal housing act
- Development act for rural areas
- A tax cut
  
- Republican Congress (conservative) pass ~50% of 600 bills proposed in the first 2 years
  - Congress raised min. wage \$1.00→1.25
  - \$4.9 Billion in urban renewal grants
  
- The big items though were defeated:
  - Medicare, mass transit, education
  - (some were renewed in Johnson's "Great Society" programs)

# KENNEDY ON CIVIL RIGHTS

- Wooed African-American voters by orchestrating the release of MLK from jail on the eve of the 1960 election.
- Kennedy delayed civil rights action in 1961, because Rep. Congress would not have supported him
- Appointed Thurgood Marshall (lawyer in Brown v Board) to Supreme Court
- Measures to remove discrimination from gov't jobs and contracts
- RFK, attorney general, aggressively enforced voting laws (especially in the south)
  - Resulted in bombings, violence, and resurgence of KKK)

# CIVIL RIGHTS MOVES ITSELF

- Charismatic Leader: MLK
  - Pushed by mostly peaceful protest
- May 19, 1963
  - TV coverage of white cops beating black marchers in Birmingham, Alabama
  - Stunned millions of white watchers, forced Kennedy to action
  - Gov. George Wallace (segregationist) refused to integrate U. of Alabama
    - Troops were sent in, Wallace stood his ground...away from the doors so students could register.
  - Kennedy followed up with tv speeches to the US public
    - Policy of Fed Gov to take action when local and state officials refuse to protect the constitutional rights for all citizens

# “THE GREAT SOCIETY”

- Lyndon Baines Johnson, 1963-1969
- Nov. 22, 1963: VP sworn in as President aboard AirForce One
  - Jackie O. on his left, Lady Bird Johnson on his right
  - Just hours after the assassination
  - Speech to the U.S. 5 days later “I will do my best, that is all I can do”
    - Johnson intended to take Civil Rights debate and make Law.
    - Privately sharing an intention to turn it into a Martyr’s cause
- Elected in Nov. 1964, over ultra-conservative Barry Goldwater
  - B.G. - possibly seen as a step back in progress

# CONGRESS ALSO BECOMES DEM. CONTROLLED, 1964

- In 1964-65: 200 “Great Society” pieces of legislation.
  - Civil Rights Act (1964) & Voters Rights Act (1965)
    - Outlawed segregation (including Restaurants, bars, busses, hotels, etc.)
    - Outlawed head taxes to vote and literacy tests
  - Social Security Benefits (payment increase)
  - Elem. & Secondary Schools Act (built schools in underprivileged areas)
  - Student Loans (HS Grads to pay tuition)
  - Head Start Programs (prep Pre-K kids)
  - Affirmative Action (an action or policy favoring those who tend to suffer from discrimination, especially in relation to employment or education)
  - Immigration Act of 1965 (opening up to non-European Immigrants)
  - Economic Opportunity Act (1965)
  - Tax Cuts w/ deficit spending to aid economic growth
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Clean Air & Water initiatives, 37 new national parks, reclaimed polluted lands

# NEW FEDERALISM (PG. 265)

- Richard Nixon: 1964-74
  - Did not eliminate social programs created before him
  - Rather he wanted to transfer control to states and local
    - 1972 – State and Local Assistance Act
      - \$4 Billion to state and local Governments



# NIXON ON CIVIL RIGHTS

- Proposed funds to build local schools
  - Kids to walk to school not have to be bussed across town
  - Supported by South (new separate but equal)
    - Shot down by congress, but gained Nixon Southern support
- 1970 renewal of 1965 Voting Rights Act
  - Wanted voting cases adjudicated by state courts not Feds.
  - Shot down in the House, but more support by South and states rights supporters
- Supported Women's movement and equal rights
  - Increased # of women at high ranks in Gov.
- Philadelphia Plan:
  - Job training and employment for minorities under affirmative action

# NIXON ON ENVIRONMENT

- 4 years of Leg. Starting in 1969
  - National Environment Policy Act (1969)
    - Gave birth to Clean Air Act (1970)
      - First time addressing auto emissions
    - Water Pollution Act (1972)
    - EPA (established 1970)
- Created “Consumer Products Safety Commission”
- Legacy of Parks (part of New Federalism)
  - To transfer fed. Land to states to create State Parks, Beaches, Rec.Areas

# WATERGATE SCANDAL

- Resulted from Nixon's reelection efforts
  - Lots of dirty tricks
  - Committee to Re-elect the President (Creep)
    - Diverted \$millions to defamation campaign of opponents and dirty tricks
    - Nixon Won, winning 49 states outright over George McGovern
  - Creep planned a break-in at the Watergate hotel
    - Planned to wiretap and install listening devices at the Democratic National headquarters there.
    - Caught and arrested
    - Lengthy investigation by Washington Post Reports and an informant "Deep Throat" lead to the white house.
      - Lead to tapes Nixon made of White House meetings showing his foul tempter, mouth, bigotry
- Nixon Resigns Aug. 1974
- Some thought a tarnish to the US.
- Others: a crowning achievement: the Constitution had worked, abuse power thwarted, checks and balances reigned supreme.
- Pg. 270 - ended