

Lyndon B. Johnson 1963-1968



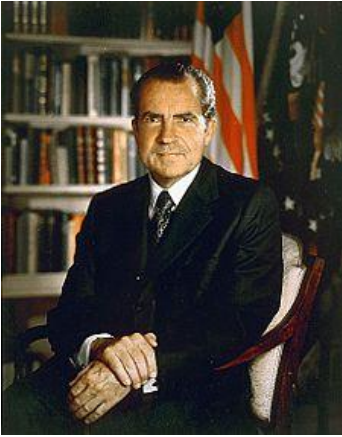
Domestic Policies: As President, Lyndon B. Johnson developed a plan to improve every American's life called the Great Society. Congress had been unwilling to pass such a plan under Kennedy. Johnson, however, was able to get Congress to pass 50 new laws in just his first two years in office.

An important Great Society program was Medicare. Under this plan the government would help pay for the hospital bills for citizens over the age of 65. Another program, Medicaid, gave states money to help poor people of all ages with their medical bills.

Johnson was very concerned with helping Americans who were poor. In 1964 the Economic Opportunity Act was passed. The law set up job training for the poor and gave loans to poor farmers and businesses in poor sections of our cities. Lastly, Johnson created the Department of Housing and Urban Development or HUD. HUD was responsible for building inexpensive housing for poor and middle class families.

Foreign Policies: President Johnson was very successful when dealing with the Domestic problems faced by America. However, the event that came to dominate his time in office was the Vietnam War. Johnson, like Kennedy, believed in the Domino Theory. He felt that America had a duty to oppose the spread of communism all around the world. Many Americans however, opposed the war in Vietnam. They felt that we were sending Americans halfway around the world to die in someone else's war that was none of our business. The longer we were there, the more protests spread across the country. The problems with Vietnam eventually convinced Johnson not to run for re-election in 1968.

Richard M. Nixon 1968-1974



Domestic Policies: Richard Nixon, a Republican, opposed some of Lyndon Johnson's plans because they were too costly. Nixon was responsible for cutting billion of dollars a year from the federal budget. He cut federal funds for job training, low-income housing and education. Because of all of these cuts, Nixon was also able to reduce taxes.

Unfortunately, Richard Nixon is much more famous for the bad things he was involved with. First, Nixon's Vice President Spiro Agnew was forced to resign because he was accused of taking bribes. The American people were shocked. But, by far the largest domestic thing to happen to Richard Nixon was the Watergate Affair. On June 17, 1972, police caught 5 men breaking into the Democratic Party's national headquarters in Washington D.C. Eventually it was found that the President Nixon had tried to cover-up the break in and he was forced to resign in August of 1974. The two highest ranking American officials had been forced to resign and the people of the United States were feeling let down by the government.

Foreign Policies: Richard Nixon was forced to deal with the same problems regarding Vietnam as Lyndon Johnson did. The American people were not happy with the way the war was going and they protested endlessly to bring it to a close. Nixon listened and by 1973 had withdrawn all American troops from Vietnam. Nixon also was responsible for a brief period of friendship with the communist countries called détente. Nixon became the first U.S. President to visit China and also the Soviet Union since they had become communist. This period also saw the USA and Soviet Union sign the SALT agreement to limit the number of nuclear missiles they both produced. Unfortunately, Nixon was forced to resign before any more progress could be made with the Soviets.