Kennedy & the Cold War
Chapter 15 Section 1
Lecture Focus Question

• How did Kennedy respond to the continuing challenges of the Cold War? Explain.
Election of 1960

- Richard Nixon
  - Republican nominee
  - Supported fight against communism
  - Energetic & passionate
  - VP for Eisenhower
  - Came from a working family in Yorba Linda, CA

- John F. Kennedy
  - Democratic nominee
  - Supported fight against communism
  - Energetic & passionate
  - Attended Harvard
  - Came from a wealthy family in Boston, MA
Televised Debate

• **Nixon**
  - Underweight
  - Clothes too big
  - Pale & tired
  - “Easy Shave” melting in heat of lights
  - Spoke to JFK

• **JFK**
  - Rested & tanned
  - Newly tailored suit
  - Spoke to cameras → audience of voters!
JFK had many celebrity friends, including Frank Sinatra. He was well acquainted with how to work cameras to his advantage.
Kennedy Wins

- Key factor → televised debates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Electoral Vote</th>
<th>Popular Vote</th>
<th>% Electoral Vote</th>
<th>% Popular Vote</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Kennedy (Democrat)</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>34,227,096</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>49.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Nixon (Republican)</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>34,107,646</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>49.6</td>
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</table>
• Today, most presidential candidates make it a point to make appearances on talk shows as part of their campaign. What is your favorite talk show and why?
JFK’s New Cold War Strategies

• JFK = 1st pres born in 20th century
  – “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country”

• Flexible response: defense policy that prepared the U.S. to fight in any size/type of conflict

• Peace Corps: sent U.S. volunteers around the world to provide technical, education, health services to developing countries

• Alliance for Progress: promoted economic assistance to Latin America
Simon Says...

The Peace Corps is one of many of JFK’s programs that is still going strong today.
Communism in Cuba

- 1959: Fidel Castro comes to power in Cuba
  - Strong ties to U.S.S.R.
- 1961: Bay of Pigs Invasion
  - U.S. plan to overthrow Castro
  - Total disaster
  - U.S. accepts defeat and loses respect from other countries
An **Acrostic Poem** is a poem where the first letter of each line spells a word and each line gives details and helps explain the chosen word.

- **Example 1:** Poems should show
  - Originality,
  - Explain something from the unit, and
  - Make
  - Sense

**Your Task:** Summarize what you’ve learned in these notes so far and write an acrostic poem for the following word: **KENNEDY**
The Berlin Crisis

• 1961: JFK and Krushchev meet → peace treaty?
  – Berlin becomes center of discussion
  – Meeting = disaster

• JFK takes action
  – Doubled number of men drafted into army
  – Increased spending for defense
  – American people prepared: fallout shelters

• 1961: Soviets build the Berlin Wall to divide E & W Berlin
The Berlin Wall
As the Berlin Wall fell 20 years ago it melded two nations that once were separated by more than a common border. The East German authorities began blocking the access to West Berlin in 1961, when tens of thousands had already crossed the border.

The Border Zone
The border zone, including the outer wall, was built entirely on East German territory. The wall was buffered by a restricted zone hundreds of yards wide. Even the buildings in the area were off limits to most citizens.

BORDER CONTROL ZONE
The width of the border zone varied from 20 feet to hundreds of feet in different locations along the border. The wall structures and other installations on the border zone had been constantly updated since 1961. At right are typical features of the border strip in Berlin in the 1980s.

BORDER ZONE
The wall was made of a variety of materials and designs. It was topped with barbed wire or concertina wire and had a concrete base. The wall was monitored by watchtowers and had a concrete fence with barbed wire and concertina wire.

Outer Wall
The outer wall was made of concrete and had barbed wire on top. It was 16 feet high and was designed to prevent people from jumping over it. The concrete was 5 feet thick and was reinforced with steel beams. The wall was topped with concertina wire and had a concrete base.

Death Strip
The area between the inner and outer wall was covered with soft sand that would show footprints of escape attempts. Only the most trusted soldiers were allowed access to the area. Guards would shoot anyone trying to cross the border.

Signal Fence
A signal fence with barbed wire spanned concrete posts. Anyone trying to climb the fence would press wires together, completing a circuit and tripping an alarm in a watchtower.

Rear Wall
The first barrier on the east side barring entry to the border zone was a 10-foot high concrete wall.
Cuban Missile Crisis

- U.S. intelligence discovery:
  - Soviets building missile bases in Cuba!
  - Cuba = 90 miles from Key West, FL

- 4 possible responses
  - Negotiate with the Soviets
  - Invade Cuba
  - Blockade Cuba
  - Bomb the missile sites
The Loneliest Job in the World
The Ultimate Decision

• JFK decides on a naval “quarantine”
• “Blockade” would be an act of war
• He told Americans:

  “The path we have chosen for the present is full of hazards... The cost of freedom is always high -- and Americans have always paid it. *And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender.*”
President Kennedy is one of our most quoted presidents. What is your favorite JFK quote?
Disaster Averted

Effects of the Cuban Missile Crisis

- The Soviet Union removes missiles from Cuba.
- The United States removes missiles from Turkey.
- The United States and the Soviet Union avoid nuclear war.
- Kennedy and Khrushchev establish a "hot line" telephone system to keep communications open.
- In 1963, the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union sign the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMARY:</th>
<th>These notes are about... (1-2 sent) (Main Idea → Use the WIN strategy!)</th>
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</table>
| **W.I.N. strategy:** |**WHO/WHAT** - Figure out the most important *who* or *what* *(topic)*  
**INFORMATION** - Figure out the most important *information* about the who or what  
**NUMBER OF WORDS** - Write the main idea using the fewest possible *number of words* |
Lecture Focus Question

• How did Kennedy respond to the continuing challenges of the Cold War? Explain.

• Response = 3-4 well thought out sentences minimum! (topic sentence + supporting details)
# Notes Grading Rubric

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Notes Color-Coded</th>
<th>MIS INC ✓</th>
<th>Brain Snack(s)</th>
<th>MIS INC ✓</th>
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<tr>
<td>LFQ Answer (3-4 sent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary (1-2 sent)</td>
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