John F. Kennedy the Cold Warrior
• 1960 **John F. Kennedy** is elected president

• **Youngest** President (voted into office)—He was 43
  – Teddy Roosevelt was 42 but he took office when President McKinley Died

• Had a young, pretty wife who was considered very stylish—Jackie Kennedy
• He ran against Richard Nixon (Eisenhower’s Vice President)
• 1st Catholic President
• 1st Televised Presidential debates
• People who watched said JFK won
• People who listened to the debates said Nixon won
The Cold Warrior

Containment

Bay of Pigs Invasion

• In the 1950s Cuba had a revolution

• From 1933-1959 Cuba was run by a dictator named “General Batista”
The Cold Warrior

– He was pro-American & had a lot of connections to the U.S. Mafia

– In 1959 however, he was overthrown by Fidel Castro, the Communist Leader of the revolution
• So…In 1960, Vice President Richard Nixon proposed a plan to have the CIA train & arm a group of Cuban exiles (Batista supporters) to invade Cuba & overthrow Castro’s government.

• In April 1961, (after only 4 months in office) Kennedy put the plan into action.
• It FAILED miserably because the U.S. government offered no air support
• The U.S. had to negotiate for the release of more than 1,000 hostages
• The U.S. was thoroughly embarrassed
• Needless to say, U.S./Cuban relations were left strained
• Vietnam
  – Vietnam had been a French Colony before and after WWII
  – After WWII the people of Vietnam wanted Independence and began fighting the French for it under a man named Ho Chi Minh
• He wasn’t a communist at first but after a number of years his independence movement was backed by China & the Soviet Union.
The United States had been helping the French on a small scale.

However, by 1963 Kennedy had brought the number of troops from 1,100 to 13,000 solidifying America’s commitment.
• Kennedy was assured the surge in troops was working and that we’d be able to begin withdrawing them within a year
Arms Race

– Berlin Wall

• Aug. 1961 Soviet Union erects a wall separating East & West Berlin

– Sept. 1961 JFK encourages Americans to build bomb shelters in case of a Nuclear War
• Oct. 1961 The Soviet Union explodes the **Tsar Bomba** (the King of Bombs)
• **Largest** nuclear explosion ever
• **50** megaton bomb
• 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis
• Oct. 1962—U.S. intelligence informs JFK that the Soviet Union is building secret missile bases in Cuba—just 90 miles off the coast of Florida
• Kennedy orders Soviet Leader Nikita Khrushchev to **remove** the missiles and sets up a **naval blockade** of Cuba to keep the U.S.S.R. from shipping the missiles to the Island.

• Never mind that we had missiles based in **Turkey** just 150 miles from the Soviet Union
• In response, Khrushchev orders his field commanders in Cuba to use **tactical nuclear weapons** against the U.S. if they invade Cuba

• This was the closest the world ever came to an all out nuclear war!!!

  –(and it came very close!)
• **Space Race**
  – The **Soviets** were winning for a long time
  – 1959 Soviets launched 1st space probe to **hit the moon**
• 1961 Soviet, Yuri Gagarin becomes the 1st person to orbit Earth

• 1961 JFK calls for a man on the moon by the end of the decade

• Its not until 1962 that the first American orbits the Earth (John Glen)
For Sharp Thinking, Use Cards on Art of War
• 1963 Soviets put the 1st **woman** in space
• By the late 60s however, **the U.S.** was clearly winning
• 1968 the U.S. launches Apollo 8—the 1st manned space mission to **orbit the moon**
• 1969 U.S. sends the first people to walk on the moon
  – Neil Armstrong is the 1st
  – Buzz Aldrin is the 2nd
• Assassination

• In **Dallas, Texas** on Nov. 22 1963 President Kennedy was in a parade in a convertible

• Shots were fired & Kennedy was killed
• Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested and convicted of the murder
– He was an ex-marine & a communist that had spent time in Cuba & the Soviet Union
• There has been much controversy surrounding the death of JFK
  – People have claimed that there were multiple shooters and have blamed everyone from Fidel Castro to the CIA
  – Warren Commission—a group assigned to investigate JFK’s death
    • They concluded that Oswald acted alone
• This shocked the nation
• Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ)—Kennedy’s Vice President—became President
• He vowed to continue Kennedy’s plans in office