

CHAPTER
20

GUIDED READING *Kennedy and the Cold War*

Section 1

A. As you read this section, complete the time line by taking notes about the election of John F. Kennedy and about his handling of several Soviet-American confrontations.

1957	Launch of <i>Sputnik 1</i>		1. What were some of the factors that helped John F. Kennedy win the presidency?
1960	U-2 incident Alignment of Cuba with the Soviet Union U.S. presidential election →		
1961	Bay of Pigs →		
	Berlin crisis →		2. What were the results of the Bay of Pigs invasion?
			3. How was the Berlin crisis resolved?
1962	Cuban missile crisis →		4. What were the effects of the Cuban missile crisis?
1963	Installation of hot line →		5. Why was the hot line installed?
	Negotiation of Limited Test Ban Treaty →		6. What would the Limited Test Ban Treaty eventually do?

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B. On the back of this paper, briefly explain Kennedy's policy of **flexible response**.

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SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Predicting Effects*

When Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy faced each other in history's first televised debate, the world of politics changed forever. As journalist Russell Baker wrote at the time, "That night, image replaced the printed word as the natural language of politics." Use the table and questions on this page to predict the impact of television on campaigns of the future. (See Skillbuilder Handbook, p. R20.)

Years	Yearly Average
1989–90	6 hours, 55 minutes
1990–91	6 hours, 56 minutes
1991–92	7 hours, 4 minutes
1992–93	7 hours, 17 minutes
1993–94	7 hours, 21 minutes

Source: 1996 Information Please Almanac

1. A trend is a general pattern of change over time. What overall trend characterized television viewing time during the early 1990s?

2. Based on this trend, what predictions would you make about television viewing time in the late 1990s?

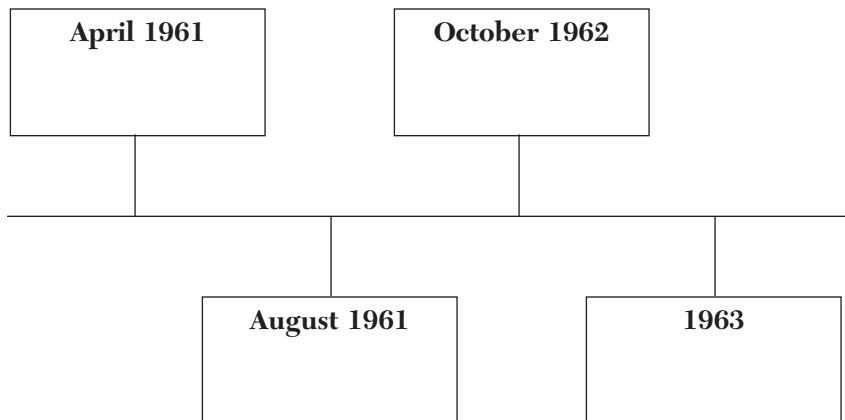
3. Suppose you were a political candidate. How might predictions about television viewing time influence your decisions about campaign spending?

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RETEACHING ACTIVITY *Kennedy and the Cold War*

Sequencing

A. Identify key events of the Cold War associated with each date and explain their significance.



Completion

B. Select the term or name that best completes the sentence.

Robert Kennedy
Dean Rusk
Green Berets

Bessie Smith
Richard Nixon
defense spending

Robert McNamara
Rough Riders
Dwight Eisenhower

1. John Kennedy defeated _____ to become president in 1960.
2. Kennedy appointed _____ as the nation's attorney general.
3. As president, Kennedy increased _____ in order to build up the nation's conventional forces.
4. As part of this flexible response strategy, Kennedy created an elite branch of the army, known popularly as the _____.

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Section 1

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: PLACE

Divided Germany and the Berlin Wall

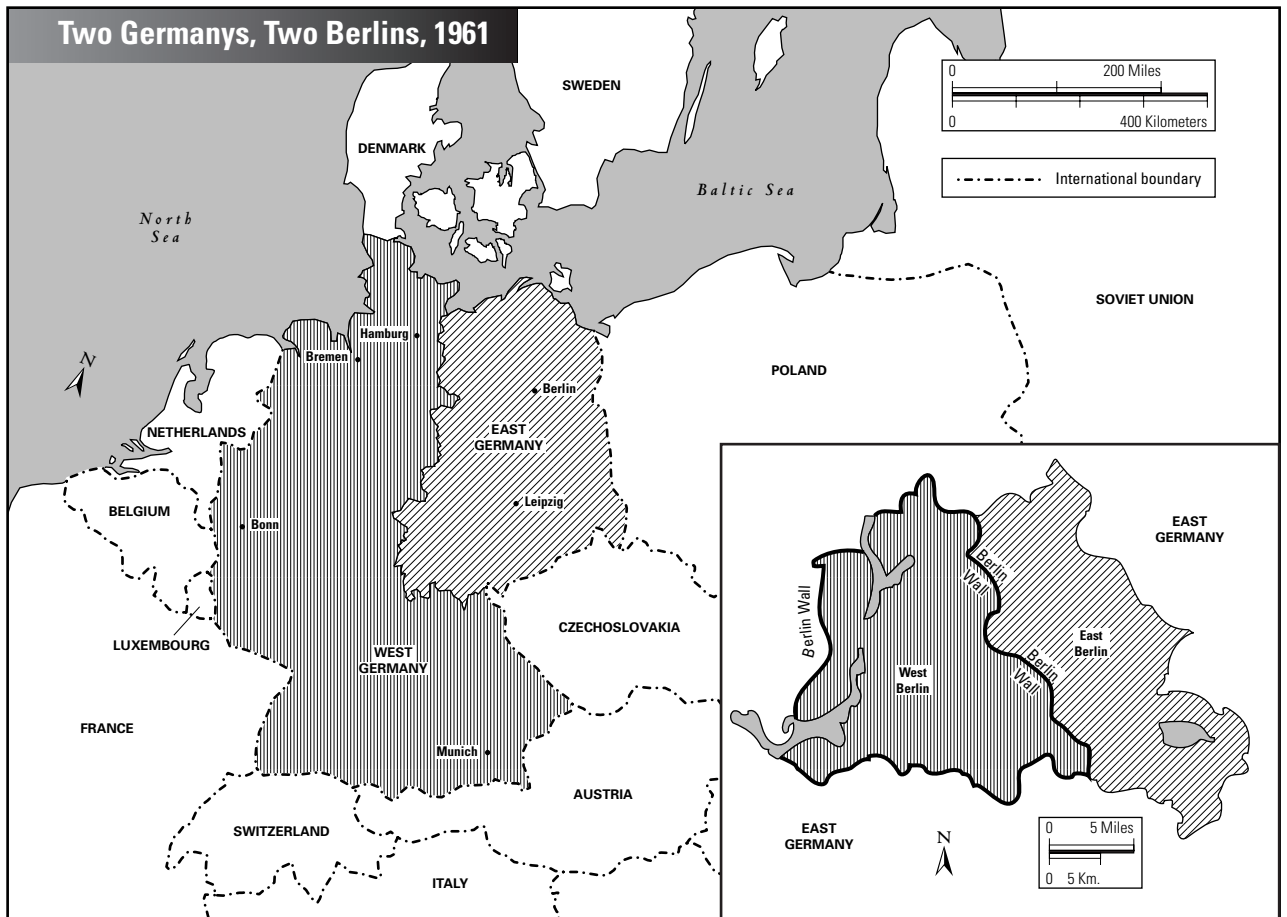
Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the maps carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

After winning World War II, the Allies divided Germany into four separately administered zones. The Soviet Union controlled the eastern part of the country, while the United States, Great Britain, and France controlled the western part, which was soon united into one political division.

The same divisions existed within the former German capital of Berlin, and the city became a frequent source of U.S.-Soviet tension in the post-war era. Between 1949 and 1961, about 2.7 million East Germans fled to freedom in West Germany. Hundreds of thousands of them escaped simply by making their way into relatively open West Berlin and then flying to West Germany. In the summer

of 1961, about 1,500 East Germans a day were fleeing into West Berlin. As a result, a wall 13 feet high and about 100 miles long was built around West Berlin that fall. The Hungarian composer György Ligeti described the walled-in region as “a surrealistic cage in which those inside are free.”

The Berlin Wall created an emotional crisis for the city’s residents. The wall cut across 62 city streets and 131 outlying roads. Relatives and friends were separated. Those living in East Berlin and working in West Berlin lost their jobs. During the wall’s 28 years of existence, about 80 people were killed trying to climb over it and get inside.



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Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. Which part of Germany was controlled by the United States, Great Britain, and France after World War II? _____

2. Who controlled the larger part of postwar Germany—the Soviet Union or the three Western powers? _____

3. In which part of Germany was Berlin located? _____

4. Use a ruler and the scale on the main map to determine approximately how far Berlin lay from the closest point in West Germany. _____

In what way do you think Berlin's location was a problem for the Western powers?

5. Which government—West Germany's or East Germany's—do you think erected the Berlin Wall? _____

Why was the wall built? _____

6. Before 1961, what might have been the best way for someone living in Leipzig to escape to Munich? _____

7. Explain the irony—the opposite of what might be expected—in György Ligeti's characterization of West Berlin. _____

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PRIMARY SOURCE

John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address

On January 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy was sworn in as the 35th president of the United States. As you read Kennedy's inaugural address, think about the challenge that he issues to his fellow Americans.

We observe today not a victory of party but a celebration of freedom—symbolizing an end as well as a beginning—signifying renewal as well as change. For I have sworn before you and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forebears prescribed nearly a century and three-quarters ago.

The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe—the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage—and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

This much we pledge—and more.

To those old allies whose cultural and spiritual origins we share, we pledge the loyalty of faithful friends. United, there is little we cannot do in a host of cooperative ventures. Divided, there is little we can do—for we dare not meet a powerful challenge at odds and split asunder.

To those new states whom we welcome to the ranks of the free, we pledge our word that one form of colonial control shall not have passed away merely to be replaced by a far more iron tyranny. We shall not always expect to find them supporting our view. But we shall always hope to find them

strongly supporting their own freedom—and to remember that, in the past, those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside.

To those people in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required—not because the Communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.

To our sister republics south of our border, we offer a special pledge—to convert our good words into good deeds—in a new alliance for progress—to assist free men and free governments in casting off the chains of poverty. But this peaceful revolution of hope cannot become the prey of hostile powers. Let all our neighbors know that we shall join with them to oppose aggression or subversion anywhere in the Americas. And let every other power know that this hemisphere intends to remain the master of its own house.

To that world assembly of sovereign states, the United Nations, our last best hope in an age where the instruments of war have far outpaced the instruments of peace, we renew our pledge of support—to prevent it from becoming merely a forum for invective—to strengthen its shield of the new and the weak—and to enlarge the area in which its writ may run.

Finally, to those nations who would make themselves our adversary, we offer not a pledge but a request—that both sides begin anew the quest for peace before the dark powers of destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity in planned or accidental self-destruction. We dare not tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed.

But neither can two great and powerful groups of nations take comfort from our present course—

both sides overburdened by the cost of modern weapons, both rightly alarmed by the steady spread of the deadly atom, yet both racing to alter that uncertain balance of terror that stays the hand of mankind's final war.

So let us begin anew—remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.

Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us.

Let both sides, for the first time, formulate serious and precise proposals for the inspection and control of arms—and bring the absolute power to destroy other nations under the absolute control of all nations.

Let both sides seek to invoke the wonders of science instead of its terrors. Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease, tap the ocean depths, and encourage the arts and commerce.

Let both sides unite to heed in all corners of the earth the command of Isaiah—to “undo the heavy burdens . . . [and] let the oppressed go free.”

And if a beachhead of cooperation may push back the jungle of suspicion, let both sides join in creating a new endeavor, not a new balance of power but a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved.

All this will not be finished in the first 100 days. Nor will it be finished in the first 1,000 days, nor in the life of this administration, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin.

In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe.

Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need—not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation”—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself.

Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans—ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world—ask not what America will do for you but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

from *Department of State Bulletin*, February 6, 1961.

Activity Options

1. Kennedy inspired the nation with his youth, his charisma, and his energy. With a small group of classmates, select several passages from this speech that you think Americans found particularly inspiring or meaningful at the time. Then read these passages aloud to the rest of the class.
2. President Kennedy challenged Americans to ask themselves what they can do for their country. Ask yourself the same question—what can you do to make your country stronger, safer, and more just? With a group of classmates, brainstorm ideas and draw up a plan for putting one idea into action.

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Section 1

PRIMARY SOURCE **Political Cartoon**

Herbert Block drew this political cartoon shortly after the Cuban missile crisis, the most serious U.S.-Soviet confrontation. Notice that, unlike many American politicians and journalists who were severely critical of the Soviet leader at the time, Block depicts Nikita Khrushchev as an equal of President Kennedy in struggling to contain nuclear war.



A 1962 Herblock Cartoon, copyright by The Herb Block Foundation.

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Discussion Questions

1. What message does this cartoon send to the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union?
2. Considering the climate of the Cold War in 1962, do you think the spirit of this cartoon is overly optimistic? Why or why not?