

Johnson's Great Society Programs

Tax cuts

- Johnson agreed with Kennedy that a budget deficit could be used to help to improve the economy.
- Conservatives opposed the tax cut bill because they feared a budget deficit, and favored cutting government spending instead.
- The two groups made an agreement, and when the tax cuts went into effect the result was outstanding.
- The Results
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War on Poverty

- Johnson's past influenced him into press for antipoverty programs. He declared war on poverty.
- The Economic Opportunity Act passed in the summer of 1964. It combated causes of poverty like illiteracy and unemployment.
- The act gave the poor a voice.
- It provided \$950 million for ten separate projects in areas such as education, and work-training.
 - Head Start
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 - VISTA
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 - Elementary and Secondary Education Act 1965
 - Provided funding for schools based on the income of the students.
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- **Aid to Healthcare**
 - Johnson focused his attention on the rising costs of healthcare.

- He wanted to finish what Harry Truman had started.
- Medicare
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- Medicaid
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- These two healthcare programs were the most important pieces of social welfare legislation since the passage of the Social Security Act.
- They provided evidence of the government's commitment to helping those in need.

- **Immigration Reform**

- The Great Society repealed the old and outdated immigration laws that had been in place since the 1920s.
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- Immigration Act of 1965
 - It replaced varying quotas with a limit of 20,000 immigrants per year from any one country outside the Western Hemisphere.
 - It set overall limits to 170,000 from the Eastern Hemisphere and 120,000 from the Western Hemisphere.
 - Family members of U.S. citizens and political refugees were exempt.