

The Great Society

What is the proper role of government in shaping American society?

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

Great Society	Immigration Act of
War on Poverty	1965
Economic Opportunity Act	<i>Silent Spring</i>
Medicare	Warren Court
Medicaid	Miranda rights

PREVIEW

Think of your day since you woke up this morning. How has government influenced your life? For example, how did you get to school? If you walked or rode a bike, you came on streets or sidewalks maintained by the government. If you rode a school bus, it is likely that it is paid for by the government. If you rode in a car, federal guidelines specify safety features and environmental specifications for cars.

1. Brainstorm and list in your notebook all the ways the government has affected your life since you woke up this morning.
2. Some people argue that government does too much and intervenes in too many areas of our lives. Others believe that government should do more to solve our nation's problems. What do you think?

READING NOTES

Section 2

Respond to the following questions in your notebook:

1. What was Lyndon Johnson's prescription for making a better America?
2. Why did conservative Barry Goldwater disagree with Johnson?
3. Both candidates have strong views about the role of government. With which candidate do you most agree? Why?

Section 3

Respond to the following in your notebook:

1. What accounts for Johnson's success at getting legislation passed?
2. In your notebook, copy and complete the table from the following page.
3. Considering all of Johnson's programs, how important was the War on Poverty to him? Explain.
4. What are the chief criticisms of Johnson's programs?

Program or Act	Description of Program
Economic Opportunity Act	
Job Corps	Provided job training for low-income people.
Head Start	
VISTA	
Housing and Urban Development	
Medicare and Medicaid	Provided health care for the elderly and poor.
Elementary and Secondary Education Act	
National Endowments for the Arts and for the Humanities	Provided funding for the arts.
Public Broadcasting Act	
Immigration Act of 1965	
Clean Air Act of 1963	Strengthened programs to prevent and control air pollution.
National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act	

Section 4

Respond to the following in your notebook:

1. What was the Warren Court? Why was it so controversial?
2. Copy and complete the following table.

Case	Decision
<i>Baker v. Carr</i>	
<i>Reynolds v. Sims</i>	
<i>Engel v. Vitale</i>	
<i>Mapp v. Ohio</i>	
<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i>	

PROCESSING

Does government play the proper role in American society today? Consider current government programs that you learned about in this activity or others that you are aware of. Select one program that you think the government should start and one program you think the government should stop. In a paragraph, explain your choices.