

Johnson's Dream

LBJ's vision for the U.S. was rooted in equality. He wanted to create a nation with the highest standard of living in the world and equal access to safe housing, education, and health care. His Great Society programs represented the largest expansion of social services since Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs of the 1930s.

Johnson's pet project was his "War on Poverty," comprised of over 40 bills to improve living and working conditions for America's poorest citizens. During his five-plus years in office, LBJ passed thousands of bills, including:

Civil Rights



Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968

LBJ's first civil rights legislation outlawed most forms of racial segregation. Four years later, another bill provided equal housing opportunities.

Voting Rights Act of 1965

Regulated the administration of elections so voters would not be discriminated against based on race.

Environment



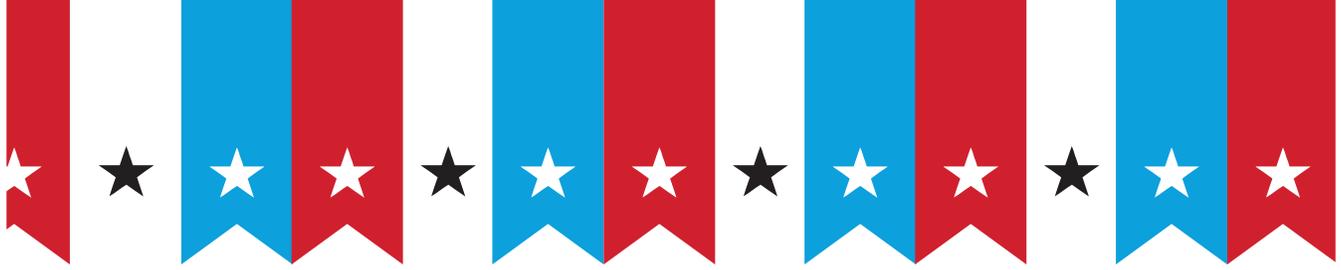
Clean Air Act of 1963

To control air pollution on a national level, the act put regulations in place to protect the public from hazardous airborne contaminants.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Protection Act (1966)

Ultimately protected some species of mammals and birds from extinction.

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Education



Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

Funded primary and secondary schools, enforced equal opportunity, established high standards but forbade a uniform national curriculum.

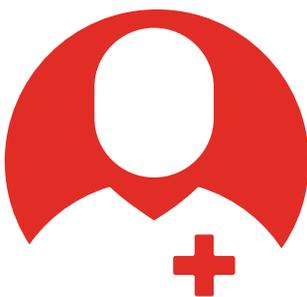
Higher Education Act of 1965

Increased federal money given to universities, created scholarships, gave low-interest student loans, established a National Teachers Corps.

National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965

Established the National Endowments to promote artistic progress and scholarship.

Poverty & Healthcare



Head Start Program (1965)

Provided early childhood education, nutrition, and parent services to low-income children.

Medicare (1965)

Guaranteed health insurance for Americans age 65 and over who have worked and paid into the system, and younger people with disabilities.

Medicaid (1965)

Provided health care for low income families and individuals of all ages.

Courtesy of ZACH Theatre. Adapted from the Seattle Repertory Theatre.