

A large, vertical portrait of Lyndon B. Johnson in a dark suit and striped tie, looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred interior setting.

THE LBJ LEGACY

1963

NOV. 22

Lyndon B. Johnson became the 36th President of the United States after the assassination of John F. Kennedy in Dallas. He was sworn in on Air Force One at 2:38 p.m.

NOV. 25

LBJ called Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and told him that enacting some of the "great progressive policies that Kennedy sought to initiate" was a way to honor his memory.

1964

FEB. 6

Cuban President Fidel Castro cut the water supply to the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo to protest U.S. seizure of Cuban fishing boats. Johnson took steps to give the base a self-sufficient supply of water and labor.

JULY 2

As part of his vision for a Great Society, LBJ signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, guaranteeing freedoms and rights for all Americans.

1965

JAN. 20

Johnson took the Oath of Office after being elected President of the United States. The "Great Society" program became the agenda for Congress:

***Aid to education**

***Protection of civil rights, including the right to vote**

***Urban renewal**

***Medicare**

***Conservation**

***Beautification**

***Control and prevention of crime and delinquency**

***Promotion of the arts**

***Consumer protection**

MAR. 7

Selma, AL protest marches demonstrated the desire of African-American citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote. State troopers and policemen attacked the unarmed marchers with billy clubs and tear gas after they passed over the county line, and the event became known as "Bloody Sunday."

continued

1966

MAR. 7

French President Charles de Gaulle informed LBJ that France would end its participation in the military aspects of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The move threatened the future of NATO and U.S. policy in Europe.

JULY 4

President Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act giving Americans the right to access information from the federal government.

1967

JAN. 27

LBJ signed the Treaty on Outer Space.

JUNE 5-10

The Six Day War was fought in the Middle East between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The "Hot Line" was used for the first time between LBJ and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin.

JUNE 13

LBJ appointed the first African-American, Thurgood Marshall, to the Supreme Court.

JULY 12 & 23

Riots erupted in Newark on July 12 and in Detroit on July 23; LBJ ordered 4,700 federal troops to Detroit.

OCT. 21-22

Protests against the war in Vietnam reached a high point as the "March on the Pentagon" drew over 50,000 protestors.

1968

JAN. 30

Enemy forces began the Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

MAR. 31

LBJ announced he would not run for another term.

APR. 4

Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

MAY

Vietnam Peace Talks began in Paris.

JUNE 6

Senator Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated.

JULY 1

LBJ signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

AUG. 26-29

Riots disrupt the Chicago Democratic National Convention.

OCT. 25

LBJ ordered a halt to all bombing of North Vietnam.

NOV. 5

Richard M. Nixon was elected 37th U.S. President.

1969

JAN. 20

Johnson returned to Texas and the LBJ Ranch following the inauguration of President Nixon.

JULY 16

LBJ had exercised strong leadership in the U.S. space program, and, at Nixon's request, attended the launching of Apollo 11 at Cape Kennedy, carrying astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, and Michael Collins to the moon.

JULY 20

While Michael Collins circled in the *Columbia*, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to land on the moon. The flight represented the fulfillment of the goal, set in 1961 and reaffirmed by LBJ, of reaching the moon in the 1960s.

Courtesy of ZACH Theatre. Excerpts pertinent to *The Great Society* taken from the timeline at: lbjlibrary.org/lyndon-baines-johnson/timeline. Visit the archives for more detailed history.