

Lifelong Learning Academy
The Kennedy's
Ken Brace

Session 2
"Ask Not"

Introduction - The First Family -Vaughn Meader

1960 -1963 JFK's Impact on American Culture and Politics

1. The Election of 1960 - Initial view of JFK
 - Lyndon Johnson- Kennedy a lightweight
 - Eleanor Roosevelt - Kennedy soft on McCarthyism, insensitive to unions, deaf to blacks' needs; and dominated by his father
 - Harry Truman - "it's not the Pope I fear it's the Pop"
 - Joe Kennedy - "Don't buy a single more vote than necessary. I'll be damned if I'm going to pay for a landslide."
 - Impact of television and the televised debate
 - A very narrow victory
2. The Great Inaugural Address
 - " 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."
 - "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, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty."
 - "All this will not be finished in the first hundred 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."
3. Implementation, reaction and unintended consequences.
4. Gil Troy -" Leading from the Center" p.147

- “The legend of John F. Kennedy portrays a young, vigorous leader mobilizing Americans with the poetry of his words, the clarity of his vision, and the decency of his actions.”
- My remembrance - Kennedy: young, athletic, vital, optimistic, confident, bright, heroic, articulate, great family, strong, patriotic, good leader, can-do attitude. Under his leadership America can do anything - save the world, inspire the nation, put a man on the moon!

5. Camelot

- The Jackie Look, Cute kids, Caroline and JFK, Jr.
- Sailing, Football, Extended Family
- A celebrity politician - master of television and image making
- Politics and Hollywood - Frank and the Rat Pack, Marilyn
- Dynasty in the Making - Bobby and Teddy

6. Kennedy's secrets

- Poor health
- Compulsive adulteries
- Shady acquaintances