“The United States after 1945”
Week 2: Not a *Pax Americana*
Today:

Not a *Pax Americana*:

John F. Kennedy and L. B. Johnson
The Best and the Brightest
Making a Cuba Libre
The Great Society
The Greatest Purveyor of Violence
John F. Kennedy, “Jack”
the Kennedys
mysteries

“New Frontier” JFK : Nixon (49,71% : 49,55%)

Superman
martyr
Mission

The Bay of Pigs

17-19 April 1961

Gagarin (12 April 1961), Apollo 11

Berlin (August 1961)

“Ich bin ein Berliner”
The Third World

“Alliance for Progress” (1961)

counter-insurgency
decolonisation

prestige

“true neutralism”
Forced Hand

Freedom Riders

Birmingham (1963)

the Rubicon (19 June 1963)

March on Washington (1963)

Martin Luther King: “I have a dream”
The Missile Crisis

Jupiter missiles (Turkey/Italy)

Cuba and Fidel Castro

22-28 October 1962

turning point

peaceful coexistence
Two mysteries

22 November 1963

official version

…and if Oswald had not shot?

violence

LBJ
Inauguration
(20 January 1961)

“ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country.”
Lyndon B. Johnson

contrast

political animal

F.D. Roosevelt

the New Deal of the rich

successor
The “Great Society” (22 May 1964) poverty, all forms of discrimination

the Civil Rights Act (2 July 1964)

the Economic Opportunity Act (1964)

the Medicare, the Medicaid

crisis of idealism
The Black Power

the Voting Rights Act (1965)

affirmative action (1965)

Watts (1965) (34 dead)

*Black is beautiful*

Black Panthers
Dissent, Counterculture, Antiwar

Betty Friedan, Nat’l Organization for W (NOW)
Miss/Mrs., Ms., egality or identity

New Left, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)

beatniks, hippies

the Red Power
The “dirty war”
domino theory

South Vietnam

Americanization

Gulf of Tonkin (1964)

8 March 1965 (marines)
War without victory

NLF, “Vietcong”

strategic hamlets (1962-1965)

B52, attrition war (1965-1968)

Têt offensive (January 1968)

credibility gap, LBJ, Paris