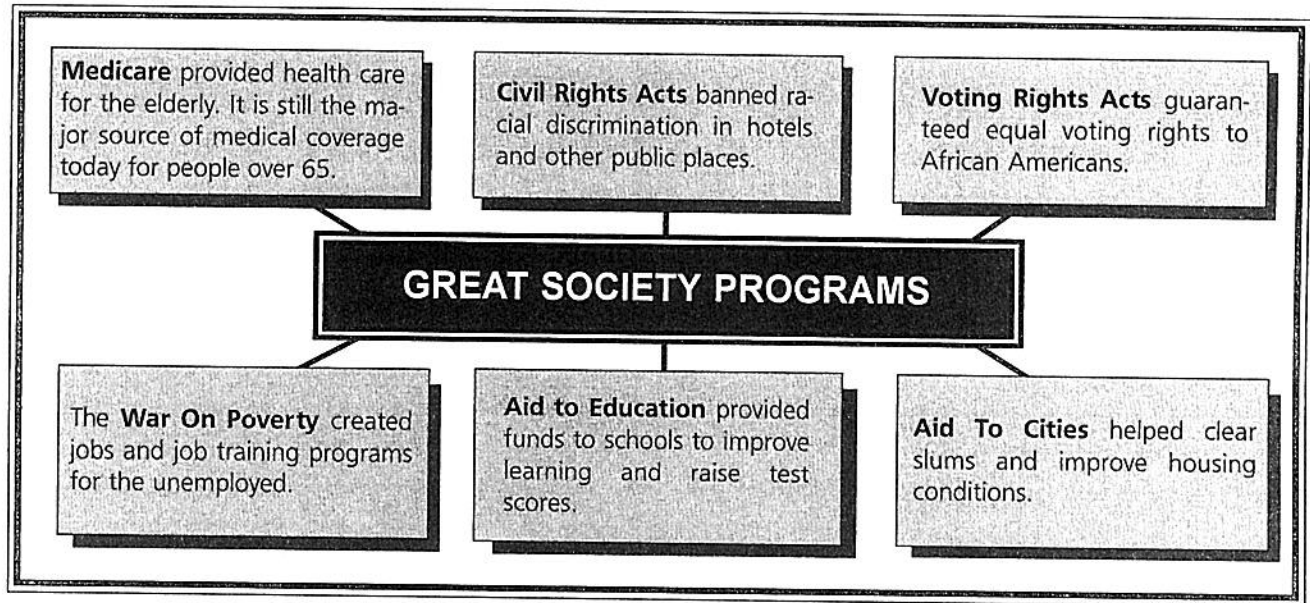


THE JOHNSON PRESIDENCY, 1963-1968

DOMESTIC POLICY

A Democrat from Texas, Johnson had been a follower of F.D.R. as a young Congressman. Soon after becoming President, Johnson proposed a far-ranging program of social legislation. Johnson's aim was to open up opportunities and to improve the quality of life for all Americans. His **Great Society** was the most ambitious program of social reform since Roosevelt's New Deal. Johnson believed that America was so rich and prosperous, it could become the first nation to eliminate poverty within its borders. ♦



Despite massive federal spending, many Americans remained poor. Meanwhile, U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War became increasingly costly, forcing Johnson to cut Great Society programs.

FOREIGN POLICY

The major foreign policy event of the Johnson Administration was the increasing involvement of American troops in the Vietnam war. *(This topic is more fully discussed in the next section.)*

THE YOUTH CULTURE OF THE 1960s

♦

In the 1950s, most young Americans had followed traditional lifestyles and focused on their families and careers. In the 1960s, many young people challenged this tradition. They questioned whether it was important to make a lot of money. They prized individual freedom and having a social conscience. They were shocked that America's leaders seemed not to care about poverty, pollution and other world problems. The **Youth Culture** was especially influenced by rock music. The Beatles, an English rock group, introduced new fashions and long hair for men. The Youth Culture was equally affected by greater sexual freedom and by the availability of drugs like marijuana and LSD. Groups who called themselves **hippies** organized communities based on their new values. In the late 1960s, young people became active in the movement against U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War; they persisted until the U.S. withdrew from the war in 1973.