Unit 9 Glossary (New Frontier)

**Alliance for Progress**- Initiated by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, it was an international development program by joining 22 Latin American countries with the U.S. to strengthen democratic government and promote social and economic reforms in Latin America. The program, which provided loans and aid from the U.S. and the international financial community, built some schools and hospitals, but by the early 1970s it was widely viewed as a failure. Significant land reform was not achieved, population growth outstripped gains in health and welfare, and the U.S. willingness to support military dictators to prevent communism from gaining a foothold sowed distrust and undermined the reforms the Alliance was intended to promote.

**Bay of Pigs**- Began when a CIA-financed and -trained group of Cuban refugees landed in Cuba and attempted to topple the communist government of Fidel Castro. The attack was an utter failure. Fidel Castro had been a concern to U.S. policymakers since he seized power in Cuba with a revolution in January 1959. Castro's attacks on U.S. companies and interests in Cuba, his inflammatory anti-American rhetoric, and Cuba's movement toward a closer relationship with the Soviet Union led U.S. officials to conclude that the Cuban leader was a threat to U.S. interests in the Western Hemisphere. In March 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the CIA to train and arm a force of Cuban exiles for an armed attack on Cuba. President John F. Kennedy inherited this program when he became president in 1961. Though many of his military advisors indicated that an amphibious assault on Cuba by a group of lightly armed exiles had little chance for success, Kennedy gave the go-ahead for the attack. On April 17, 1961, around 1,200 exiles, armed with American weapons and using American landing craft, waded ashore at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. The hope was that the exile force would serve as a rallying point for the Cuban citizenry, who would rise up and overthrow Castro's government. The plan immediately fell apart--the landing force met with unexpectedly rapid counterattacks from Castro's military, the tiny Cuban air force sank most of the exiles' supply ships, the U.S. refrained from providing necessary air support, and the expected uprising never happened. Over 100 of the attackers were killed, and more than 1,100 were captured. President Kennedy tried to redeem himself by publicly accepting blame for the attack and its subsequent failure, but the botched mission left the young president looking vulnerable and indecisive until the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Berlin Wall**- In 1961 the Soviets constructed a barrier to separate East Berlin from West Berlin and East Germany. The Berlin Wall was originally constructed out of barbed wire, but as more people were able to cross it freely the wall was reconstructed using concrete blocks. The Berlin Wall served as a reminder of the Iron Curtain and was eventually torn down in 1989 after years of civil unrest.

**Cuban Missile Crisis**- For 13 days, leaders of the U.S. and the Soviet Union engaged in a tense, political and military standoff in October 1962 over the installation of nuclear-armed Soviet missiles on Cuba, just 90 miles from U.S. shores. In a TV address on October 22, 1962, President John Kennedy notified Americans about the presence of the missiles, explained his decision to enact a naval blockade around Cuba and made it clear the U.S. was prepared to use military force if necessary to neutralize this perceived threat to national security. Following this news, many people feared the world was on the brink of nuclear war. However, disaster was avoided when the U.S. agreed to Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's offer to remove the Cuban missiles in exchange for the U.S. promising not to invade Cuba. Kennedy also secretly agreed to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey.

**Flexible Response**- In 1961, Flexible Response was President John F. Kennedy’s nuclear strategy that intended to supersede President Eisenhower’s previous policy of Massive Retaliation. Flexible Response was implemented to develop several options, other than the nuclear option, for quickly dealing with enemy aggression.

**Medicare/Medicaid**- Medicare is for individuals over the age of 65 and Medicare is divided into two parts. The first part of the coverage encompasses in-patient hospital, skilled nursing facility, home health and hospice care. The second part of coverage encompasses almost all the necessary medical services (doctors' services, laboratory and x-ray services, wheelchairs, etc). Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that helps low-income individuals or families pay for the costs associated with long-term medical and custodial care, provided they qualify. Although largely funded by the federal government, Medicaid is run by the state where coverage may vary.

**NASA**- National Aeronautics and Space Administration; an independent U.S. government agency established in 1958 for research and development of vehicles and activities for aeronautics and space exploration. Its goals include improving human understanding of the universe, the solar system, and Earth and establishing a permanent human presence in space. NASA, was created largely in response to the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik in 1957. Its organization was well under way in 1961, when President John F. Kennedy proposed that the U.S. put a man on the Moon by the end of the 1960s.

**New Frontier**- President John F. Kennedy’s legislative program, encompassing such areas as civil rights, the economy, and foreign relations. The phrase New Frontier was first used by John F. Kennedy during his speech where he accepted his nomination as the Democratic Party’s candidate for President. In 1960 he said the U.S. was on “the edge of a new frontier” and asked Americans to join together for new achievements in space, science, education, and social conditions.

**Peace Corps**- U.S. government agency of volunteers, formed in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. Its purpose is to assist other countries in their development efforts by providing skilled workers in the fields of education, agriculture, health, trade, technology, and community development. Volunteers are expected to serve for two years as good neighbors in the host country, to speak its language, and to live on a level comparable to that of their local counterparts. By its 50th anniversary in 2011, more than 200,000 Peace Corps volunteers had served in 139 countries.