

**CHAPTER 15**  
**SECTION 2**  
**Section Summary**  
**KENNEDY'S NEW FRONTIER**

**READING CHECK**

What was the job of the Warren Commission?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *advocated* mean in the underlined sentence? The word *promoted* is a synonym of *advocated*. Use this synonym to help you figure out the meaning of *advocated*.

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**READING SKILL**

**Identify Main Ideas** What was deficit spending and why did Kennedy support it?

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Early in his presidency, Kennedy was mostly concerned with foreign affairs. Later, he was more concerned about problems at home. Kennedy promised to tackle these problems in a program called the “**New Frontier**.”

Kennedy was troubled by the high levels of poverty in America. He achieved an increase in the minimum wage and improvements in the welfare system. He also tried to make sure that women were paid equal wages for “equal work.” The **Equal Pay Act** required this.

The economy was weak and unemployment was high when Kennedy took office. Kennedy accepted the “new economics” theory of John Maynard Keynes that advocated **deficit spending to stimulate the economy**. Deficit spending is the government practice of borrowing money in order to spend more than it receives from taxes.

At first, Kennedy moved slowly on civil rights. Over time, however, Kennedy realized that African Americans needed the federal government to protect their rights. He introduced a bill that would protect civil rights and aid school desegregation.

Perhaps the most famous part of the New Frontier was the active space program. Americans were afraid of falling behind the Soviets in the “**space race**.” Kennedy called for the government to land a man on the moon in less than 10 years. The goal was met in 1969.

Kennedy’s term as president was ended by his assassination. Lee Harvey Oswald shot Kennedy while he was riding in a car in Dallas, Texas. Not everyone thought that Oswald acted alone. However, the **Warren Commission** investigated the shooting. It declared that Oswald acted alone. The assassination deeply saddened Americans across the nation. It seemed as if part of America’s innocence had died with Kennedy.

**Review Questions**

1. Why did Kennedy want a change in the minimum wage?

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2. What was Kennedy’s goal for the space program?

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