JFK Recap

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| Statement  | T/F | Correction if false  |
| JFK defeated Nixon by a **landslide** in the 1960 election | F | Marginal  |
| **Supportive** Republicans and **Liberal** Southern Democrats ensured legislation was passed.  | F | Reluctant, Conservative  |
| Photogenic, charismatic and idealistic  | T |  |
| The New Frontier called for Americans to meet new challenges, a better version of the American Dream based on public interest rather than private comfort.  | T |  |
| Domestic policies (The New Frontier) were successful.  | F |  |
| Fascination with his personality have distorted judgements on his performance as a president. | T |  |
| The Cuban missile crisis demonstrated the increased role of the president in foreign policy.  | T | Hotline |
| JFK had little to prove in foreign affairs, as he was seen as relatively experienced, mature, decisive and highly academic.  | F | Indecisive  |
| Responsible for the escalation of US involvement in Vietnam | T |  |
| All of JFK’s advisers had served during WWII (Dean Rusk, McNamara, Maxwell-Taylor, McBundy, Rostow) had same WWII plan; ambitious dictatorships must be stopped *before* they presented a serious danger to the world. | T |  |
| JFK left Robert McNamara (Secretary of Defence, and previously President of Ford Motor Company) to deal with Vietnam, whose solutions usually increased military involvement. He measured the success of his campaigns through daily data and statistics (number of Viet Cong killed, weapons etc) rather than the sentiment of the South Vietnamese people.  | T |  |
| Kennedy at first refused ground troops when first requested by Rostow and Maxwell-Taylor, arguing for ‘limited war’ (guerrilla warfare).  | T |  |
| Kennedy said “We don’t have a prayer of staying in Vietnam…. These people hate us”. | T |  |
| The first president to use Agent Yellow and Napalm in South Vietnam. | F | JFK Agent Orange  |
| Increased the number of US advisers in Vietnam from 1000 in 1960 to 10,000 by his death in 1963.  | F | 17000 |
| JFK was more concerned with national security than re-election.  | F |  |
| Established the Peace Corps | T |  |