Chapter 20 Section 3 The Great Society Answers Guided Reading

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In this section, you will learn about the major reforms of the Great Society, including civil rights, poverty programs, and urban renewal. You will also read about the political environment of the 1960s and the role of the media in shaping public opinion.

Section 1: The Poverty Program

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson launched the War on Poverty, which aimed to reduce income inequality and improve the quality of life for Americans living in poverty. This program included several initiatives, such as the Economic Opportunity Act and the Job Corps. The purpose of these initiatives was to provide opportunities for people to improve their lives and escape poverty.

Section 2: Civil Rights

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a landmark piece of legislation that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. This law was a major victory for the civil rights movement and helped to advance the cause of equality and justice for all Americans.

Section 3: Urban Renewal

Urban renewal was a policy of the Great Society aimed at revitalizing inner-city neighborhoods. The idea was to clear blighted areas and build new housing and public facilities. However, this policy often led to the displacement of low-income residents and the perpetuation of inequality.

Section 4: Vietnam War

The Vietnam War was a major conflict of the 1960s that had a significant impact on American society. The war sparked anti-war protests and divisions within the country. It also led to a shift in foreign policy and the decline of American influence in Southeast Asia.

Section 5: The Media

The media played a significant role in shaping public opinion during the 1960s. The civil rights movement, the counterculture, and the war in Vietnam were all topics that received a lot of attention in the media.

Section 6: The Legacy of the Great Society

The Great Society left a lasting legacy on American society. The civil rights movement, anti-war protests, and the expansion of social welfare programs were all outcomes of the policies of the Great Society.

Review Questions

1. What were the major reforms of the Great Society?
2. How did the War on Poverty help to reduce income inequality?
3. What was the purpose of the Economic Opportunity Act?
4. What was the significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
5. How did urban renewal contribute to inequality?
6. What was the Vietnam War and how did it affect American society?
7. How did the media shape public opinion during the 1960s?
8. What was the lasting legacy of the Great Society?