



THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM
AT DEALEY PLAZA

LYNDON B. JOHNSON AND THE GREAT SOCIETY

Books | Articles | Collections | Oral Histories | YouTube | Websites | Podcasts
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Resource guides collate materials about subject areas from both the Museum's library and permanent collections to aid students and researchers in resource discovery. The guides are created and maintained by the Museum's librarian/archivist and are carefully selected to help users, unfamiliar with the collections, begin finding information about topics such as Dealey Plaza Eyewitnesses, Conspiracy Theories, the 1960 Presidential Election, Lee Harvey Oswald and Cuba to name a few. The guides are not comprehensive and researchers are encouraged to email readingroom@jfk.org for additional research assistance.

The following guide focuses on President Lyndon B. Johnson and his legislative initiative known as the Great Society, an ambitious plan for progressing the socio-economic well-being of American citizens. Inspired by President Kennedy's policies, the Great Society enacted a series of domestic programs in education, the environment, civil rights, labor, the arts and health, all aimed toward eradicating poverty from American society.

BOOKS

- Dallek, Robert. *Flawed Giant: Lyndon Johnson and His Times 1961-73*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Johnson, Lyndon B. *The Vantage Point: Perspective of the Presidency 1963-1969*. New York: Rinehart and Winston, 1971.
- Schenkkan, Robert. *All the Way*. New York: Grove Press, 2014.
- Schenkkan, Robert. *The Great Society*. New York: Grove Press, 2017.
- Woods, Randall Bennett. *Prisoners of Hope: Lyndon B. Johnson, the Great Society, and the Limits of Liberalism*. New York: Basic Books, 2016.
- Zelizer, Julian E. *The Fierce Urgency of Now: Lyndon Johnson, Congress, and the Battle for the Great Society*. New York: Penguin Press, 2015.

ARTICLES

- "An End—And a Beginning." *Newsweek*, December 9, 1963, pp. 19-25.
- Hinton, Elizabeth. "A War within Our Own Boundaries: Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and the Rise of the Carceral State." *American History*, vol. 102, no. 1, 2015, pp. 100-112.
- Pierson, James. "The Not-So-Great Society: The Failure and Success of Lyndon B. Johnson." *The Weekly Standard*, vol. 21, no. 31, 2016, pp. 30-33.
- Sidey, Hugh. "Trouble is What Presidents Are For." *LIFE*, October 7, 1966, p. 50B.
- Stolley, Richard. "Will Congress Nail Together the Great Society—Maybe?" *LIFE*, January 15, 1965, pp. 36-37.

COLLECTIONS

The Museum's collection provides audio, visual, documentary resources and artifacts; visit our [online collections database](#) for more information. For research assistance, please contact the Reading Room at readingroom@jfk.org or 214.389.3070.

2016.037.0028 – Andy Reisberg Collection

The Great Society Comic Book (1966) published by the Parallax Comic Book Company is a political satire and humor comic. Follow the adventures of Super LBJ as he and the G.R.E.A.T. society fight to keep the world safe from super-villains. 30 pages.

ORAL HISTORIES

The Sixth Floor Museum Oral History Project is an ongoing collection of audio-visual interviews that convey personal insights into the life, death and legacy of President Kennedy, the culture of the 1960s and the history of Dallas. To date, more than 1,700 oral histories have been recorded and archived for preservation in the Museum's permanent collection.

The individuals listed below inform the researcher about President Lyndon B. Johnson's election campaigns, administration and legacy:

Joe Carter

A United Press International (UPI) reporter at the Dallas bureau, Carter was aboard a motorcade press bus and heard shots fired in Dealey Plaza. He covered the aftermath at Parkland Memorial Hospital and Dallas Love Field. Years later, he became a speechwriter for President Lyndon Johnson. Recorded November 18, 2013.

George F. Dillman

Employed by longtime Lyndon Johnson speechwriter Horace Busby, Dillman was an LBJ campaign worker for the 1960 and 1964 presidential elections. On the day of the assassination, Dillman attended the Trade Mart luncheon and later went to Parkland Memorial Hospital where he helped set up Gov. Connally's temporary office. Recorded June 7, 2012.

Linda Ferguson

A 14-year-old schoolgirl in 1963, Ferguson was standing with friends on Lemmon Avenue to watch the motorcade. In 1964, she campaigned for the re-election of President Lyndon Johnson. Recorded April 26, 2002.

Ryan Hibbard

Hibbard is the grandson of the late Paul J. Glynn, who served as aide and personal valet to Lyndon Johnson from 1962 to 1968. Glynn was aboard the Official Party bus at the end of the Dallas motorcade and witnessed the swearing-in aboard Air Force One. Recorded October 31, 2017.

Dee J. Kelly

A longtime Fort Worth community leader, Kelly met John F. Kennedy in 1960 and attended his speech at the Hotel Texas on November 22, 1963. In the following years Kelly maintained close ties to the Lyndon Johnson and John Connally families. Recorded February 8, 2012.

Walter R. Mears

A Pulitzer Prize-winning political reporter for the Associated Press for more than forty years, Mears covered every presidential election from 1960 to 2000. He also covered the Cuban missile crisis from the Pentagon and, following the assassination, was the first AP reporter to cover President Lyndon Johnson. Mears wrote the books *Deadlines Past* (2003) and *The Kennedy Brothers* (2009). Recorded August 27, 2010, and September 13 and 14, 2013.

Andrea Mueller

Mueller's late father Harold Teague was Lyndon Johnson's personal pilot in the early 1960s, which allowed Mueller to spend time with the Johnson and Connally families. As an adult working at the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau in the 1970s, she dealt with persistent tourist interest in the Dealey Plaza area. Recorded May 30, 2012.

William O. Stinson

Texas Gov. John Connally's administrative aide, Stinson was with Connally, who was wounded in the shooting, at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Stinson also worked with Lyndon Johnson for a lengthy period. Recorded January 27, 1993.

YOUTUBE

JFK and LBJ: The Evolution of Presidential Legacies – The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

Southern Methodist University political scientist Dennis Simon moderates a discussion between Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library Director Mark Updegrove, George W. Bush Presidential Library Director Alan Lowe and the University of Virginia's Miller Center political scientist Sidney Milkis about the changing nature of presidential legacies.

The Great Society Explained – Hip Hughes

A basic overview of Lyndon B. Johnson's legislative initiative known as the Great Society, implemented to solve social and economic problems by expanding the role, size and involvement of the federal government.

The Great Society – Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum

Through personal stories, the video provides a visual recording of some of the highlights of the Great Society and examines how these programs changed the landscape of this country during a pivotal moment in American history.

Rethinking the War on Poverty – Paul Ryan, TEDxPennsylvaniaAvenue

A criticism of the war on poverty and government's role and responsibility for the socio-economic well-being of its citizens. How would Johnson have debated the points made in this video?

WEBSITES

The American Presidency Project – President Lyndon B. Johnson

The leading source for full-text, searchable presidential documents, including speeches, remarks, statements, party platforms and administration policy. presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php

PODCASTS

Decoded DC – Lesson from LBJ and the Great Society

Julian Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton University and the author of *The Fierce Urgency of Now: Lyndon Johnson, Congress, and the Battle for the Great Society* (Penguin Press, 2015), discusses the many forces that came together fifty years ago to shape Medicare and Medicaid, the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, the War on Poverty and more—the legislation that President Johnson labeled the Great Society.

Research Frontiers – LBJ and the Great Society

Randall Woods, professor of history, discusses President Lyndon Johnson's sweeping domestic agenda of the 1960s that became known as the Great Society. Woods is the author of *Prisoners of Hope*, a new book about LBJ and the Great Society.