**Cold War Vocabulary #2**

**1.) Berlin Wall-** Guarded concrete barrier that divided the city of Berlin from East (communist) to West (anti-communist) from 1961 to 1989; symbolized physically the “Iron Curtain”

**2.) Bay of Pigs Invasion-** Failed military invasion of Cuba sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) intended to overthrow the increasingly communist government of Fidel Castro in 1961

**3.) Cuban Missile Crisis-** Confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union concerning Soviet ballistic missile deployment in Cuba; often considered the closest the Cold War came to a full-scale nuclear war

**4.) New Frontier-** Name given to the Kennedy administration’s domestic and foreign policies aimed at focusing on science and space technology, containing communism during the Cold War, supporting civil rights, and alleviating poverty

**5.) Peace Corps-** Signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, U.S. volunteer program where American citizens provide social and economic aid to other developing countries

**6.) Great Society-** President Lyndon B. Johnson’s domestic programs which aimed at eliminating poverty and racial injustice

**7.) Medicare-** Federal program that provides health insurance for Americans aged 65 and older who have worked and paid into the system through the payroll tax

**8.) Medicaid-** Federal and state insurance program that helps with medical costs for people who have limited income

**9.) Warren Court-** Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren which expanded civil rights/due process and federal power.

**10.) Viet Cong-** Communist political organization in South Vietnam who fought against the U.S. and South Vietnamese governments during the Vietnam War

**11.) Gulf of Tonkin Resolution-** Passed by Congress in 1964, gave President Lyndon B. Johnson the power to use conventional military force in Southeast Asia without a formal declaration of war by Congress

**12.) Tet Offensive-** One of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War in which the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese army led a surprise attack against South Vietnam during the Tet holiday, the Vietnamese New Year

**13.) Vietnamization-** Policy of President Richard Nixon to end U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War by equipping/training South Vietnamese forces while steadily reducing the number of U.S. combat troops

**14.) Fall of Saigon-** Capture of the capital of South Vietnam in 1975 by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces; ended the Vietnam War and started reunification of Vietnam under a communist regime

**15.) Ho Chi Minh Trail-** System that ran from North to South Vietnam through the countries of Laos and Cambodia which provided manpower and material to support the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese army

**16.) War of Attrition-** Military strategy that attempts to win a war by wearing down the enemy

**17.) Napalm-** Flammable mixture of a gelling agent and gasoline used extensively in U.S. airstrikes on Vietnam

**18.) Guerrilla Warfare-** Irregular fighting in which a small group of combatants use military tactics such as ambushes, sabotage, raids, hit-and-run attacks, and mobility to fight a larger traditional military

**19.) My Lai Massacre-** Mass murder of between 347 to 504 unarmed Vietnamese civilians (men, women, children, and infants) in South Vietnam by U.S. Army soldiers, some bodies were raped and mutilated

**20.) War Powers Resolution-** A federal law intended to check the President’s power to commit the U.S. to an armed conflict without the consent of Congress; requires the President to notify Congress 48 hours of committing armed forces to military action and forbids armed forces from remaining for more than 60 days