

JFK REAPPRAISED

Coordinator: Michael D. Shapiro

It has been 53 years since Camelot, the thousand days of John F. Kennedy's presidency. Since then, millions of words have been published to describe the young president who inspired the generation now entering retirement, pointed the nation toward the moon, helped save us from a possible nuclear holocaust and started the Peace Corps. This study group explores what his brief time in office accomplished from the perspective of the 21st century. Robert Dallek, author of our principal text, was the keynote speaker for the IRP's 50th anniversary celebration. This study group is a repeat of one previously given.

Readings and other Required Materials:

Dallek, Robert, *An Unfinished Life, John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963*, Back Bay Books, 2004, ISBN 978-0316907927, \$12.58

Matthews, Chris, *Jack Kennedy, Elusive Hero*, Simon & Schuster, 2011, ISBN 979-1451635089, \$10.90

Michael D. Shapiro has found a niche as an explorer of presidential biographies and has coordinated study groups on LBJ, Harry Truman and JFK.

******* Syllabus *******

- Week 1 Chapters 1-2
 Introductory remarks on historical analysis, JFK's earlier years under the influence of father Joe
- Week 2 Chapters 3-4
 Health problems, PT 109 and successful run for Congress
- Week 3 Chapter 5
 Congressional Years
- Week 4 Chapter 6
 Senatorial years and McCarthy vote
- Week 5 Chapter 7-8
 Winning the nomination and the election
- Week 6 Chapters 9-10
 Learning the Presidency and the Bay of Pigs
- Week 7 Chapters 11-12

Foreign policy dilemmas; Krushchev, Berlin, Southeast Asia
Week 8 Chapter 13
The Vietnam quagmire
Week 9 Chapters 14-15
Womanizing; Civil Rights explosion
Week 10 Chapter 16
Cuban missile crisis
Week 11 Chapters 17-18
Domestic and foreign legacies
Week 12 Chapter 19
Retrospective