

- **GI Bill (1944)**- Extended educational and housing opportunities to war veterans. Provided federal funds for veterans to attend college.
- U.S. government ordered **rationing** during WWII to **conserve raw materials for the war effort**.
- To help pay for WWII, the U.S. government relied heavily on the sale of **war bonds** (lends from citizens to help fund the war. Also contributed to the national debt).
- WWII impacted the U.S. economically by **accelerating its recovery from the Great Depression**.
- **Manhattan Project**- U.S. project to develop an **atomic bomb**.

**Korematsu v. U.S.**- The U.S. government considered Japanese Americans a threat to national security during WWII, causing them to place Japanese Americans in confinement in internment camps.

- Supreme Court said that the removal of Japanese Americans from their homes was constitutional because this type of action was necessary during a national emergency.
- Supreme Court ruled that wartime conditions justified **limitations** being placed **on civil liberties**.
- Many Japanese lost their homes and businesses.

### **President Harry Truman**

- **Fair Deal**- continue reforms begun during FDR's presidency
- Decided to drop atomic bombs on Japan (Hiroshima & Nagasaki) because the bombs' destructive power might end the war quickly.
- Decided to use atomic weapons against Japan in order to end the war while limiting the loss of American lives.
- Truman believed that an invasion of Japan would result in excessive casualties.
- Advanced the cause of civil rights for African Americans by ordering the **desegregation of the Armed Forces** (Black and White troops fight together and are no longer separated).
- **Truman Doctrine**- Originally designed to contain communism by giving aid to Greece and Turkey (later expanded by Eisenhower).
- Relieved General Douglas MacArthur of his command in the Korean conflict because General MacArthur challenged the concept of civilian control over the military.
- Required loyalty checks due to the fear of communist influence in government.

### **End of World War II/ Impact of World War II**

- **Nuremberg Trials**- Held to make German leaders accountable for the Holocaust (mass genocide against Jews and other minorities). Established the principle that leaders of a nation may be held accountable (put on trial) for crimes against humanity/ war crimes.
- **United Nations**- Replaced the League of Nations in order to prevent international disputes from escalating into major wars. Unlike the League of Nations, the U.S. joined the United Nations because it recognized that efforts to achieve world peace required U.S. involvement.
- **Marshall Plan** (1948-1952)- U.S. provided economic aid in order to help Europe's economic recovery after WWII.
- U.S. foreign policy changed following WWII as the U.S. became more involved in world affairs.
- **Eleanor Roosevelt**- Helped create the **United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.
- In the decade after WWII, rapid growth in personal income contributed to the expansion of the middle class.

### 1950's/ Post World War II Era

- 1950's were marked by the beginnings of the space race, suburbanization, and a continuing baby boom.
- **Baby Boom**- Population burst caused by the delay in marriages during WWII (soldiers came home from the war, got married and had lots of kids, causing a population burst).
- Immediately after WWII, white, middle-class Americans migrated from the cities to the suburbs.
- After WWII, the U.S. was better able than its allies to adjust its economy from wartime to peacetime because the U.S. had suffered no widespread wartime destruction (the war was not fought on U.S. soil, so U.S. cities and factories were not destroyed, unlike Europe and Japan).
- **Interstate Highway Act 1956**- Increased suburban growth.
- Population increases that resulted from the baby boom of the 1950's & 60's contributed to a rise in demand for consumer goods.
- The post-WWII baby boom affected American society between 1945-1960 by increasing the need for educational resources.

**Cold War(1946-1989)**-An era of political tension and military rivalry between the U.S. and Soviet Union (Communist Russia) after WWII, that stopped short of full-scale war (the two nations never directly fought each other in a war).

- After WWII, the U.S. and Soviet Union were no longer allies because each nation believed that the other was a threat to its national security.
- Developed mainly as a result of the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe (after WWII, the Soviets did not withdraw their troops from Eastern Europe).
- **Iron Curtain**- Nickname given to the boundary of Soviet domination in Europe during the Cold War.
- During the Cold War era, the U.S. and Soviet Union were hesitant to become involved in direct military conflict because of the **potential for global nuclear destruction**. The superpowers supported opposing sides in conflicts, but did not confront each other directly.
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**- Formed in 1949 in order to protect Western Europe from the Soviet Union and provide **collective security against Communist aggression**.
- **Marshall Plan (1948)**- U.S. plan to economic aid to European nations threatened by communism.
- **Sputnik Launch(1957)**- Soviet Union launched the first satellite into space. Led to American fears that the Soviets had achieved technological superiority. Heightened the space race as a form of Cold War competition.
- **Containment**- U.S. policy dedicated to **stop Communist influence from spreading**. NATO, Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, Korean War, Vietnam War, and the Eisenhower Doctrine were examples of the U.S. foreign policy of containment (started by President Truman).
- **Truman Doctrine**- Originally designed to contain communism by giving aid to Greece and Turkey.
- **Eisenhower Doctrine**- Expanded the principles of the Truman Doctrine by extending Middle East military assistance in order to offset communist influence in the region.
- **Berlin Airlift**- Soviet forces cut off Berlin from the Western world, causing the U.S. to airlift supplies to West Berlin.
- **Fall of the Berlin Wall** is most closely associated with the end of the Cold War.

**McCarthy Era**- Resulted from charges that Communists had infiltrated the U.S. government.

- **Senator Joseph McCarthy**- Led a "witch hunt" for Communist spies in the U.S. government during the early 1950's.



- **McCarthyism**- Fear of communist influence in the U.S. The term has since been applied to events that are related to reckless accusations unsupported by evidence.
- Opponents of the Senate hearings led by McCarthy during the 1950's argued that these investigations **violated the constitutional rights of many people.**
- House Un-American Activities Committee
- The reputations of many people were ruined by false accusations of disloyalty.
- Execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg reflected the post-WWII concern over spying by communists in the U.S. (the Rosenberg's were executed in the U.S. for being Soviet spies.)

**Korean War** (1950-1953)-Civil war between Communist North Korea (supported by Communist China & Soviet Union) and South Korea (supported by the U.S and United Nations).

- U.S. intervened in the war because of its policy of containment (stop the spread of communism).
- Marked the first time that the United Nations used military force to oppose aggression.
- General Douglas MacArthur was relieved of his command in the Korean War because he threatened constitutional principle of civilian control of the military.
- Presidential wartime powers were expanded.
- Major outcome of the Korean War was that Korea continued to be a divided nation (neither side was able to win).

**Vietnam War**- Civil war between Communist North Vietnam and U.S. backed South Vietnam.

- U.S. became involved to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia/Indochina (following the policy of containment).
- **Domino Theory**- Idea that if one country falls to communism, others around it will as well. Used by the U.S. as a **justification for the Vietnam War.**
- Different from World War II because the Vietnam War **caused** a significant amount of **protest in the U.S.** The Berkeley demonstrations, riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, and the Kent State protest all reflect student disapproval of the war. Protests against the Vietnam war grew in the late 1960's and early 1970's because many Americans believed that the war was unjust.
- The ratification for the 26<sup>th</sup> amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18, was a result of the participation of the U.S. in the Vietnam War (many 18 year olds went to war, causing the people to feel they deserved the right to vote).
- Presidential wartime powers were expanded **during** the war (but limited after).
- U.S. pulls out of Vietnam in 1975 resulting in a North Vietnam victory and all of Vietnam falling to communism.

### **Effects of Vietnam War**

- **The War Powers Act 1973**- Limited the president's ability to send troops into combat abroad (asserted the role of Congress in the commitment of troops). Passed by Congress as a response to the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.
- The U.S. questioned its role as a police officer of the world.
- Caused a reluctance to commit U.S. troops for extended military action abroad.
- Showed that foreign policy can be altered by public opinion.
- Led to greater public distrust of governmental policies.
- U.S. experience in the war showed that superior military technology does not guarantee victory.

### President Dwight D. Eisenhower

- Eisenhower Doctrine 1957- an effort by the U.S. to counter the influence of the Soviet Union in the Middle East.
- Used the "Domino Theory" to justify U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
- Sent federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957 to enforce a Supreme Court decision to desegregate public schools.
- In a farewell message to the American public, Eisenhower warned of the growth of the "military-industrial complex" referring to the influence of defense contractors on Congress.

### President John F. Kennedy

- Established the **Peace Corps**- Gave support to developing nations.
- Bay of Pigs Invasion 1961- An effort supported by Kennedy to remove a communist dictator (Fidel Castro) from power in Cuba. Kennedy's most significant foreign policy failure.
- Cuban Missile Crisis 1962- The Soviet Union placed nuclear weapons in Cuba (only 90 miles off the U.S. coast). Kennedy attempted to deal with the situation by imposing a naval blockade to isolate Cuba from the Soviet Union. Eventually led to Kennedy negotiating the limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty with the Soviet Union.
- New Frontier- Program that was successful in expanding the U.S. space program. The Soviet Union launched the Sputnik satellite which led Kennedy to set a goal of landing a man on the Moon and increase funding for science and math education.

### Civil Rights Movement

- Movement to end segregation based on race during the 1960's.
- Civil Disobedience- Lunch counter sit-ins and freedom riders are examples of nonviolent attempts to oppose segregation.
- **Jackie Robinson** breaks color barrier in Major League Baseball.
- President Truman issues executive order desegregating armed forces.
- NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)- Focused on higher education, full political participation, and continued support for civil rights. Challenged school segregation.
- Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka- Required the integration (desegregation) of all public schools in the U.S. Overturned Plessy v. Ferguson ruling of "separate but equal." Says that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Demonstrates that the Supreme Court can change an earlier decision.
- In 1957 President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends federal troops into Little Rock, Arkansas to enforce a Supreme Court decision to desegregate public schools. This showed that the Federal Government would enforce court decisions on integration. Some Supreme Court decisions are not effective unless the President enforces them.
- Martin Luther King Jr.- Leader of the civil rights movement during the 1960's.
  - Believed that **civil disobedience** (nonviolent protest) is sometimes necessary to bring about change.
  - Believed that unjust laws must be disobeyed and the consequences accepted peacefully.
  - Was **against using violence** to express frustration in achieving racial equality.
  - Led the **bus boycott** in Montgomery, Alabama.
  - Wanted to replace racial segregation with an integrated society.
- Malcolm X- Civil right leader during 1950's and 60's that advocated black separatism.
- Rosa Parks- Practiced civil disobedience by refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama.



- **Civil Rights Act 1964**- Passed in an effort to correct racial and gender discrimination. Ended the Jim Crow laws.
- **Voting Rights Act 1954**- Removed the literacy test as a voting qualification because different standards of literacy had been applied to different groups of voters. Attempted to remove racial barriers within voting.
- **Affirmative Action Programs**- Main goal is to promote economic gains for minorities and women.
- **Fair Housing Act & Americans with Disabilities Act**- Government efforts to end discrimination against various groups.
- **Chief Justice Earl Warren**- Followed a policy of judicial activism and expanded individual rights in criminal cases.

#### **President Lyndon Baines Johnson**

- **Great Society**- Attempted to end poverty and discrimination in the U.S. Similar to the New Deal and Fair Deal because it increased government commitment to the well-being of the people.
- Major goal was to reform society through expanded government social welfare programs (similar to Progressive Era reforms).
- **Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)**- Similar to Kennedy's Peace Corps because it attempted to improve the quality of people's lives.
- **Medicare**- Established by Congress in 1965 to provide health care to the elderly.
- **Gulf of Tonkin Resolution**- Increased U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war and provided justification for Johnson's involvement in Vietnam.
- Vietnam War reduced Johnson's domestic reform programs (Great Society could not accomplish as much because the U.S. was distracted by the Vietnam War).
- Decided not to run for reelection in 1968 because his Vietnam War policies had reduced his popularity with voters.
- **Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)**- Expansion of rights for persons accused of crimes.
- **Miranda v. Arizona**- Expansion of rights for persons accused of crimes. Assured accused persons the right to be informed of certain constitutional rights at the time of their arrest.
- **New Jersey v. T.L.O. / Tinker v. Des Moines School District**- Supreme Court ruled that civil liberties can be both protected and limited in schools. A student's right to privacy is limited under certain conditions.

#### **President Richard Nixon-**

- **Détente**- Policy to ease tensions between the U.S. and Soviet Union.
- **Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT)**- Part of the presidential policy of détente. Attempt to reduce world tensions.
- Expanded economic relations with communist nations.
- Nixon visits the Peoples Republic of China in 1972 in order to reduce tensions between the U.S. and Communist China. Attempted to counteract growing Soviet power and influence in Asia.
- **Watergate Scandal**- A break-in at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee led to the investigations that resulted in the resignation of President Nixon.
  - A lasting effect of the scandal was that trust in elected officials was undermined (the people developed a distrust in elected politicians).
  - The Watergate investigation demonstrated that separation of powers works effectively because congress (the legislative branch) used its power to put the President (executive branch) on trial.
  - Showed that the laws of the U.S. are superior to the actions of a President.
  - Nixon resigned his presidency because he was facing impeachment by the House of Representatives.
  - Executive privilege was weakened as a result of Watergate.

- **United States v. Nixon (1974)**- Supreme Court case that directly limited the president's power of executive privilege.

#### **President Gerald Ford**

- Different from all previous Presidencies because he was the first President who was not elected to either the Presidency or the Vice-Presidency.

#### **President Jimmy Carter**

- **Camp David Accords (1978)**- Carter succeeded in providing a foundation for a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Significant because they represented the first peace agreement between Israel and an Arab nation.
- Attempted to bring peace to the Middle East.
- Emphasized moral principles in foreign policy.
- Urged the development of alternative fuel sources.

#### **President Ronald Reagan**

- **Supply-Side Economics**- Lowered tax rates on personal and business income.
- Supported economic changes **favoring big business**.
- **Trickle Down Economics**- Believed that economic growth depends on making increased amounts of capital available to business.
- **Supply Side Economics**- Provided incentives to stimulate business growth.
- Used **tax cuts** to encourage economic growth.
- **Lowered federal income tax rates**.
- **New Federalism**- Plan to change the relationship between the states and the Federal Government.
- Fall of the Berlin Wall marks the end of the Cold War.
- National debt increased greatly during the 1980's because of the Federal Government's growing reliance on deficit spending.
- Reagan's Federal budget proposals came under criticism because they included very **large deficits** (the country spent more money than it took in).
- Involvement in world affairs in the 1980's was based on a concern for advancing the nation's self-interest (looking out for America before any other country).
- Sought to prevent the extension of European control over Latin America (tried to keep European nations away from Latin America).

**President George Bush**-Committed U.S. troops to the Persian Gulf War was to assure the flow of Middle East oil to the U.S. and its allies. A direct result of the Persian Gulf War was that the U.S. liberated Kuwait from Iraqi control.

#### **President Bill Clinton**

- Similar to President Carter because both leaders attempted to bring peace to the Middle East.
- Similar to President Andrew Johnson because he was impeached but not convicted.
- Supported NAFTA because it would stimulate economic growth in the U.S.
- **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**- Increased commerce and eliminated tariffs. Encouraged countries to participate in the global economy. Reflected the U.S. commitment to globalization.
- Sent U.S. troops to Haiti and Bosnia during the 1990's to stop conflicts within those nations.
- Participated in the bombing of Kosovo in 1999 because of human rights violations.