

Post-War and Cold War America

1945 – 1960
American History Honors
Textbook Chapters 26-27

Origins of the Cold War

- End of War Problems (Post-Yalta and Postdam)
- Formation of the United Nations (and the members of the Security Council)
- Goals of the US and USSR in the post-war world (see graphic)
- Soviet bloc
- Can communism and capitalism cooperate?

Containing Communism

- George Kennan, Containment Theory
- “Iron Curtain”
- March 1947: Truman Doctrine
 - \$400 M to Greece and Turkey
 - Resist “attempted subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressures”
- National Security Act of 1947
 - National Security Advisor; Department of Defense; Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

In Europe

- Marshall Plan, 1947
- Berlin blockade and air-lift, 1948
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

End 26.1

Cold War Crises in Asia

- Chinese Civil War: Chiang Kai-Shek (Nationalists) vs. Mao Zedong (Communists)
- May 1949: Chiang's government fled to Taiwan
- Failure of Truman diplomacy?
- NSC-68: military spending
- Korean situation post-World War II
- June 25, 1950: North Korea invaded across the 38th Parallel

The Korean War to 1953

- United Nations condemns North Korea (Soviets absent)
- Truman sends troops using NSC-68 rationale
- North Koreans to "Pusan Perimeter"
- MacArthur's Inchon Landing, Sept. 15 1950
- "Home by Christmas?"
- Chinese invasion across the Yalu River

Stalemate and Loss in Korea

- MacArthur suggests attacking China
- Disputes between MacArthur and Truman
- Failed truce talks: June-July 1951
- Election of 1952 issue and Eisenhower's pledge to "go to Korea"
- Armistice, July 1953
- Losses and significance

End 26.2

Cold War at Home

- Truman's Loyalty Program 1947
- House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)
- "Hollywood Ten"
- McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950, passed over Truman's veto
- Richard Nixon's prosecution of Alger Hiss
- Rosenberg Case

Joseph McCarthy

- Fame began by accusing State Department of hiring communists
- Effects of McCarthy's hearings and the hearings of HUAC
- Downfall – accusations of the U.S. Army
- Was McCarthyism just hysteria or was he (and others) on the right track?

End 26.3

On the Brink?

- First Soviet a-bomb, 1949
- Development of the Hydrogen Nuclear Weapon (H-Bomb): US 11/1952; USSR 8/1953
- Arms race
- John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State to Eisenhower
- Theory of Brinkmanship

Fighting the Cold War

- Role of the C.I.A.: Iran and Latin America
- Warsaw Pact, 1955
- Geneva Summit, July 1955: Eisenhower's "Open Skies" proposal ("spirit of Geneva")
- Suez War, 1955 (Gamal Abdel-Nassar)
- 1957 Eisenhower Doctrine
- Hungarian Revolution – failure of the Truman Doctrine?

To the Skies

- 1957 Sputnik
- Reaction: Education gap? Defense Edu. Act
- U-2 Flights and U-2 Incident (Francis Gary Powers)
- Failed Paris Summit

End 26.4

Post War Society

- Fear of a return of the depression
- GI Bill 1944 (Servicemen's Readjustment Act)
- Housing construction and suburbs
- Family Life (and strain?)
- Economic readjustment

Truman and the Economy

- Stubborn President?
- Strikes/Labor Problems
- Taft-Hartley Act (1947)

Civil Rights and "Dixiecrats"

- Truman's support for civil rights
- Integration of the armed forces
- Dixiecrat Revolt of 1948
- Truman upsets expectations
- The Fair Deal

Politics of Eisenhower

- Election of 1952: We like Ike (and Nixon, too)
- “Checkers speech” and importance of TV
- “Dynamic Conservatism” and “Modern Republicanism”
- *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) – monumental triumph for civil rights!
- Growth of the civil rights movement in the '50s

End 27.1

American Dream?

- Conglomerates and franchises
- Baby Boom Generation – results for society
- Medicine and Childcare
- Dr. Benjamin Spock!
- Women and Betty Freidan (1963)

Life in the Fifties

- Leisure activities
- Typical Americana?
- Interstate Highway Act / System
 - Revolution for American commerce and economy
- Consumerism

End 27.2

1950s Pop Culture

- Mass media
- Television revolution
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- Contributions to American Culture
- Beatniks – lots of material in the text!
- Rock-n-Roll
- Elvis Presley
- Racial Gap?

End 27.3

The Other America

- White Flight
- Inner Cities and Urban Problems
- Michael Harrington, *The Other America: Poverty in the United States* (1962)
- Urban Renewal (Later... Great Society and HUD Programs)

Poverty leads to activism

- Mexican *braceros*
- National Congress of American Indians (1944)
- Termination Policy and failure (see p. 869)

End 27.3
