The Cold War Begins: 1946-1953

The U.S. struggle to contain Soviet communism worldwide resulted in what came to be known as the "Cold War". Although full-scale war between the U.S. and Soviet Union did not occur, two major wars—Korea and Vietnam—and many smaller conflicts, occurred between 1946 and 1991 over the battle between democracy and communism.

I. Roots of the Cold War
   A. U.S. point of view
      1. Stalin sought to create "spheres of influence in Eastern Europe"
         a. Yalta Conference: Soviet pledge to allow democratic elections in eastern Europe was broken in Poland, Romania, Bulgaria.
            • Later, Czechoslovakia & Hungary became dominated by Moscow
         b. USSR refused to release East Germany while the U.S., Britain and France gave back their western German zones to the new democratic West Germany.
      2. The U.S. wanted democracy spread throughout the world with a strong United Nations to maintain global peace.
         • The Soviet Union eventually supported resistance to democracy throughout the world.
      3. Churchill’s "Iron Curtain" Speech warned Americans of Soviet expansion (March 1946 in Fulton, Missouri)
         • Americans now realized that a protracted conflict with the USSR was a reality.
   B. Soviet point of view
      1. U.S. did not open a second front in Western Europe early enough; millions of Soviet soldiers died fighting the brunt of the German armies alone until mid-1944.
      2. U.S. and Britain froze Russia out of the atomic bomb project.
      4. Soviets wanted a security guarantee for the Soviet western border, especially Poland
         a. USSR had been twice attacked by Germany in 20th century.
         b. Eastern Europe would now become a "buffer zone"
C. Partitioning
   1. Korea & Vietnam split into northern and southern zones; controlled by communists in the north and pro-democracy forces in the south.
      - Two major wars would be fought by the U.S. during the Cold War: Korean War (1950-53); Vietnam (1964-1973)
   2. Germany split into 4 zones with Berlin also being split into quadrants. The issue of Berlin nearly resulted in full-scale war in 1948-49

II. Shaping the Postwar World
A. Bretton Woods Conference (1944): International Monetary Fund (IMF) created by western Allies
   1. World Bank founded to promote economic growth in war-torn and underdeveloped areas; served to stabilize currencies.
   2. Soviets declined to participate.

B. United Nations
   1. Yalta Conference -- "Big Three" had called for a conference on a world organization to meet in April 1945 in the United States
   2. Dumbarton Oaks Conference (August 21-October 7, 1944)
      -- Laid the basis for the United Nations Charter
      a. UN Charter created a General Assembly composed of all member nations
         -- In reality, the Assembly had the power to recommend but not to enforce.
      b. Security Council composed of five permanent members: U.S., USSR, China, Britain, and France
         i. Any single veto would overrule a proposal
         ii. 7 additional nations elected by the General Assembly for 2-year terms
         iii. Responsible for settling disputes among UN member nations.

III. The German Question
A. Nuremberg Trials
   1. Potsdam Conference had decided on punishing war crimes and a program of de-Nazifying Germany.
   2. Allies tried 22 top Nazis at Nuremberg, Germany during 1945 and 1946.
   3. 12 Nazis hanged and seven sentenced to long jail terms.
   4. Legal critics in the U.S. condemned the trials as judicial lynchings because the defendants were tried for offenses that had not been clear-cut crimes when the war began.
B. **Partition of Germany**  
1. Soviets dominated their Eastern German zone after WWII.  
   a. Sought to strip East German resources and ship them to Russia as compensation for war losses.  
   b. Didn’t want a revitalized Germany that could again be a threat.  
2. U.S. and Western Europe believed Germany’s economy was vital to the recovery of Europe  
   -- West Germany eventually became an independent country when US, France and Britain gave back each of their occupation zones.  
3. 1949, a democratic West Germany created; East Germany created under Soviet domination.  

IV. **Reconstruction of Japan**  
A. Despite Soviet protests, the U.S., led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, implemented democracy in Japan (Allied Control Council); U.S. remained for 7 years after the war.  
B. Japanese war criminals tried between 1946-48; 7 hanged (including Tojo), 18 sent to prison  
C. Japan adopted a constitution in 1946 renouncing militarism & introducing Western-style democracy.  
D. Within decades, Japan would become an economic powerhouse.  

V. **Policy of "Containment"**  
A. 1947, US Ambassador to Russia, **George Kennan**, warned Truman that the USSR sought to expand its empire.  
   1. Soviet leaders had an ideology that "the outside world was hostile and that it was their duty eventually to overthrow the political forces beyond their borders."  
   2. Soviet policy in eastern Europe, Germany, and the Middle East was of great concern.  
   3. Kennan’s ideas became the basis for Truman’s "containment" policy.  

B. **Truman Doctrine** -- Defined U.S. foreign policy for next 20 years.  
"It must be the policy of the US to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."  
1. Initiated a policy of "containment": prevention of the spread of communism  
2. March 12, 1947, Truman asked Congress for $400 million to support democracy in Turkey and Greece since the British were no longer able.  
   -- Result was positive for democracy in both countries  
3. Truman quickly recognized Israel in 1948 as the new country would be a bastion of democracy in the Middle East.
C. Marshall Plan (1947)
1. France, Italy and Germany were still suffering from economic chaos after WWII.
2. U.S. feared Communist parties could exploit these hardships and take control.
3. Sec. of State George C. Marshall invited Europeans to create a joint plan for economic recovery. US would provide financial assistance.
   a. Soviets walked out of the conference in Paris in July, 1947. -- Criticized it as U.S. ploy to take over Europe
   b. Congress at first balked at huge monetary proposal but changed course after the Soviet-sponsored a coup d’ etat in Czechoslovakia in Feb. 1948 which extended the influence of communism in eastern Europe.
4. Plan allocated $12.5 billion over four years in 16 cooperating countries.
5. Within a few years, most recipients of the plan's aid were exceeding prewar output; seen as the "economic miracle." -- Communism lost ground in Italy and France
6. Czechoslovakia initially interested in aid but pressure from the USSR forced a veto. Eastern European nations prohibited from accepting aid from US & W. Europe.

D. Organization of American States (OAS) created to prevent communism in Latin America

E. U.S. government reorganization and rearmament
1. National Security Act of 1947 created the Department of Defense
   a. Headed by new cabinet post -- Sec. of Defense; housed in new Pentagon
   b. National Security Council (NSC) and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) created by Truman in 1948 and 1949.
   c. NSC Number 68 (1950)
      i. Issued in response to the fall of China and onset of hostilities in Korea.
      ii. U.S. would implement a rigorous worldwide defense of Communism with "an immediate and large-scale build up of our military."
2. 1948, first peacetime military draft enacted
3. "Voice of America" authorized by Congress; beamed US broadcasts behind the iron curtain
4. Atomic Energy Commission created in 1946 -- established civilian control over nuclear development and gave president sole authority over the use of atomic weapons in warfare.
F. Berlin Airlift (1948-49)
1. Berlin, deep inside East Germany, was cut off from the west by Soviet forces in 1948.
   a. USSR response to the creation of West Germany
   b. U.S., French, & British zones in Berlin became an "island" inside East Germany
      i. Soviets also shut off electric power
      ii. 2 million West Berliners, in effect, became hostages
      iii. Berlin became a symbolic issue for both sides.
2. U.S. organized a massive airlift for nearly a year; 277,000 flights, 2 million tons.
3. Many thought World War III was inevitable
4. Soviets lifted the blockade in May 1949 and the crisis subsided.

VI. Cold War during Truman’s 2nd term (under Secretary of State Dean Acheson)
A. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
1. Created April 4, 1949 by 12 nations including U.S., France, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Iceland, and Canada.
   a. In 1953, Turkey & Greece joined.
   b. West Germany joined in 1954
   c. NATO created in response to Berlin Crisis.
2. Collective security organization that essentially warned USSR that a threat to any NATO members would be met with force.
3. In 1955, USSR formed Warsaw Pact as a response to NATO which included all Eastern Bloc countries -- satellite countries
4. ANZUS -- U.S. forged a collective security agreement with Australia and New Zealand to buttress democracy in the Pacific.
5. CENTO -- Central Treaty Organization (in Central America)

B. Soviet Union exploded atomic bomb in Sept. 1949; U.S. no longer had monopoly
   -- The world now had two atomic powers

C. China became Communist in 1949
1. US supported Nationalist leader Jiang Jieshi (Chang-Kai-Shek) during WWII
2. In late 1949, Mao Zedong's (Mao Tse-tung) communist forces defeated the last of Jiang's forces and the Nationalists fled to Formosa (Taiwan).
   -- Mao supported by the Soviet Union
3. Loss of China was seen as a major defeat for U.S. containment.
   a. 25% of world's population became communist in one shot.
   b. Truman criticized for allowing China to fall to communists.
   c. Truman replied that China had never been his to lose.
4. U.S. refused to recognize the People’s Republic of China ("Red China") and maintained Jiang’s regime on the UN Security Council
   a. USSR boycotted the Security Council in protest

D. The Hydrogen Bomb
   1. U.S. exploded H-bomb in 1952
      -- Many scientists felt H-bomb had become an instrument of genocide; many times more powerful than the A-bomb.
   2. In 1953, Soviets successfully exploded an H-bomb; nuclear arms race continued.
   3. For the first time in history, humankind had the ability to end civilization.
   4. The world now had two superpowers: U.S. and USSR

E. Korean War (1950-53)
   1. Background
      a. During WWII, Russian troops occupied northern Korea while US troops occupied southern Korea.
      b. 1949, both set up rival regimes on each side of the 38th parallel.
         -- North Korea led by Communist dictator Kim Il-Sung and was supported by Soviet Union
      c. Sec. of State Dean Acheson claimed Korea was outside essential US defense perimeter in the Pacific and U.S. forces were reduced there.
   2. June 1950, North Korean army with Soviet-made tanks invaded S. Korea and took nearly all the country.
   3. Truman invoked NSC-68, a call to quadruple U.S. defense spending, and ordered a massive military buildup well beyond the purposes of the war.
      -- U.S. soon had 3.5 million men in uniform and was spending $50 billion per year on defense–13% of GNP
   4. UN Security Council (with Russia absent) called for members to restore peace and condemned the invasion with a vote of 9-0
      -- UN voted military aid to South Korea.
   5. UN voted to establish UN force with Truman’s choice, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, as UN commander who took his orders from directly from the U.S.
      -- Truman ordered U.S. troops into Korean fighting; comprised 4/5 of UN troops
   6. By August 1950, North Korea captured nearly all of South Korea
      -- North Korea had superior military aid from Soviet Union.
7. MacArthur directed surprise amphibious landing at **Inchon** behind Korean lines.
   a. Within two weeks, UN forces recaptured nearly all of South Korea as North Koreans retreated behind the 38th parallel.
   b. Although original objectives were complete, MacArthur ordered UN forces to cross North of the 38th parallel with support of Truman and UN.
      -- North Korean forces driven back near the Chinese border.
   c. UN calls for the establishment of a unified and democratic Korea.
8. November 1950, 300,000 Chinese soldiers poured across Yalu River into North Korea; forced UN troops to retreat with heavy losses across 38th parallel.
   -- Truman and others horrified that Korea might be completely lost
9. Truman fires MacArthur
   a. Truman seeks **limited war** (and announces it Nov. 28, 1950)
      i. US would seek specific objectives rather than total victory
      ii. Nuclear weapons would not be used
      iii. Original objective again to restore border between N. & S. Korea
      iv. Invasion of China might mean Soviet retaliation in Europe or Asia.
      v. Decision may have averted a world war.
   b. MacArthur against limited war -- "No substitute for victory"
      i. Asked for nuclear weapons to be used on China and demanded strong military action against Chinese cities.
      ii. Believed political decisions in Washington hampered conduct of war.
   c. MacArthur circumvents Truman and demands total N. Korean surrender.
      -- Undercuts Truman’s attempt at negotiations; threat to president’s power.
   d. Truman removes MacArthur from command and orders him back to US.
      i. MacArthur returns home a hero
      ii. Congressional committee investigates Truman decision
      iii. Truman successfully defends his decision
   e. Significance: Civilian control of US military is reaffirmed
10. Cease-Fire
   a. Negotiations began in July 1951 and continued for 2 years while war continued.
      i. Presidential candidate in 1952 Dwight D. Eisenhower pledged to personally go to Korea and get stalled negotiations moving again.
         -- Eisenhower won in 1952 and within weeks visited Korea.
      ii. Eisenhower threatened to use nuclear weapons unless the deadlocked peace negotiations were successful.
   b. Cease-fire signed on July 27, 1953 (armistice still in effect today)
      i. 38th parallel as boundary is restored.
      ii. DMZ along boundary
   c. Americans disappointed at unclear conclusion (WWII had been a clear-cut victory)

11. Results of Korean War
   a. 54,000 US soldiers & 3,000 UN soldiers dead; 103,000 UN soldiers wounded wounded (including Americans); 2 million civilians dead (mostly in South Korea); over 1.5 million dead Chinese and North Korean soldiers.
      -- Total casualties as high as 4 million.
   b. UN successfully repelled North Korean attack on S. Korea
   c. US successfully enforce its "containment" policy

Memory Aid for Cold War under President Truman:

| T | Truman’s Truman Doctrine, 1947 |
| M | Muscles Marshall Plan, 1947 |
| B | Brought Berlin Crisis, 1948-49 |
| N | Nasty NATO, 1948 |
| C | China China becomes communist, 1949 |
| A | Across Atomic bomb exploded by Soviets, 1949 |
| K | Korea Korean War, 1950-53 |

VII. Truman’s First Term -- domestic policy
   A. Taft-Hartley Act, June 1947
      1. Passed by Congress over Truman’s veto
      2. Conservative response to powerful labor unions (Republicans won Congress in 1946)
         a. In 1946, over 4 million workers went on strike demanding higher wages.
         b. Shutdowns in the auto, steel, electric, railroad, and maritime industries ensued.
c. Much striking activity orchestrated by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, who demanded higher pay, safer work conditions, and a small tax on coal to fund worker pensions.

2. Major provisions of Taft-Hartley Act
   a. Most important: 80 day cooling-off period for strikers in key industries
   b. Outlawed the "closed-shop" (process of hiring only union members) -- "union shop" allowed (obligated new workers to become union members)
   c. Unions still flourished; AFL had 8 million in 1950; CIO 6 million
3. By 1954, 15 states passed "right to work" laws outlawing the "union-shop."

B. Civil Rights: gains for African Americans
   1. 1946, Truman created the President’s committee on Civil Rights -- In 1947, committee published To Secure These Rights, calling for desegregation of American society, anti-lynching legislation and an end to poll taxes.
   2. 1948, president banned racial discrimination in federal government hiring practices and ordered desegregation of the armed forces:
      a. Blacks integrated in 1953
      b. Jackie Robinson first African American in Major League Baseball in 1947 (Brooklyn Dodgers)

C. Presidential Succession Act of 1947
   1. Created as a contingency for nuclear war.
   2. After the vice-president, the Speaker of the House, president pro tempore of the Senate, and secretary of state were next in line for succession if the president was killed in an attack.

D. 22nd Amendment, 1951 (“Anti-FDR amendment”)  
   1. Limited president to two terms; or a maximum of 10 years if he, as vice president, assumed the presidency due to the death or departure of a previous president.
   2. Largely a conservative move in the face of over 17 years of continuous Democratic rule in the White House (FDR and Truman)
      -- FDR had been elected to four terms and many saw this as an opportunity for the executive branch to consolidate excessive power.
VIII. Anti-Communist Crusade -- "Red Scare"
A. American Fears -- Paranoia regarding communism and its sympathizers due to:
1. Communism at home: fear of spies infiltrating U.S. gov’t: Alger Hiss, Rosenbergs
3. Spread of communism around the world (Eastern Europe, China, Korea)
4. Demagogue politicians using fear for gain (HUAC, McCarthy)
5. Fear of another depression (recessions in 1946-47 & early ‘50s) -- A depression might trigger the growth of communism
6. Note: this was the 2nd red scare of 20th century (first occurred after WWI: 1919-1920 during Wilson's presidency.)
7. Culture reflected these fears: movies such as Invasion of the Body Snatchers, The Blob, They

B. Smith Act of 1940
1. Made it illegal to advocate the overthrow of the government by force or to belong to an organization advocating such a position.
2. Used by Truman administration to jail leaders of the American Communist Party.
   -- 11 communists brought to trial in New York in 1949 and sent to prison for advocating the overthrow of the US gov't by force.

C. Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) indicts Alger Hiss, 1947
1. HUAC created in 1945 to root out communism during the "Red Scare" after WWII that lasted into the mid-1950s.
   a. Committee was sensationalistic, also going after public figures in Hollywood.
   b. Liberals and members of the New Deal targeted
   c. Senate counterpart to HUAC also active in anti-communist investigations.
2. Richard Nixon led the movement to indict Alger Hiss, a distinguished member of the "eastern establishment," prominent ex-New Dealer, and current member of the U.S. State Department
3. Hiss denied being a Communist agent in the 1930s but was convicted of perjury in 1950 and sentenced to 5 years in prison.
4. Nixon gained national prominence; was elected vice president 5 years later.
D. *Truman's "loyalty" program*
   1. Truman countered HUAC with anti-communist programs of his own.
      a. Attorney General identified 90 "disloyal" organizations who were not given the right to prove their innocence.
      b. Truman gave FBI approval and resources to go after suspected "reds"
   2. **Loyalty Review Board** investigated more than 3 million fed. employees
      -- About 3,000 resigned or were dismissed without formal indictment, 212 fired
   3. Loyalty oaths were increasingly demanded of employees, esp. teachers
   4. Many felt civil liberties were being suppressed.
   5. Gov’t employees forbidden to:
      a. Criticize US foreign policy
      b. Advocate equal rights for women
      c. Own books on socialism
      d. Attend foreign films

E. **McCarran Internal Security Bill** (1950)
   1. Required communist-front organizations to register with the attorney general and prevented their members from defense work and travel abroad.
   2. Truman vetoed this bill which authorized the President to arrest and detain suspicious persons during an "internal security emergency".
      a. Many felt this bill was a step towards a police state.
      b. Congress passed it anyway

F. The **Rosenbergs, 1954**
   1. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted and executed for allegedly giving atomic bomb secrets to the Soviets.
   2. Both were avowed communists.

G. Blacklisting
   1. Many actors, writers, and directors had dabbled with the Communist Party in the 1930's when it was considered fashionable.
   2. 10 of these movie industry people, the "**Hollywood Ten**" refused to testify and decided to go to prison rather than testifying to the HUAC claiming protection from the Constitution.
   3. The industry responded by denying work to 250 actors, writers, and directors.
H. McCarthyism

1. Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (Wisconsin Republican) became a demagogue

2. In Feb. 1950, asserted that 200 unknown Communists were in the State Dept.
   a. He made sweeping accusations, employed guilt by association and documents out of context
   b. Public convinced he was looking out for national security.
   c. Was unable to substantiate his claims but ruined many gov't officials.
   d. Almost no one was safe from his accusations.
   e. Supporters tended to be Republican and blue-collar

3. Other Accusations:
   a. Claimed Democratic party was guilty of 20 years of treason
   b. Wanted Truman impeached for being soft on communism (despite Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO, Berlin Airlift, Korean War)
   c. Claimed George Marshall was an instrument of Soviet conspiracy.
   d. Hinted Eisenhower was "soft on communism."
   e. McCarthy slandered people, would sometimes publicly claim they were gay as well as communist.

4. McCarthy’s Senate hearings created an atmosphere of conformity and fear

5. Eisenhower despised McCarthy but did little to oppose him

6. Downfall of McCarthy occurred when he took on the Army in 1954
   a. McCarthy was intensely examined by Joseph Welch, Army attorney.
   b. By Dec., 1954, Senate passed a resolution condemning McCarthy 67-22
   c. McCarthy died three years later from alcohol and exhaustion.

7. Did the end of McCarthy signal the end of the red scare? Not really, but the hysteria did mellow.
   a. Sputnik caused some hysteria in 1957; Americans feared Soviets were technologically superior.
   b. Some Americans built bomb shelters in their back yards fearing nuclear war with Soviets
   c. School’s continued “duck and cover” drills to prepare for a nuclear attack.
   d. John Birch Society, an ultra-conservative nationalist group, emerged in late 1950s; continued an attack on liberals for the next two decades.
   e. Aggressive rooting out of suspected communists still existed.

8. Arthur Miller’s The Crucible: popular play in 1950s that used the 1692 Salem Witch Trials as a metaphor for McCarthyism.
IX. Election of 1948: Truman defeats Dewey in a stunning upset
A. Democrats split into three camps: Truman, southern States' Rights Party led by Strom Thurmond of S.C., and new Progressive party under Henry Wallace.
B. Thomas Dewey was nominated by the Republicans; Earl Warren was vice presidential nominee
-- Platform included anti-"big-labor" plank and reduction of New Deal policies.
C. Truman called for housing, full employment, and higher minimum wage, better farm supports, new TVAs and extension of Social Security and more civil rights for African Americans.
D. Truman's victory came with support from farmers, workers, and blacks who felt threatened by the Republicans.
E. Democrats established clear majority in both houses of Congress

X. The “Vital Center”: 1948-1968
A. A political consensus developed in America, although bitter political wrangling continued to characterize America.
B. Three major components to the “vital center” common in both major parties:
   1. Anti-communism; containment
   2. Belief that economic growth could solve all of society’s problems
      -- JFK: “rising tides lift all boats”
   3. Political pluralism: belief that a variety of ideas could compete in America.
      -- e.g., New Deal accepted by both parties (although it did not expand)
C. The “vital center” elected Truman in 1948; Eisenhower in 1952 & 1956; Kennedy in 1960; and Johnson in 1964.
D. Flaws in the “vital center”
   1. Vietnam War exposed problems with containment
   2. As many as 25% of Americans lived in poverty; the economic boom did not “lift all boats”
   3. Jim Crow demonstrated lack of true pluralism in America
E. “Vital Center” was shattered in 1968
   1. Vietnam War pits hawks against doves; amplifies generation gap
   2. White conservative backlash against liberalism: “Great Society” programs of Johnson, the civil rights movement, and apparent lack of law and order, contributed to Republican control of the White House for 20 of the next 24 years.
      -- Popular TV show: All in the Family with Archie Bunker as “loveable” bigot exemplified conservative backlash
XI. Truman’s FAIR DEAL
A. 1949, Truman called for a "Fair Deal" including housing, full employment, and higher minimum wage, better farm supports, new TVAs and extension of Social Security, and increased rights for African Americans.
B. The only major successes were raising the minimum wage, public housing and extending old-age insurance to more beneficiaries (SSA of 1950)
C. Sec. of Agriculture’s proposed program of continued price supports for farmers failed to pass Congress and food surpluses continued to pile up (driving farm prices down).
D. In essence, Truman was able to preserve New Deal programs but unable to add to it.
E. Coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats prevented little more than the maintenance of existing programs.
F. Truman decided not to run for reelection in 1952
   1. Military deadlock in Korea, war-induced inflation, and White House scandal.
   2. Adlai E. Stevenson ran as a Democratic against Dwight D. Eisenhower.

A. GI Bill of Rights, 1944
   1. Response to unemployment fears from 15 million returning GIs from WWII.
      -- Unrest after WWI resulted in race riots
   2. Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 sent millions of veterans to school.
      a. Majority attended technical and vocational schools.
      b. Eventually, about $14.5 spent on program.
   3. Veteran’s Administration (VA) guaranteed about $16 billion in loans for veterans to buy homes, farms, and small businesses.
      -- Bill contributed to economic prosperity that emerged in late 1940s

B. Baby Boom
   1. 1950s population grew by over 28 million; 97% in urban and suburban areas.
   2. Between 1946 and 1961, 63.5 million babies were born
      -- Between 1931 and 1946, only 41.5 million born
   3. Proportional growth in population unprecedented in American history.

1. National income nearly doubled in 1950s; almost doubled again in 1960s.
   a. Americans enjoyed about 40% of world’s wealth despite accounting for only 6% of population.
   b. By mid-1950s, 60% of Americans owned their own homes compared with only 40% in the 1920s.
   c. Majority of postwar jobs went to women in urban offices and shops.
      i. By 1990s, women accounted for about half of total workers.
      ii. Clash between demands of suburban domesticity and realities of employment sparked the feminist revolt in the 1960s.
   d. Economy largely fueled by the growth of the defense industry.
      -- Accounted for over 50% of the national budget by 1960.
   e. Cheap energy and increased supply of power facilitated growth.
   f. Rising productivity (due to increases in education and technology) increased the average Americans standard of living two-fold.

2. Consumerism mushroomed as Americans had more disposable income
   -- Americans bought cars, gadgets for their homes, vacations, etc. in unprecedented numbers

3. Middle class
   a. 5.7 in 1947; over 12 million by early 1960s.
   b. Suburbs
      i. Grew 6X faster than cities in 1950s.
      ii. Resulted from increased car production, white flight from urban areas due to black migration into Northern and Midwestern cities, and gov’t policies that insured both builders and homeowners.
   c. Cult of domesticity re-emerges
      i. A few advocated that science supported the idea that women could only find fulfillment as a homemaker.
      ii. The concept of a woman’s place being in the home was widespread in magazines, TV, and society in general.
         -- TV shows: Father Knows Best, Ozzie & Harriet, Leave it to Beaver,
      iii. Dr. Benjamin Spock: Commonsense Book of Baby and Child Care
         -- Sold average of 1 million copies per year between 1946 and 1960.
         -- Message: Women’s primary responsibility was to stay home and nurture their children.
         -- Also, parents should trust themselves as they attend to their children’s physical and psychological needs.
D. Sunbelt vs. Frostbelt (or Rustbelt)
   1. Sunbelt is a 15-state area stretching from Virginia through Florida and Texas to Arizona and California (includes all former Confederate states)
   2. Advent of air-conditioning spurred enormous growth
      a. Population increase twice that of the old industrial zones of the Northeast.
      b. California which became most populous state by 1963.
   3. War industries and high-tech industries attracted millions to the west coast.
   4. Aerospace industry and huge military installations attracted millions to Texas and Florida.
   5. Traditional Midwest industrial workers lost ground as many of their jobs were shipped overseas.
   6. "Rustbelt" states of the Ohio Valley angered at federal outlays for Southern and Western states
   7. Every president elected since 1964 has come from the Sunbelt.
   8. Sunbelt’s representation in Congress has increased significantly.

XIII. Culture in the 1950s
   A. Television & Movies
      a. TV emerged as the most popular entertainment medium in the 1950s replacing radio (TV hit the consumer market in 1947)
         i. Number of hours the average American watched TV per day soared during the 50s and subsequent decades.
         ii. TV tended to reflect the conformity of the decade.
      b. Some movie stars became icons to the younger generation in 1950s: James Dean, Marilyn Monroe
         -- Dean portrayed the angst of American youth

   B. Rock n’ Roll: derived from African American blues (before Elvis it was known as "race" music)
      a. Elvis Presley burst on the scene in 1956 as brought rock n’ roll to the masses

      b. Rock n’ Roll became the music of the younger generation and emphasized the increasing generation gap between youth and their parents.

   C. Art: Abstract expressionism (1950s)
      1. Artists attempted spontaneous expression of their subjectivity using splattered paint and color field painting.
      2. Included Jackson Pollock, Willem deKooning, and Mark Rothko.
D. The Beat generation (beatniks) -- late 1950s
   a. Group of young men alienated by 20th-century life.
      i. Movement began in Greenwich Village, NY.
      ii. Rebelled against the conformity and conservatism of middle-class America
   b. Jack Kerouac: On the Road became the "bible" for restless youth
   c. Other prominent figures included Allen Ginsburg ("Howl" – 1956)
   d. Emphasized alcohol, drugs, sex, jazz, Buddhism, and a vagabond lifestyle.

XIV. An era of conformity? Middle-class values and anti-communism
   A. Conformity in America
      1. Church membership increased in the post-war period; Americans suspicious of those who did not attend church (possibly atheist with communist sympathies?)
      2. Social life often revolved around married couples and families; those who were single or divorced were often on the outside.
      3. Strong patriotism existed in the face of the “Red Scare”; critics were looked upon with suspicion
      4. Cult of domesticity
      5. The movies, TV and radio reinforced middle class values
         a. Americans after WWII (modern America) seemed to conform to peer pressure in social and moral issues (“outer directed”) in contrast to earlier Americans who had been “inner directed” and more individualistic and who had internalized self-discipline and morality.
         b. Americans in modern America seemed less likely to take risks or act independently.
         c. Modern Americans’ thinking and habits seemed more likely to be influenced by mass media
   
   B. Resistance to conformity
      1. Civil Rights movement
      2. Rock n’ Roll
      3. Beat Generation
Essay Questions for Review:
1. Analyze the causes of the Cold War between 1945 & 1953.
2. To what extent was President Truman successful in achieving “containment” between 1947 and 1953?
3. To what extent was President Truman successful in achieving his domestic policy goals?
4. To what extent was there either conformity or consensus in American society between 1945 and 1960?
5. Analyze the factors that led to the “Red Scare” after World War II.
6. Analyze the factors that led to the “affluent society” during the post-war era.

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