

## Unit 8 Outlines

### Truman and the Cold War

#### I. Postwar Domestic Adjustments

- A. Initial faltering economy – inflation rises, GDP down, strikes
  1. **Taft-Hartley Act** – put limits on labor unions... Outlawed closed shop, labor leaders take non-Communist oath
  2. Sold war factories cheaply to private companies
  3. **G.I. Bill** – paid for school for soldiers; home, farm, and small business loans
- B. GDP growth lasts next two decades – Americans – 6% of population controlled 40% of earth's \$
  1. Middle class doubles, home ownership increases
  2. Not touched by war – America dominates
  3. Rising education level, better technology, workforce leaves agriculture
  4. Move to suburbs – massive **baby boom**

#### II. Civil Rights - war generated new militancy among blacks, generation of college grads

- A. 1948 – **Truman ends segregation in federal civil service, equality of treatment in military**
- B. Election of 1948 – Democrats against Truman because of civil rights stance
  1. Form **Dixiecrats** – States Right – nominated Governor **Strom Thurmond** of S. Carolina
  2. Vice-President **Henry Wallace** enters election for Progressive Party – pro-Soviet platform
  3. Harry delivers 300 “give ‘em hell Harry” speeches – Republican **Dewey** should have won  
*Chicago Tribune* ran newspaper – *Dewey Defeats Truman* – but...farmers, workers, blacks not invested with Republicans

#### III. Containment in Europe and the Middle East

- A. **Truman Doctrine** - \$400 million for Greece and Turkey – help fight Communism  
Bigger issue – protect any “free peoples” from outside Communist pressure...Problem – any tyrant can claim Communist threat and get help
- B. **Marshall Plan** – 1) make capitalism attractive, resist Communism 2) help rebuild Europe...\$12.5 billion – reverse of Versailles
- C. **Berlin crisis** – Berlin divided among four allied powers – France, England, Britain, Russia
  1. Becomes East and West Berlin – Russia wants Eastern Europe as “satellite nation”
  2. 1948 – Soviets cut off train/highway access – Allies respond w/ massive **airlift**... Symbolic importance – U.S. determined to protect interests
- D. **NATO** – 12 original say an attack on one is an attack on all – isolationists defeated  
...Officially ended American isolationism, helped unite Europe, militarizes Western Europe for Cold War
- E. 1949 – Truman announces Soviets had tested nuclear bomb... US in 1952 gets **Hydrogen bomb**, then Soviets get hydrogen bomb next year

#### IV. Revolution in China

- A. American backed **Jiang Jieshi** defeated by Communist **Mao Zedong** and banished to Taiwan  
... Looks like America “lost” China to Communism – US looks for someone to blame

#### V. Korean War – Korea divided into Russia and US spheres of influence at **38 degrees (DMZ)**

- A. N. Korea invades and then pushed back by **MacArthur** and UN soldiers, drives to China border  
...China then attacks and pushes forces back to start – 38 degrees
- B. **NSC-68**- Truman quadruples defense spending ... Belief that American economy can handle any expenditure on defense
- C. MacArthur calls Truman a communist appeaser because he has to fight limited war
  1. Wants to drop nukes and invade China
  2. Truman has to fire MacArthur – returns a hero

### Eisenhower and Modern Republicanism

#### I. Modern Republicanism – keep social/economic programs but push for military build-up

- A. Ike allowed **McCarthy** because his target was oftentimes previous Democ. Administration
  1. Master of manipulating media – careers ended because he “named” you
  2. Majority of polled Americans approved of McCarthy – made it hard to criticize
  3. **Army hearings** destroy him in front of 20 million on TV – dies from alcohol 3 yrs. Later

#### II. Civil Rights Movement

- A. **The Warren Court** – Congress resists change, Ike not interested – go to courts
  1. **Brown v. Board of Education** reverses **Plessy vs. Ferguson** – unanimous
  2. Confronted important social issues finally
  3. **Little Rock 9** – high school integrated only after Eisenhower intervenes over gov.
- B. **Montgomery Bus Boycott** – year long successful boycott after Rosa Parks refuses seat
  1. **Martin Luther King** – **Southern Christian Leadership Conference** – gains status
  2. Proved blacks could unite
- C. **Greensboro sit-in** – spontaneous sit-in at Woolworth's – later fad spread all over South in pools, restaurants, public places

#### III. John Foster Dulles – churchgoer – push back Communist advances, “liberate captive people”... Also try to balance budget by reducing military spending

- A. **Massive retaliation** – build-up of **Strategic Air Command** + nukes to level cities
  1. “More bang for the buck” – turned out to be extremely expensive... Eventually Ike warns against “**military-industrial complex**”
  2. Problem – can't use massive nuclear attack threat on minor issues – **Hungary**
- B. Southeast Asia – **Ho Chi Minh** wants independence – America can't let go Communist
  1. French forces fail at **Dien Bien Phu** – America must support France for help in Eur.
    - a. Loss forces compromise – divide country and elect in a year
    - b. South Vietnam U.S. backed leader **Diem** takes money but doesn't help
    - c. America firmly involved backing losing horse

(John Foster Dulles – Eisenhower years continued)

- C. Empires die out – Middle East and Latin America push for independence – democracy
    1. Iranians seen as supporting USSR, so US sponsors coup and puts in dictator – shah .... Arab world angered at US intervention
    2. Egyptians not given US money for dam, they end up nationalizing Suez Canal
      - a. Britain and France go to war against Egypt without US help
      - b. Demonstrates reliance of west on oil – power shifts to Middle East
  - D. **Khrushchev** – tensions only get more fierce after failed attempts at summits
    1. Khrushchev shallowly promises disarmament to UN
    2. Ike looks stupid when **U-2 plane** crashes after US says we don't fly spy missions
- IV. American people – homogenized society – buys same thing/has same values – keeping up with the Joneses
- A. **White collar** jobs outnumber blue collar jobs
  - B. Women – return to female jobs – domestic – **baby boom**
    1. **Cult of domesticity** – later refuted by **Betty Friedan's *Feminine Mystique***
    2. **Ozzie and Harriet** and **Leave it to Beaver** – TV shows with perfect **suburban** fams
  - C. **Consumer culture** – Diner's Club 1<sup>st</sup> credit card, McDonalds
    1. Rapid TV growth – movie attendance sinks
    2. Cultural and social growth destroyed by consumerism and TV media
    3. Popular music turns to "crossover" **Elvis Presley** – black, country, British
    4. Americans buy mass-produced, standardized products – where's the difference
- V. **Space Race** – **Sputnik** USSR satellite – communism actually key to future – USSR ahead of US  
...Fear – USSR education stronger, could now attack US from space w/ missile
- a. Education – too easygoing – substitute square roots for square dancing
  - b. Authorized loans for college

## Kennedy's New Frontier; Johnson's Great Society

- I. New Domestic Programs – **New Frontier** to "get the country moving again"
- A. Tax cut – though at odds with companies over Steel threats, he regained favor with tax cuts to business – seen as a Republican measure ... Additional tax cuts pushed through by Johnson after Kennedy assassinated
  - B. **War on Poverty – Johnson – Great Society** – "rights revolution" – *helped Americans/hurt budget*
    1. Proposed \$1 Bill(Later \$2 bill. dollar package – focused on Appalachian mountains and poor
      - a. Economic and welfare programs – similar to New Deal
      - b. **Michael Harrington's *The Other America*** – shows 20% of population in poverty
    2. Two new cabinet offices – Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation
    3. Big Four Feats – education, aid to elderly/indigent, immigration reform, voting
      - a. Education – loans straight to kids, not schools – **Project Head Start**
      - b. **Medicare/Medicaid**
- II. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- A. **The New Left** and the **Counterculture** – divides America's into two morals
    1. Negative attitude toward authority – America not free of racism, sexism, imperialism, poverty
    2. 1950s – "**Beat**" poets - Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Rebel without a Cause
    3. UC Berkeley – **Free Speech Movement, sexual revolution**, lived in communes
    4. Turned into violence and cynicism
  - B. Republican Party – reaction to "**flower children**" – **silent majority**
    1. Republicans in South – Kennedy – anti-Catholic – Bible belt
    2. 1968 – American Independent Party – **George Wallace** – South really doesn't want integration – can no longer follow Democrats
    3. Blacks move to cities, Democrats begin appealing to urban areas, Republicans elsewhere
  - C. The Supreme Court – Warren's Court – After 1953
    1. Cases affect sexual freedom, criminals' rights, religious rights, structure of political representation
      - A. ***Griswold v. Connecticut*** – Condoms OK – people have privacy in lives
      - B. ***Gideon v. Wainwright*** – Defendants have right to legal counsel
      - C. ***Miranda/Escobedo*** – right to remain silent, can't get confession from torture
      - D. ***New York Times v. Sullivan*** – public figures only win libel if malice intended
      - E. ***Engel v. Vitale*** – prayer illegal in schools
      - F. ***Reynolds v. Sims*** – redraw district lines to better represent population

(Kennedy and LBJ continued)

### III. Foreign Policy – Cold war still dominates thinking

- A. **Bay of Pigs** – plan made under Eisenhower to have CIA help Cuban exiles retake gov't from **Castro**
  - 1. Fails miserably when Cubans don't side with Cuban exiles
  - 2. America looks like idiots for sponsoring a revolution – Kennedy held responsible
- B. **Cuban Missile Crisis** – closest America gets to WWII – US tells USSR to get missiles out of Cuba
  - 1. Puts in "quarantine" – can't do blockade because it's an act of war
  - 2. If Russia doesn't back down > Cuba invaded > Berlin invaded > World War III
  - 3. **Khrushchev** - Russia eventually back down for America's promise to take out missiles Turkey
  - 4. Created direct phone line between leaders – too close to death
- C. **Vietnam Quagmire** – no-win situation – escalation not possible, N. Vietnamese won't quit
  - 1. Can't escalate because might bring in China or Russia, but can't win without escalation
  - 2. American public – due to media – getting tired of unwinnable war and empty promises
  - 3. Victory confusing – based on body counts and not land taken (land gets retaken later)
  - 4. People begin dodging draft, tons of protests, Veterans not welcomed back
  - 5. **Tet Offensive** actually a victory but media portrayal makes it look like gov't has no touch w/ reality – they had just promised a huge victory
  - 6. Destroys Johnson's policies

## The Nixon Years

### I. Election of 1968 – most heated political season in history

- A. **Democratic convention** has mass riots – mobs bait officers – feces, shouts
  - 1. Eventually police riot breaks out
  - 2. **Robert Kennedy** had been killed – leaves pro-war Humphrey in power
- B. Republicans – victory in Vietnam and strong anticrime policy
- C. **George Wallace** – segregation campaign – gets 45 electoral votes from South
- C. **Nixon** wins – doesn't win one city – Democrats vote cities, blacks vote cities

II. Johnson remembered for Vietnam failure & massive welfare spending, but he did more for Civil Rights than Lincoln... (he didn't run for reelection in 68)

### III. Nixon-Kissinger Foreign Policy

- A. **Vietnam** – escalation and then pull-out troops
  - 1. Asians and others have to fight own wars
  - 2. **Vietnamization** – train Vietnamese to fight war for selves
  - 3. **Bomb Cambodia** to clear out Vietnamese
- B. **China** – restoring relations – road to getting out of Vietnam requires help of China
  - 1. China starting to clash with Soviets – take opportunity
  - 2. 1972 makes journey to China
- C. **Soviet Union** – **détente** – relaxed tension – slowing of arms race
  - 1. Soviets need U.S. food and are afraid of US supported Chinese n (brilliant plan) ... \$750 million in wheat, corn
  - 2. **Anti-ballistic missile treaty** – limited nations to defensive weapons -**SALT** – freeze number of missiles for 5 years

### IV. New Federalism- Expands welfare programs – not liked by Conservatives

- A. Increases for food stamps and Medicaid
- B. Supplemental Security Income for disabled
- C. Poverty rate reduced to 11% - lowest in modern history
- D. Attack on racial discrimination – **affirmative action** – protection for groups not just individuals... Supreme Court prohibits intelligence or other tests that hurt women/blacks
- E. **Environmental Protection Agency** – dealt with smog, pesticides and pollution

### V. Supreme Court – **Roe v. Wade** – prohibited states from passing laws against abortion

- Warren Court of previous two decades had changed face of nation - reformist
- ...Rights of accused, legality of contraception, sue for libel if you could prove malice, support black people in civil rights cases, redraw district lines, etc.

### VI. Watergate Crisis and resignation

- A. Nixon paranoid – believes liberals of Kennedy/Johnson destroyed political career
- B. Wins 1972 election by landslide but actions come back to haunt him
  - 1. **Plumbers** supposed to seal "leaks" after **Pentagon Papers** show fault in previous presidents
  - 2. Group caught in Watergate Hotel at Democratic Party
  - 3. **CREEP** – committee to reelect president has tons of money to play "dirty tricks" on opposition
- C. Reports **Woodward and Bernstein** uncover story – eventually traced to Nixon
- D. Nixon resigns before impeachment – later pardoned by Ford – who becomes only president never elected
- E. John Dean states that Nixon had bugged rooms to record conversations... Eventually Nixon tapes asked for, but denied – minutes "lost"

## After Nixon...

### I. The New Right growing... and the eventual resurgence of conservatism – *response to counterculture of 1960s*... Most concerned about social issues – not economics

- 1. Denounced homosexuality, pornography, abortion, feminism, affirmative action
- 2. Wanted prayer and tougher penalties on criminals
- 3. **Milliken v. Bradley** – says you don't have to bus kids across lines, whites move to suburbs

II. **Ford and Rockefeller** – Ford seen as dumb, **pardoning Nixon** seen as "buddy deal"...Tries to continue Détente at **Helsinki Accords** – finalized boundaries of East – gave freedoms

### III. Jimmy Carter

- A. Double-digit inflation – more than 10% per year – oil prices from **OPEC** killed them
  - 1. High lending rate – 20% - don't want to be repaid with cheap money
  - 2. Calls to improve energy conservation
  - 3. Eventually escapes to Camp David where he meets with advisors, then chastises Americans
- B. **Iranian Hostage Crisis** – hostages taken because US aided in revolution – putting Shah in power
  - ...Nightly news show Iranians burning US flags – failed economic sanctions and commando escape attempt
- C. **Camp David Accords** – Israel and Egypt agree to withdraw to pre-1967 territory to avoid conflict

