

The Cold War

Post WWII

- The US is now considered & proved to be a Super-Power.
- After the War, many veterans left the service to attend college, get jobs &/or start families.
- The Army had dropped to 600,000 troops by 1950. (not too good considering what happens in 1950)
- The "Baby Boom" starts in 1946.
- Factories & businesses had to convert back to peace-time production.
- The Great Depression is over.

- Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944
 - Called the GI Bill of Rights
 - \$13 Billion spent on veterans ed., v.o.-tech. training, medical treatment, unemployment insurance, home & business loans.

Soldier's & Sailor's Civil Relief Act of 1940

- 1st real test of this law
- Postpones &/or suspended certain civil obligations to enable service members to donate their full attention to duty.
- mainly known for rent control, reduced interest rates on loans to 6%, a stay of proceedings (civil court) & most notably job security & protection.

The Cold War Begins

- April 25, 1945 – 50 nations were represented at San Francisco's Opera House to develop The Charter of the United Nations.
- 5 permanent members: US, England, Russia, China & France.
- 1st meeting was held in London in 1946
- The UN permanent residence is located in NY City.
- Established the "Security Council" to maintain international peace & security.

US – USSR Tensions

- Tensions between the countries had built since 1905.
- By the end of WWII, Russia had began to "acquire" many of the Slavic nations, i.e. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania. Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, & Albania.
- The US saw this as a direct threat to world peace & democracy.
- The policy of "containment" was used to keep USSR from spreading further.

- The Truman Doctrine - March 12, 1947 Pres. Truman's post war policy to help European countries that were threatened by the spread of Communism.
- Namely Greece & Turkey, but would be adapted to any country threatened by the take-over or over-throw of their respective governments.
- The Marshall Plan of 1947 – US plan for reconstructing post WWII Europe, to both former Allies & enemies.



- The division of Germany would lead to even more tension between the 2 powers.
- All of the Allied powers took possession of separate regions of Germany.
- US, England & France shared West Germany, while Russia alone held East Germany.
- Berlin was literally split in half, with the Allies on the Western side & Russia on Eastern side.
- The Russians restricted access to West Berlin & finally cut off all power, access, everything.

- ### The Berlin Air Lift
- Russia had hoped to force the Allies to either give up West Berlin or unify West Germany with East Germany, with Russia in control.
 - By April 1948, Russia had stopped all aid, power, food, supplies, etc. from reaching the citizens in West Berlin.
 - The sentiment was shared by the Allies that if Russia forced them out of Germany, they would eventually lose Europe.

- Pres. Truman reassured the Allies, the citizens of West Berlin & the world that Russia would not push them out.
- A massive campaign started to fly supplies into West Berlin.
- By Oct. 1948, over 13,000 tons of food, medical supplies, heating fuel, etc. were flown in every day.
- The Russians threatened to shoot down any plane that flew into their air space. (but never did)

- May 12, 1949 – Russia agreed to lift the blockade, but not open East Germany to the West.
- This situation is typical of the “Cold War” battles. A series of calling the bluff on both side.
- Few shots were ever fired during the “War” but the threat of mutual annihilation was felt on both side.

- ### NATO
- The North Atlantic Treat Organization was developed on April 4, 1949 by most of the Allied powers not affiliated with the Soviet Union. Those countries are under the Warsaw Pact.
 - This unified those countries against any invasion, an attack on one was an attack on all.
 - Specifically targeting the Soviet expansion in Europe.

The Korean War

- Korea was split into north & south at the end of WWII.
- Russia had occupied the northern half after the Japanese had been removed & quickly set up a communist government.
- The Americans were establishing a democratic government south of the 38th parallel.
- This division was only supposed to be temporary.
- But the Communist Revolution in China & the onset of the Cold War would make this impossible.

- June 25, 1950 – over 80,000 North Korean troops, backed by the new Communist Chinese government & “unofficially” by Russia, invaded South Korea (The Republic of Korea – ROK).
- Pres. Truman reacted immediately to the “Communist Threat” that he felt was orchestrated by Moscow for the spread of communism.
- The UN backed Truman on going into Korea, without asking Congress for a formal declaration of war.

- The UN called for all member nations to help push the Communists north of the 38th parallel – only 14 nations responded.
- Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who was still in Japan commanding the Occupation Forces, was placed in command of all UN Forces in Korea.
- The 1st, three months of the war, June – Aug. 1950, UN Forces were beaten & pushed back to the southern most point of South Korea. The eastern port city of Pusan.
- The UN Forces barely held on to the peninsula.



- Sept. 15, 1950 – Gen. MacArthur’s brilliant plan to land troops behind the North Korean Forces at Inchon, the port city for the South Korean capital of Seoul, located on the western coast of Korea.
- The assault was simultaneous with an assault launched from Pusan.
- The North Korean troops were cut-off & surrounded by UN Forces & pushed back across the 38th parallel.
- Gen. MacArthur told Pres. Truman to let him continue north & force the re-unification of Korea on UN terms.



- Oct. 1, 1950 – UN Forces crossed the 38th parallel.
- Oct. 7, 1950 – UN General Assembly approves Gen. MacArthur's plan to re-unify Korea. (He went over Pres. Truman)
- The UN Forces met with very little resistance as they pushed north.
- Oct. 15, 1950 – Pres. Truman meets with MacArthur on Wake Island to discuss the General's actions & Truman feared that Chinese intervention would lead to the "greatest slaughter".

- The Chinese stated that they "could not stand idly by as their communist brothers were being attacked"!
- Oct. 20, 1950 – UN Forces entered Pyongyang. The capital of North Korea.
- Oct. 26, 1950 – advanced UN troops reach Choson, on the Yalu River, the border with China.
- Gen. MacArthur was planning on a total victory by Christmas.
- He would be wrong.

- The Battle of Choson – Nov. 25, 1950
 - 260,000 communist Chinese joined the North Korean troops in a massive counter-attack.
 - The use of the "Human Wave" tactic overwhelmed the UN Forces.
 - Hard, bloody fighting. Over half of it was hand to hand combat.
 - Many Americans fired their weapons until the barrels literally melted & the Chinese & North Koreans kept coming.
 - The UN Forces were eventually pushed back below the 38th parallel, into South Korea.

- Gen. MacArthur began to publicly criticize Pres. Truman, the White House, the Pentagon, & the UN policy on fighting a "limited war".
- He wanted to use the Atomic bomb on China & North Korea, set up a naval blockade of the Chinese mainland & assist with an invasion of China by the Taiwanese (Chinese Nationalists).
- This created a lot of political problems for the US & the UN.
- MacArthur was seen as a loose cannon by both.

- Jan. 1951 – Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway led over 900,000 UN troops & was finally able to establish & secure their front line below Seoul.
- Now he began to work his way north to the 38th parallel.
- Ridgway was called "The Meat-grinder" by his troops & the enemy, because of his "at all cost" attitude towards combat.
- Pres. Truman was trying to re-establish the original boundary line in Korea, while maintaining peace talks with China & North Korea.

- Gen. MacArthur was still criticizing everyone & saying the UN needs to go to war with China also.
- "Either make peace or be attacked!!!!"
- MacArthur had made several derogatory comments about Pres. Truman & the UN to the media.
- Truman called him "Mr. Prima Donna" & that MacArthur would have to go.
- April 5, 1951 – one of MacArthur's letters was read to the House of Rep. in which he stated that "there is NO SUBSTITUTE FOR VICTORY!"

- April 11, 1951 – Pres. Truman removed MacArthur from command & placed Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway as Commander of UN Forces.
- MacArthur returned to the US, the 1st time since 1937, as a hero to most Americans.
- When asked what he planned to do he said, “Old soldiers never die, they just fade away”.
- June 24, 1951 – the Soviet Rep. to the UN proposed a cease-fire along the 38th parallel.
- The UN agreed, along with China & England.

- Many find it interesting that the Communist made this proposal the same time as Gen. Ridgway’s very successful “Meat-grinder Campaign”, that was causing serious losses against the communist forces.
- July 10, 1951 – truce talks started at Panmunjon & dragged on for 2 yrs. – the fighting still continued.
- Both North & South Korea wanted to be in control of the country, prisoner exchange negotiations, & the issue of re-unification stalled the peace process.

- July 27, 1953 – a cease fire was finally reached, but the war never ended.
- Still a very uneasy truce to this day.
- The 38th Parallel would become the DMZ – De-militarized Zone.
- Some POWs were released back to their countries, but no peace conference was ever held.
- 33,741 – US KIA
- 92,134 – WIA
- 7,245 – POW 2,806 died in captivity
- 4,820 – MIA
- over 8,000 still unaccounted for.

Red Scare of the 1950’s

- Since the end of WWII, the communist threat greatly increased in the US.
- The Korean War would add to that greatly, plus the spread of communism throughout other parts of the world.
- China, Korea, Southeast Asia, parts of Africa, Central & South America, were either communist or on the verge of communism.
- Even the Communist Party in the US was growing in numbers.

- The US felt that communism was such a threat that in 1938 the House Un-American Activities Committee was established to investigate the threat of secret, sleeper, &/or subversive agents within the government.
- Everyone that wanted a job with the Federal government had to have a back ground check.
- This would all fall under the Truman Doctrine.

- The most famous instance would be the Case of Alger Hiss.
- Hiss was the Pres. of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace & had served in the Federal government.
- An editor of Time Magazine, Whittaker Chambers, (a former Soviet spy) informed HUAC that Hiss had given him “secret” documents in 1938.
- At that time Hiss worked for the US State Dept. & Chambers was a Soviet spy.

- Alger Hiss was accused of being the leader of a spy ring & arrested. (no real evidence was ever produced to prove this)
- He was charged with Perjury, for lying about being a spy, but later released because the Statute of Limitations had ran out.
- It would be during this trial that a future Pres. would gain the attention of the Nation.
- A young Conservative Congressman from Calif., Richard Millhouse Nixon.
- Nixon "attacked" every accusation of communism & wanted to continue investigating the Hiss Case.

- Nixon would use his anti-communism stance to gain a lot of support to win a Senate seat & become a prominent politician.
- Free-speech would also become an issue during this paranoia.
- The Smith Act of 1940, which made it illegal to conspire &/or advocate the over-throw of the US Government.
- An extension of the Alien & Sedition Acts.
- This would be used in 1949 to convict almost a dozen of the top officials of the US Communist Party.

- The Supreme Court upheld the ruling because they posed a "Clear & Present Danger" to the American way of life & therefore superseded Free-Speech.
- Possibly the most famous "spy" case of the 1950's was the Rosenberg Trial.
- Julius & Ethel Rosenberg were exposed as collaborators in a spy network that gave information on the development of the Atomic Bomb to Soviet spies.
- Feb. 2, 1950 – Emil Julius Klaus Fuchs was arrested by British Intelligence Agents. But he did not know the name of his American source.

- The FBI investigated & found that it was Harry Gold, a Philadelphia chemist, & he was arrested on May 22, 1950.
- As they investigated a long list of contacts, it finally led to Julius & Ethel Rosenberg. All of the "spies" were members of the US Communist Party & several were Soviet spies who had joined the US Military to gain access to secret information.
- They were arrested & convicted of espionage against the US, selling secret information to the Soviets, etc.
- The Rosenbergs were executed in 1953.

The McCarthy "Witch-Hunts"

- Joseph McCarthy, a Republican Senator from Wisconsin, took advantage of the fear of the Communist Threat within the America.
- Feb. 9, 1950 – McCarthy claimed the US State Dept. was infested with communists.
- He even claimed to have a "list" of names of communist "moles".
- The "list" of names contained anywhere from 57 – over 200 names, sometimes just "a lot".
- He conducted Senate investigations & hearings to "seek out & expose" all communists within the American government. – He never found a single one!!!

- But the investigations destroyed &/or disrupted many lives.
- It was almost "Orwellian" in its nature.
- People turned on one another, neighbors, families, teachers, preachers, actors, directors, etc.
- No one was immune.
- The country finally had enough when McCarthy claimed that Gen. George Marshall, a hero from WWII, was disloyal.
- These investigations would last until the mid-1950's, where he had finally accused too many people without proof.
- But it did have an impact on the government.

- The McCarran Internal Security Act–1950

- Made it against the law to “combine, conspire, or agree with any other person to perform any act which would substantially contribute to ...the est. of a totalitarian dictatorship.”
- Pres. Truman tried to veto, but Congress passed it because of the “Communist Threat”.

The Cold War would have a major impact on the way of life in the US throughout the next 30 years or so. Every aspect of life political, economical, social, religious, educational, etc. Even how families lived & children were raised.