**CHAPTER 25: AMERICANS AND A WORLD IN CRISIS, 1933-1945**

THE UNITED STATES IN A MENACING WORLD, 1933-1939

### Nationalism and the Good Neighbor

* FDR announced a “GOOD NEIGHBOR” POLICY – and in late 1933 the US signed a formal convention that “No state ahs the right to intervene in the internal or external affairs of another.” To support this he withdrew the last US troops from Haiti and the Dominican Republic, persuaded American bankers to loosen their grip on Haiti’s central banking system, renounced the Platt Amendment, and reduced the US role in Panamanian affairs.
* The Americans gave aid to Fulgencio Batista so that a leftist regime could not take over. He remained in power until Castro overthrew him in 1959.
* The Good Neighbor Policy substituted economic leverage for heavy-handed intervention, particularly military occupation. The better relations fostered by FDR would become important when the US sought to hemispheric solidarity in WWII, and later in the Cold War.

### The Rise of Aggressive States in Europe and Asia

* Mussolini and Hitler take over in their respective countries and Hitler begins his mass extermination of Jews.
* Hitler began a military buildup in 1935.
* German troops occupied the Rhineland, he also proclaimed an anschluss (union) between Austria and Germany. The allies took no action = appeasement.
* He then turned to the Sudetenland (a part of Czechoslovakia, which had 3 mill. Ethnic Germans). APPEASEMENT – The British and French, both wanting to avoid hostilities, appeased him and agreed to let him have the Sudetenland. MUNICH PACT – FDR and most American applauded the Munich Pact for avoiding the war.
* In Japan, militarists had gained control of the government.
* They invaded Manchuria to get raw materials (coal, metals, petroleum, and timber). By July 1937 they launched a full-scale war on China.

### The American Mood: No More War

* The US’s reluctance to go to war was rooted in the fact that many Americans believed WWI was a mistake.
* It also reflected an ISOLATIONIST policy that the US had; they were more worried about the Great Depression and economic difficulties compared to what was going on overseas.
* NEUTRALITY ACTS (1935-37) –
  + They outlawed arms sales and loans to nations at war
  + Barred Americans from traveling on the ships of belligerent powers.
* In 1938, congressman Louis Ludlow proposed a constitutional amendment requiring a national referendum on any US declaration of war except in cases of direct attack. Only a direct appeal from FDR rejected the Ludlow agreement.

### The Gathering Storm

* On March 15, 1939 Nazi troops occupied the remaining parts of Czechoslovakia, violating the Munich Accords.
* He also signed a non-aggression pact with the USSR. They agreed to not fight one another and they would divide Poland. Britain and France said they would come to Poland’s defense
* Americans began to slowly move against fascism.
* FDR began to do so as well. After the fall of Czech. He called for actions “short of war” to demonstrate America’s will to check fascism, and he asked Hitler and Mussolini to pledge not to invade 31 listed nations.
* FDR also asked Congress for a $300 million military appropriation, in Nov. he instructed the Army Air Corps to plan for an annual production of 20,000 planes, and in Jan. 1939 he submitted a $1.3 billion defense budget.

### America and the Jewish Refugees

* NUREMBERG LAWS – (1935) outlawed marriage and sexual intercourse between Jews and non-Jews, stripped Jews of the rights of German citizenship, and increased restrictions on Jews in all spheres of German educational, social and economic life.
* KRISTALLNACHT – it reached violence on Nov. 9-10 when the Nazis unleashed the Night of Broken Glass. It was a frenzy of arson, destruction, and looting against Jews throughout Germany.
* Jews left Germany by the tens of thousands, some came to the US.
* However, the US proved reluctant to grant sanctuary to the mass of Nazism’s Jewish victims.
* THE ST. LOUIS – June 1939 a vessel named the St. Louis, carrying 900 Jewish refugees, asked permission to put the people in Florida. Immigration officials refused the request and had a Coast Guard ship deployed to prevent people from jumping ship and swimming to shore. It went back to Germany where many of its passengers would die.

INTO THE STORM, 1939-1941

### The European War

* Germans invaded Poland on Sep. 1, 1939. 2 days later Britain and France declared war on Germany. Although FDR invoked the Neutrality Acts, he would not ask Americans to be impartial in thought and deed.
* FDR persuaded Congress in Nov. to amend the Neutrality acts to allow the belligerents (waging war) to purchase weapons if they paid cash and carried them away on their own ships. He assumed that “cash and carry” would mainly aid the allies, given their control of the seas.
* This did not stop the Nazis.
* Hitler introduced the BLITZKRIEG (lightning war) as they quickly overwhelmed Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and Dunkirk. England narrowly escaped with an evacuation from Dunkirk across the English Channel.
* Hitler targeted England with his LUFTWAFFE (German air force). He planned to terror bomb them into submission. Churchill called for more US aid, but we were still reluctant.

### From Isolation to Intervention

* FDR agreed to run for an unprecedented third term amidst the crisis. He played the role of the crisis leader too busy to engage in politics. He signed the Selective Service and Training Act. the first peacetime draft in US history, and approved an enormous increase in spending for rearmament.
* FDR was elected to a third term.
* Many Americans supported assisting GB, while staying out of the war.
* “LEND-LEASE ACT” – It was a program to supply war material to cash-strapped Britain.
* It abolished the “cash” provision of the Neutrality Act and allowing the president to lend or lease supplies to any nation deemed “vital to the defense of the US”.
* Shipments to England began at once and soon went to the USSR in June because Hitler invaded there as well.
* In April 1941, FDR authorized the US navy to help the British track U-boats. In mid-summer the navy began convoying British ships carrying lend-lease supplies, with orders to destroy enemy vessels if necessary to protect shipments. US forces also occupied Greenland and Iceland to keep them out of Nazi hands (good strategic positions).
* ATLANTIC CHARTER – FDR and Churchill issued this document. It condemned international aggression, affirmed the right of national self-determination, and endorsed the principles of free trade, disarmament, and collective security.
* After the Reuben *James* sank, killing 115 Americans, FDR persuaded Congress in Nov. to permit the arming of merchant ships and their entry into belligerent ports in war zones.
* Nothing remained of the Neutrality Acts and the US was preparing for full-scale war.

### Pearl Harbor and the Coming of War

* Japan wanted a SE Asian empire. The US wanted an Open Door Policy in China and things to return to as they were in the rest of Asia.
* Japan saw the US stand as a ploy to block its rise to world power and the US viewed Japan’s talk of legitimate national aspirations as a smoke screen to hide aggression.
* In 1940, the US ended a long-standing treaty with Japan and banned the sale of aviation fuel and scrap metal to it. They responded by occupying northern Indochina, a French colony, and signing the TRIPARTITE PACT with Germany and Italy in September, creating a military alliance, the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis, that required them to help the others in lieu of a US attack.
* Japan conquered the rest of Indochina instead of negotiating with the US. FDR froze all Japanese assets in the US, imposed a new fuel embargo, and clamped a total ban on trade with Japan.
* But as Japan’s fuel meters went toward empty, GENERAL HIDEKI TOJO – set the first week in December as a deadline for a preemptive attack if the US did not yield.
* By late Nov. US intelligence decipherings showed that war was imminent.
* However, they didn’t know where.
* The Japanese decided on Pearl Harbor
* Dec. 7,1941 the US was attacked – 2400 died
* Americans underestimated the resourcefulness, skill, and daring of the Japanese.
* On Dec. 8 Congress approved a declaration of war on Japan. 3 days later Germany declared war on us, Mussolini followed suit, Congress immediately reciprocated.
* U-boats wreaked havoc in the Atlantic. U-boats were sinking more ships than the US could produce.
* Japan followed its attack on Pearl Harbor by seizing Guam, Wake Island, Singapore, Burma, and the Dutch East Indies. Japan took more than 11,000 American soldiers prisoner early in May 1942.

AMERICA MOBILIZES FOR WAR

### Organizing for Victory

* FDR formed the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made up of representatives of the armed forces.
* It also led to the creation of the OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (OSS) – this was the forerunner to the CIA, they were to conduct the espionage required for strategic planning.
* To organize war production, FDR established a host of new government agencies.
* The WAR PRODUCTION BOARD – allocated materials, limited the production of civilian goods, and distributed contracts among manufacturers.
* The WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION – supervised the mobilization of men and women for the military, agriculture, and industry while the NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARD (NWLB) mediated disputes between management and labor. Finally the OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION (OPA) – rationed scarce products and imposed price controls to check inflation.
* By late 1942 – a third of the economy was committed to war production, equaling the military output of Germany, Italy, and Japan combined.
* The US built some 50 new synthetic-rubber plants. By the end of the war, the US, once the world’s largest importer of crude rubber, become the world’s largest exporter of synthetic rubber.
* America also became the world’s greatest weapon’s manufacturer.
* Defense spending went from 9% of the GNP to 46% of the GNP. Because the government sought the greatest volume of war production in the shortest possible time, it encouraged corporate profits.
* To encourage business to convert to war production and expand its capacity, the government guaranteed profits, provided generous tax write-offs and subsidies, and suspended antitrust prosecutions.
* America’s 10 biggest corporations got a third of the war contracts, and 2/3 of all war-production spending went to the hundred largest firms, greatly accelerating trends toward economic concentration.

### The War Economy

* The US spent more than $320 billion to defeat the Axis. This ended the depression and stimulated the industrial boom that brought prosperity to most American workers.
* The government poured nearly $40 billion into the West. It made the West an economic powerhouse with CA leading the way.
* A newly prospering South also contributed to the emergence of a dynamic sunbelt. The south’s industrial capacity increased by 40%, and per capita income tripled.
* Boom times allowed hundreds of thousands of sharecroppers and farm tenants to leave the land for better paying industrial jobs.
* Full employment, longer workweeks, larger paychecks, and the increased hiring of minorities, women, the elderly, and teenagers made the US a truly middle-class nation.
* The war years produced the only significant 20th century shift in the distribution of income toward greater equality.
* Organized agriculture (later called agribusiness) took its seat in the council of power, alongside big government, big business, and organized labor.
* Labor Union membership increased – “MAINTENANCE OF MEMBERSHIP RULE” – it automatically enrolled new workers in unions and required workers to retain their union membership throughout the life of a membership.
* In return, unions agreed not to strike and to limit wage increases to 15%. In lieu of higher pay, they negotiated unprecedented fringe benefits for their members, including paid vacation time, health insurance, and pension plans.
* Strikes declined during the war years, and FDR could take over any facility were strikes interrupted war production.
* Inflation threatened the wartime economy. FDR was authorized to control wages, prices, and rents, and as the OPA clamped down, inflation slowed dramatically.
* The OPA also instituted rationing.
* They rationed gas, coffee, sugar, butter, cheese, and meat.
* Buying war bonds further curtailed inflation by decreasing consumer purchasing power, while giving civilians a sense of involvement in the distant war.
* The government also began taking in more taxes. They were taking in nearly 20 times the tax revenue that it had in 1940.

### “A Wizard War”

* Winston Churchill labeled the conflict “a wizard war” in tribute to the importance of wartime scientific and technological developments.
* In early 1941 FDR formed a committee to organize scientists for a weapons race. He created the OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (OSRD) – it spent more than $1 billion to generate radar and sonar devices, rocket weapons, and bomb fuses. It advanced the development of jet aircraft and high-altitude bombsights, and its employment of scientists to devise methods for utilizing new weapons resulted in a brand-new field called operational analysis. The need to improve radar spurred the development of the laser, while research in quantum physics to build atomic bombs later became the basis for transistors and semiconductors.
* In 1942 they began working on the earliest computers. It helped to improve artillery accuracy for the army, reduced the time required to multiply two tenth place numbers from 3 seconds to less than three-thousandths of a second.
* The war also hastened improvements in blood transfusion and blood-banking techniques, heart and lung surgery, and the use of synthetic drugs to substitute for scarce quinine and toxoid vaccine to prevent tetanus.
* They also began to have vast amounts of antibiotics to combat infections.
* Insecticides were also used. DDT killed many mosquitoes carrying malaria.
* They also had the Mobile Auxiliary Surgical Hospital (MASH), science save thousands of lives.
* MANHATTAN PROJECT – this was a high priority mission to develop the atomic bomb.
* In 1945 engineers and scientists headquartered in Los Alamos, NM, assembled 2 bombs utilizing those fissionable materials (Uranium-235 and plutonium). The project employed more than 120,000 people and spent nearly $2 billion.
* J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER – the scientific director of the project. They tested it on July 16, 1945 in NM. It was successful.

### Propaganda and Politics

* OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP – examined letters going overseas and worked with publishers and broadcasters to suppress information that might hinder the war effort.
* OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION (OWI) – to shape public opinion and sell the war to the American people, FDR created the (OWI) in June 1942. They were to counter enemy propaganda. It depicted the war as a mortal struggle between good and evil and harped the necessity of totally destroying the enemy.
* Film also helped to promote the war. They depicted the enemy as cruel and treacherous, and they also presented the war as a struggle to preserve the American way of life.
* Full employment and higher wages undercut the appeal of the New Deal, and resentment over wartime shortages and dismay over Axis victories further weakened the Democrats. In 1942 the Republicans gained 51 seats in Congress. Voter turnout was low because many soldiers were away from their homes.
* Politics shifted to the Right.
* Some New Deal agencies were abolished and some were drastically curtailed.
* The war expanded the power of the government and executive branch.
* The federal government managed the economy, molded public opinion, funded scientific research, and influenced people’s daily lives.

THE BATTLEFRONT, 1942-1944

### Liberating Europe

* OPERATION TORCH – Nov. 1942, American forces under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower pressed eastward from Morocco and Algeria. They caught the troops of Field Marshall Erwin Rommel in a vise and forced some 260,000 German and Italian troops to surrender, despite Hitler’s orders to fight to the death.
* BATTLE OF STALINGRAD – The Russians defeated the Germans. There was a great deal of bloodshed. Soviet forces saved Stalingrad, defended Moscow, and relieved besieged Leningrad.
* Stalin wanted help twice. GB and the US denied him twice.
* They decided to invade Italy through Sicily. They were successful. In summer of 1943, after a month of fighting, the Allies seized Sicily and landed in southern Italy.
* Italian military officials deposed Mussolini and surrendered to the Allies in early September.
* German troops then poured in.
* They spent 8 months getting to Rome. They were still battling through Northern Italy when the war in Europe ended in 1945.
* 1943-44 the Allies turned the tide with round-the-clock bombardment. Britain’s RAF (Royal Air Force) by night and the US army air force by day.
* July 1943 – Germans were pushed out of the Soviet Union by the Soviets. The USSR then went into Poland and established a puppet government, took control of Romania and Bulgaria, and helped Yugoslavia to become liberated.
* As the Soviets swept across Eastern Europe the Allies opened up the second front.
* JUNE 6, 1944 – D-DAY – 200,000 troops had an amphibious landing into Normandy. OPERATION OVVERLORD – gradually pushed inland, securing the low countries, liberating Paris, and approaching the border of Germany.
* The Battle of the Bulge – named for the 80 mile long and 50 mile wide “bulge” that the German troops drove inside the American lines – it raged for nearly a month, and ended with American forces on the banks of the Rhine, the end of the European war was in sight.

### War in the Pacific

* Battle of Midway – Japan headed to Midway (an American outpost between Japan and Hawaii). The US Signal Corps broke the Japanese code and expected their attack. The US won a victory sinking 4 carriers and destroying hundreds of planes.
* Guadalcanal – In the Solomon Islands in Aug. 1942. It took 6 months to get.
* ISLAND HOPPING – the navy and marines under Admiral Chester Nimitz, “island hopped” across the central Pacific to seize strategic bases and put Tokyo in range of American bombers. In fall of 1944 the navy annihilated what remained of the Japanese fleet, giving the US control of Japan’s air shipping lanes and leaving the Japanese home islands open to invasion.

### The Grand Alliance

* FDR had two main goals for the war.
  + The total defeat of the Axis at the least possible cost in American lives
  + The establishment of a world order strong enough to preserve peace, open trade, and ensure national self-determination in the postwar era.
* GB wanted to create a balance of power in Europe and retain its imperial possessions.
* The USSR wanted a permanently weakened Germany and a sphere of influence in Eastern Europe to protect itself against future attacks from the West.
* FDR relied on personal diplomacy to mediate conflicts.
* FDR, Churchill, and Stalin met in Tehran and decided on June for the invasion of France, agreed to divide Germany into zones of occupation and to impose reparations on the Reich. Most importantly Stalin pledged to enter the war against Japan after Hitler’s defeat.
* FDR switched his running mate to HST. He won but by a narrower margin.

WAR AND AMERICAN SOCIETY

### The GI’s War

* Sharing tents and foxholes with Americans of different religions, ethnicities, and classes, their military service acted as a “melting pot” experience that freed them from some prewar prejudices.
* Over a million married overseas, broadening personal horizons and sowing the seeds of a more tolerant and diverse national culture that placed far less emphasis on divisions of class, national origin, region, and religion.
* GI’s also became more distrustful of foreigners.
* Physical misery, chronic exhaustion, and especially, intense combat took a heavy toll, leaving lasting psychological as well as physical wounds.

### The Home Front

* 15 million men moved because of military service.
* Many moved west to work in airplane or shipyard industries.
* Many moved from rural areas as well.
* This made people lonelier, alienated, and frustrated. Lifestyles became looser. Housing shortages left many living in garages and trailer camps.
* Overcrowding along with wartime separations strained family and community life.
* High rated of divorce, mental illness, family violence, and juvenile delinquency reflected the disruptions caused in part by the lack of privacy, the sense of impermanence, the absence of familiar settings, and the competition for scarce facilities.
* The federal government urged women into the workplace during the war.
* 75% of new women workers were married, 60% were over 35, and more than 33% had children under the age of 14.
* ROSIE THE RIVETER – became the symbol of the woman war worker.
* Wartime strengthened traditional convictions, and gender discrimination flourished throughout the war. They got paid less than men and their work was seen as temporary.
* Traditional notions of a woman’s place also shaped government resistance to establishing child-care centers for women employed in defense.
* Fears of people fueled as juvenile delinquency rates and divorce rates rose at this time.
* As the divorce rate soared, so did marriage and birth rates.
* More than 300,000 women joined the armed forces and, for the first time in American history, were given regular military status and served in positions other that that of nurse. They replaced men in jobs like mechanics and radio operators. About 1,000 served as civilian pilots with the WASP’s (Women’s Air force Service Pilots). When they left, they had the same rights and privileges as the male veterans.
* Women did gain employment opportunities and public recognition.
* Women gained a new sense of their potential.
* Women left teaching because of the low pay and teens left school as well to go and make money.
* The loss of students to war production and the armed services forced colleges to admit large numbers of women and to contract themselves out to the armed forces.
* Higher education became more dependent on the federal government, and most wanted federal contracts and subsidies, even though it meant greater governmental interference.
* The media grew, targeting mass audiences
* Music also changed as films did. At first they were patriotic about the war. As the war went on they dealt with many different topics.
* Nonfiction also ruled the roost.
* An avid interest in wartime news also spurred the major radio networks to increase their news programs from 4% to nearly 30%.

### Racism and New Opportunities

* African Americans wanted equal rights. They called for a ‘DOUBLE V” campaign- victory over racial discrimination as well as over the axis.
* Membership in the NAACP rose and they wanted better voting conditions and overall conditions.
* The campaign for voting rights gained momentum when the SC, in *Smith v. Allwright* (1944), ruled the TX all-white primary unconstitutional. The decision eliminated a bar that had existed in 8 southern states, although they restored other devices to minimize voting by blacks.
* CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE) – this was a new civil rights organization that was formed in 1942. They believed in nonviolent direct action. They sought to desegregate public facilities in northern cities.
* A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH – called for a march on Washington. He warned FDR that if he didn’t end discrimination in the armed services and the defense industry, African Americans would besiege Washington. FDR agreed to compromise.
* In June 1941 he issued EXECUTIVE ORDER 8802, the first presidential directive on race since Reconstruction. It prohibited discriminatory employment practices by federal agencies and all unions and companies engaged in war-related work, and established the FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSION (FEPC) to enforce his policy. It lacked effective enforcement powers. But, African Americans did enter the work force because there was a shortage of workers due to the war.
* About 1 million served in the armed forces, however many were given menial jobs and they were segregated. MP’s were used to keep blacks in their place. At least 50 died due to racial conflicts.
* As more blacks protested against discrimination, more whites stiffened their resistance to racial equality.
* Violence erupted and come to its height in Detroit.
* The fear of continued violence led to a greater emphasis on racial tolerance by liberal whites and to a reduction in the militancy of African Americans.
* The migration of 700,000 blacks out of the south turned a southern problem into one of national concern.
* IT created a new feeling of independence of blacks.
* As they moved north, they had greater clout in the voting booths, so politicians began to recognize their concerns.
* Black veterans, participating in the war effort, came back with high expectations.

### War and Diversity

* 25,000 Navajo fought in the war, they were used as code talkers against the Japanese.
* Many Native Americans left the reservations to make money and try to assimilate. Most returned because of the discrimination that they faced. Government funding also declined due to the war.
* Native Americans organized the NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS IN 1944. They did this to mobilize against the campaign to end all reservations and trust protections.
* To relieve labor shortages in agriculture, caused by conscription and the movement of rural workers to city factories, the US government negotiated an agreement with Mexico in July 1942 to import BRACEROS – or temporary workers. They were to get adequate wages, medical care, and decent living conditions. But farm owners also encouraged illegal immigration and those people could not defend themselves for the fear of deportation. As a group they were discriminated against.
* Much of the hostility toward Mexican Americans focused on young gang members who wore “zoot suits”. Violence occurred because of this and the police always favored the whites. Nothing was done about the substandard housing, disease, and racism Hispanics had to endure.
* About 350,000 served in the armed forces without segregation.
* Returning Mexican American GI’s joined long-standing anti-discrimination groups, like the LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (LULAC) – and organized their own associations, like the American GI Forum, to press for veterans’ interests and equal rights.
* It also gave opportunities to gays and lesbians, although they were highly discriminated against.
* In 1945 gay veterans established the Veteran’s Benevolent Association, the first major gay organization in the US to combat discrimination.

### The Internment of Japanese Americans

* 37,000 Issei, first generation and 75,000 Nisei or second generation Japanese were interned.
* This reflected the deep-rooted hatred and discrimination towards Japanese Americans.
* EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 – Feb. 1942 – it authorized the removal from military areas of anyone deemed a threat. Even though they had no evidence of wrongdoing they ordered the eviction of all Japanese from the West Coast.
* They were forced to sell their homes and possessions quickly.
* Most Americans did not object.
* The SC upheld the constitutionality of the evacuation in the *Korematsu* case (1944). By then the hysteria subsided and the government ordered gradual release.
* In 1982 Congress voted to give $20,000 to each of the surviving internees (62,000)

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY, 1945

### The Yalta Conference

* FDR, Churchill, and Stalin met in Feb. 1945. Stalin had the upper hand.
* USSR said they would help us fight Japan 2-3 months after Germany surrendered.
* They reneged on an agreement with Jiang Jieshei. They were going to leave Manchuria free. However, USSR would get it and the territories that they lost in the Russo-Japanese War.
* They did not agree on how to divide Germany.
* They wanted interim governments in Eastern Europe and ultimately for free elections.
* They also accepted a plan for a new international organization and agreed to convene a founding conference of the new UN in San Francisco in April 1945.
* USSR installed a communist government in Poland.
* FDR cold only hope that Stalin would keep his word.

### Victory in Europe

* Berlin fell to the Soviets on May 2, and on May 8 a new government surrendered unconditionally.
* On April 30, Hitler committed suicide.
* April 12 FDR died V-E day happened less than a month later.
* Truman was not familiar with the inner workings of the administration.
* In office less than 2 weeks he lashed out at the Soviets for not allowing free elections in Poland, and he threatened to cut off lend-lease aid if the USSR did not cooperate.
* The Truman administration then reduced US economic assistance to the Soviets and stalled on their request for a $1 billion reconstruction loan.
* At the same time, Stalin strengthened his grip on Eastern Europe, ignoring the promises he made at Yalta.
* The US would not concede the Soviet influence in Eastern Europe nor take steps to terminate it.
* HST still wanted Stalin to help with the Japanese and in establishing the UN, but their relations deteriorated.
* By June 1945, when the Allied countries succeeded in framing the UN Charter, hopes for a new international order had dimmed, and the UN emerged as a diplomatic battleground.

### The Holocaust

* The US did not recognize the Holocaust was happening until Nov. 1942, even though reports were coming out early that same year.
* 6 million Jews were exterminated. Americans felt that the best way to help them was by winning the war as quickly as possible, American Jews wanted the camps destroyed to stop the pain and suffering of those there.
* The US did not seriously consider rescue schemes or search for a way to deal with the Nazis.
* Its feeble response was due to its focus on winning the war, congressional and public fears of an influx of destitute Jews into the US, Britain’s wish to placate the Arabs by keeping Jewish settlers out of Palestine, and the fear of some Jewish-American leaders that pressing the issue would increase anti-Semitism at home.
* The War Refugee Board managed to save the lives of just 200,000 Jews. About 75% of the population was killed.

### The Atomic Bombs

* Early in 1945 the US fought at Iwo Jima. Securing the five-square-mile island would cost the marines nearly 27,000 casualties, and 1/3 of all the marines killed in the Pacific.
* In June American troops landed on Okinawa and planned for the invasion of the Japanese home islands. There was a 35% casualty rate – higher than Normandy.
* Japan gave no signs of surrender. Their army was large and they had a lot of reservists.
* On July 25, while meeting the Churchill and Stalin in Potsdam, Truman ordered the use of an atomic bomb if Japan did not surrender before Aug. 3.
* He warned Japan the next day to surrender unconditionally or face “prompt and utter destruction.” They rejected it on July 28.
* On August 6, a b-29 bomber named *Enola Gay* dropped a uranium bomb on Hiroshima, more than 60,000 died from the initial blast, and many of the 70,000 injured died later from burns and radiation poisoning.
* On Aug. 8 Stalin declared war on Japan, US planes dropped leaflets saying another bomb would be dropped unless they surrendered.
* The next day they dropped a plutonium bomb on Nagasaki, killing 35,000 and injuring more than 60,000.
* On August 14 they accepted American terms of surrender, which implicitly permitted the emperor to retain his throne but subordinated him to the US commander of the occupation forces.
* General MacArthur received Japan’s surrender on the battleship *Missouri* on Sept. 2, 1945. The war was over.
* Some question if the use of this force was necessary. By 1945 The Allies and the Axis had abandoned restraints on attacking civilians.
* Some historians believe that it would send a message to Stalin and the USSR and send them a message.
* The concept of “TOTAL WAR” easily accommodated the bombing of civilians; and the atomic bomb was one more item in an arsenal that had already wreaked enormous destruction on the Axis.

CONCLUSION

* Mobilizing for war changed the scope and authority of the federal government, vastly expanding presidential powers.
* It ended the unemployment of the depression and stimulated an unprecedented economic boom that would enable million of Americans to become middle-class citizens.

**CHAPTER 26: THE COLD WAR ABROAD AND AT HOME, 1945-1952**

THE POSTWAR POLITICAL SETTING, 1945-1946

### Demobilization and Reconversion

* A drastic housing shortage and soaring divorce rate intensified the psychological problems of readjustment faced by veterans.
* Some veterans could not reestablish prewar ties with family or friends, or adjust to the greater independence of once submissive wives.
* Some experienced loneliness, others worried that automation would displace them, or that the stalled union drive would depress wages. As war plants closed people were reminded of before the war.
* By the end of the decade more women were working outside of the home than during WWII. Most did office work, not factory work.
* However, pop culture romanticized married bliss and demonized career women as a threat to social instability.

### The G.I. Bill of Rights

* 1944 Congress had enacted the SERVICEMEN’S READJUSTMENT ACT commonly known as the GI BILL OF RIGHTS or GI Bill.
* It was designed to forestall the expected recession by easing veterans back into the work force, as well as to reward “soldier boys” and reduce their fears of female competition.
* It gave veterans priority for many jobs, occupational guidance, and if they needed, 52 weeks of unemployment benefits. It also established veterans’ hospitals and provided low-interest loans to returning GIs who were starting businesses or buying homes or farms.
* Almost 4 million veterans bought homes with government loans, fueling a baby boom, suburbanization, and a record demand for goods and services.
* It also promised to pay for up to 4 years of further education or job training – many of the academic elite opposed this, saying that it would let the rif raf in.
* In 1946, 1.5 million veterans were attending college, spurring a huge increase in higher education and the creation of many new state and community colleges.
* Veterans made up ½ of all college students in 1947. They also began to offer accelerated programs and more vocational or career-oriented courses. Veterans wanted skills to enter the work force.
* To allow veterans to go to school, many colleges limited the attendance of women or barred out of state people from attending.
* The GI Bill democratized higher education. It allowed many more Americans to go to college (many of them the first in their families).
* A college education became an accepted part of the American dream.
* The cost for the government was huge, but well spent.
* The GI Bill fueled the upward mobility of veterans, enabling them to return in income taxes the money advanced to them by the government.
* It propelled millions of veterans into middle-class status in employment, education, and residence.

### The Economic Boom Begins

* A 1945 tax cut of $6 billion spurred corporate investment in new factories and equipment and helped produce an economic boom that began in late 1946.
* The consumption of goods soared. People wanted homes, cars, and appliances.
* The BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENT created the INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) – to stabilize exchange rates by valuing (“pegging”) other currencies in relation to the US dollar.
* The agreement created the INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (WORLD BANK). To help rebuild Asia and Europe. It also laid groundwork for the 1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to break up closed trading blocs and expand international trade. Since the US largely controlled and funded these powerful economic institutions, they further aided the speedy reconversion of the American economy and gave the US an especially favorable position in international trade and finance.
* With many nations temporarily in ruins, American firms could import raw materials cheaply and increase exports to record levels.
* Us economic dominance also reflected the 35% increase in the productivity of American workers.
* Wartime advances in science and technology also helped to fuel this boost.

### Truman’s Domestic Program

* EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1946 – it committed the federal government to ensuring economic growth and established the Council of Economic Advisers to confer with the President and formulate policies for maintaining employment, production, and purchasing power. Congress did not allow the goal of full employment or enhanced executive powers to achieve that objective.
* Congressional eagerness to dismantle wartime controls worsened the nation’s chief economic problem: inflation.
* Demand outran the supply of goods, intensifying the pressure on prices. The OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION (OPA) – sought to hold the line by enforcing price controls, but food producers, manufacturers, and retailers opposed continuing wartime controls.
* In June 1946 Truman vetoed a bill to extend its life, effectively ending all price controls.
* Within a week food costs rose 16%
* Congress then passed and Truman signed a second bill extending price controls in weakened form.
* Many protested to withhold food. HST lifted food prices just before the 1946-midterm elections.
* When Democrats fared poorly in the election Truman ended all price controls.
* This staggering increase in the cost of living intensified organized labors’ demand for the higher wages that had been disallowed during the war. More than 4.5 million workers went on strike in 1946.
* By fall 1946, Truman angered virtually every major interest group. In 1946, for the first time since 1928, Republicans won control of both houses of Congress.

ANTICOMMUNISM AND CONTAINMENT, 1946-1952

### Polarization and the Cold War

* The USSR wanted to end its vulnerability on the West side. So they wanted a buffer zone of countries favorable to the USSR. They also wanted a demilitarized and deindustrialized Germany.
* He wanted a SOVIET SPHERE OF INFLUENCE in Eastern Europe essential to Russian security, a just reward for bearing the brunt of the war against Germany. Stalin also believed that Roosevelt implicitly accepted a Soviet zone in Eastern Europe at the Yalta Conference.
* Stalin put puppet governments in Bulgaria and Romania. He also supported communist regimes in Albania and Yugoslavia. He also suppressed Democratic parties in Poland.
* Stalin’s insistence on dominance in Eastern Europe collided with Truman’s unwillingness to concede Soviet supremacy beyond Russia’s borders.
* Truman also thought that accepting the “enforce sovietization” of Eastern Europe would betray American war aims and condemn nations rescued from Hitler’s tyranny.
* He also thought that Soviet influence in Eastern Europe would hurt American businesses dependent on exports and on access to raw materials.
* Not appearing “soft” on communism was a political necessity.
* The President demanded Polish democracy.

### The Iron Curtain Descends

* Stalin tightened his grip on Eastern Europe, stepping up his confiscation of materials and factories from occupied territories and forcing his satellite nations to close their doors to American trade and influence.
* “CONTAINMENT” – a doctrine uniting military, economic, and diplomatic strategies to prevent communism from spreading and to enhance America’s security and influence abroad.
* Winston Churchill coined the term IRON CURTAIN – an imaginary line across Europe separating the East from the West.
* The US wanted the USSR to stop all work on nuclear weapons and to submit to UN inspectors – the USSR refused.
* In 1946 Congress established the ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (AEC) – to develop nuclear energy and nuclear weaponry. It devoted more than 90% of its effort to atomic weapon development.
* Less than a year after Hitler’s defeat the Cold War had begun.
* COLD WAR - It would be waged by economic pressure, nuclear intimidation, propaganda, proxy wars, and subversion rather than by direct US military confrontation. Many Americans would view it as an ideological conflict pitting democracy against dictatorship, freedom against totalitarianism, religion against atheism, and capitalism against socialism.

### Containing Communism

* Greece and Turkey were succumbing to communist pressures. On Feb. 27, the new secretary of state, GEORGE C. MARSHALL – presented a case for aid to Greece and Turkey to key congressional leaders. They were more concerned with inflation at home than civil war in Greece.
* DEAN ACHESON – the newly appointed undersecretary of state, seized the moment. He said it was a universal struggle of freedom against tyranny. He said that Turkey and Greece would be a starting point and then it would spread.
* Truman asked for $400 million and they gave it to him and Greece and Turkey were able to stay out of Soviet control.
* TRUMAN DOCTRINE - this was Truman’s statement of a new policy of active US engagement to contain communism became known as the Truman Doctrine, it persisted long after the crisis in the Mediterranean. It laid the groundwork for American Cold War policy for much of the next 4 decades.
* NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947 – it created the NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC) to advise the president on strategic matters. It established the CIA to gather information abroad and to engage in covert activities in support of the nation’s security. It also began the process of combining the leadership of the army, navy, and air force under the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
* Congress also approved the administration’s proposal for massive US assistance for European recovery in 1947.
* It was advocated by the Sec. Of State and called the MARSHALL PLAN – it was to be another weapon in the arsenal against the spread of communism. Western European economic recovery would expand sales of American goods abroad and promote prosperity in the US.
* By1952 industrial production increased 200% in Western Europe. It became a major center for American trade and investment.

### Confrontation in Germany

* The USSR began tightening its grip; they had communist takeovers in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.
* Berlin became the next crisis. The USSR, in June 1948, blocked all rail and highway routes through the Soviet zone into Berlin. He thought that the Western powers would be unable to aid the 2 million Berliners under their control and would either have to abandon plans creating a West German nation or accept a communist Berlin.
* HST began a massive airlift to bring the supplies to the West Berliners. OPERATION VITTLES – provided the blockaded city with a precarious lifeline.
* In May 1949 the Soviets ended the blockade. Stalin failed. The airlift highlighted American determination and technological prowess, revealed Stalin’s readiness to starve innocent people to achieve his ends, and dramatically heightened anti-Soviet feeling in the West.
* May 1949 the US, Britain, and France ended their occupation of West Germany and approved the creation of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany).
* NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY – establishing a mutual defense pact with the US and Canada in which “an armed attack against one or more of them… shall be considered an attack against them all.” For the first time in history, it entered into a peacetime military alliance. This would make the US responsible for protecting Western Europe from an attack by the USSR. Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio warned that this would lead to an arms race, but Congress did not listen. The Senate approved the treaty, and in July the US officially joined the NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) - this marked the formal end of US isolationism.
* HST gave 1.3 billion for military assistance to NATO nations, persuaded Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to become supreme commander of NATO forces, and authorized the stationing of 4 American army divisions in Europe as the nucleus of the NATO armed force.
* The USSR answered with declaring the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) in 1949, and exploded its first atomic bomb that same year.
* In 1955, it set up a rival Eastern bloc military alliance, the WARSAW PACT.

### The Cold War in Asia

* The USSR had control of Manchuria, we had influence over Japan, and they split Korea.
* The US wanted to make Japan strong for the world market. Official occupation ended in 1952, but they were allowed to keep its Japanese military bases and brought Japan under the American “nuclear umbrella”. The US crushed procommunist insurgency in the Philippines and aided the efforts of France to reestablish control in Indochina, even thought they wanted self-determination and were against imperialism.
* In China, US efforts to block communism failed.
* We sent nearly $3 billion to aid Jiang Jieshi (Nationalists) but the government was to corrupt and could not win the support of the people, so Mao Zedong took over in China.
* This shocked many people; China once a nation for American exports became “Red China”.
* The administration refused to recognize the People’s Republic of China, blocked its admission to the UN, and proclaims Jiang’s Nationalist government in Taiwan as the legitimate government of China.
* Children practiced air-raid drills, volunteers looked for enemy aircraft, and many Americans built bomb shelters.
* On Jan. 31, 1950, stung by charges that he was soft on communism, HST ordered the development of a fusion-based hydrogen bomb. In Nov. of 1952 the US detonated its first thermonuclear bomb. Nine months later the USSR exploded their own H-bomb.
* A top-secret report called the NSC-68 urged a militarized anticommunist offensive, not merely containment. It endorsed massive increases in America’s nuclear arsenal, a large standing army, vigorous covert actions by the CIA, and a quadrupling of the defense budget. By the end of 1950 this became official US policy.

### The Korean War, 1950-1953

* After WWII the US and USSR temporarily divided Korea at the 38th parallel.
* On June 24, 1950, North Korean troops attacked South Korea. The US decided to fight back, viewing it as the USSR testing our policy of containment.
* Without consulting Congress, Truman ordered air and naval forces to Korea from their bases in Japan on June 27. He also asked the UN to help.
* Truman gained approval for a UN “police action” to restore South Korea’s border.
* Gen. MacArthur was to command the UN effort and ordered American ground troops into the fray.
* The American and South Korean troops were beat almost to the coastline. MacArthur issued an amphibious assault and was able to push the North Koreans back to the 38th parallel.
* MacArthur persuaded Truman to let him cross the 38th parallel.
* China did not want the Americans coming to their border; they issued a warning and then sent Chinese troops in. The Americans were back to the other side of the 38th parallel. By winter’s end the contending forces were deadlocked at roughly the original dividing line.
* In spring 1951 he sought a negotiated peace based on the original objective of restoring the integrity of South Korea.
* MacArthur wanted to bomb China and use Jiang’s forces again.
* MacArthur continued to criticize Truman’s limited war, so the president fired the general on April 10, 1951.
* The Joint Chiefs supported Truman, but the public supported MacArthur.
* After 2 more years of fighting, the two sides reached an armistice in July 1953 that left Korea divided as it had been at the start of the war. 54,246 lives were lost in this war.
* It was known as the FORGOTTEN WAR. It accelerated containment into a global policy. The US began producing more weapons and spending more money on defense.
* Containment, originally advanced to justify US aid to Greece and Turkey, had become the ideological foundation for a major war in Korea and, ominously, for a deepening US involvement in Vietnam.
* HST increased the power of the presidency and set the precedent for other undeclared wars.
* It also helped to spark an economic boom and added fuel to a second Red Scare.

THE TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION AT HOME, 1945-1952

* An increasingly conservative political order wanted to reduce taxes, not raise them, and to contract, not expand, the power of government and organized labor. Anticommunism bred repression, stifled dissent, and rewarded conformity, further undercutting efforts for progressive change.

### The Eightieth Congress, 1947-1948

* The Republicans saw it as a way to reverse the New Deal. They defeated Democratic bills to raise the minimum wage and to provide federal funds for education and housing.
* In 1947 more than 20 states passed laws to restrict union activities.
* Congress passed the TAFT-HARLEY ACT (officially the Labor-Management Relations Act), which barred the closed shop, outlawed secondary boycotts, required union officials to sign loyalty oaths, and permitted the president to call a cooling-off period to delay any strike that might endanger national safety or health.
* It made organized labor more of a social interest group.
* Truman vetoed the bill because he wanted labor support in the upcoming election.
* Congress overrode the veto. HST urged Congress to repeal this, wanted a higher min. wage, social security benefits, and price supports for farmers, enact federal aid for education and housing, and adopt a federal health insurance policy; to get ethnic voters he opposed the Iron Curtain; and to get the Jewish vote he extended diplomatic recognition to the new state of Israel immediately after it proclaimed independence on May 14, 1948

### The Politics of Civil Rights and the Election of 1948

* 1950s baseball becomes integrated.
* WWII heightened African-American expectations for racial equality, and numerous blacks, especially veterans, were actively demanding a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC), the outlawing of lynching, and the end of the poll tax.
* Some Southern whites began to turn to violence.
* Truman met with a delegation of civil-rights leaders in 1946. He promised action.
* Truman established the first PRESIDENT’S COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS. They did a study in 1947 and said the government should enact federal legislation outlawing lynching and the poll tax, establish a permanent FEPC, desegregate the armed forces, and support a legal assault on segregation in education, housing, and interstate transportation.
* Southern segregationists said the Truman stabbed them in the back and threatened a boycott of the national Democratic ticket.
* He backtracked. He dropped plans to submit civil-rights bills to Congress and endorsed a weak civil-rights plank for the Democratic Party.
* The Southern segregationists broke away and called themselves “dixiecrats” and put their own candidates in the Democratic slot in some states in the south.
* Truman’s electoral hopes faded more when extreme left-wing Democrats joined with communists to launch a new Progressive Party with Henry A. Wallace as their candidate.
* The Republicans nominated Thomas Dewey. He ran a complacent campaign.
* Truman campaigned vigorously.
* Truman was reelected. The Progressives and Dixiecrats helped Truman because their radicalism had kept moderate Democrats safely in the fold.
* July 1948 Truman issued Executive orders barring discrimination in federal employment and requiring “equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.”
* He also benefited from the SC decisions declaring segregation in interstate bus transportation unconstitutional (*Morgan v. Virginia)* and outlawing restrictive housing covenants that forbade the sale or rental of property to minorities (*Shelley v. Kraemer)*.

### The Fair Deal

* FAIR DEAL – Truman proposed a domestic agenda that included civil rights, national health care legislation, and federal aid to education.
* It was based on the belief in continual economic growth: where everyone gained more and those with a lot would help those less fortunate.
* The 81st Congress complied with his requests to extend existing programs but rejected new Fair Deal measures.
* It raised the minimum wage, increased social security benefits and coverage, expanded appropriations for public power, conservation, and slum clearance, and authorized the construction of nearly a million low-income housing units.
* Congress rejected federal aid to education, national health insurance, civil-rights legislation, larger farm subsidies, and repeal of the Taft-Harley Act.
* This happened in part because Truman became interested in foreign affairs and the coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats.

THE POLITICS OF ANTICOMMUNISM

* 1938 – the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES later called the HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (HUAC) – had served as a platform for right-wing denunciations of the New Deal as a communist plot.
* The Great Fear affected both governmental and personal actions.

### Loyalty and Security

* Americans began to think that Communists had infiltrated the government after state department officials had given classified documents to a pro-communist magazine and the Canadians uncovered a plot where some Americans gave atomic war secrets to the Soviets after the war.
* Republicans accused the Democratic administration of being “soft on communism”.
* 1947 – Truman issued EXECUTIVE ORDER 9835 – establishing the Federal Employee Loyalty Program to root out subversives in the government.
* It barred members of the Communist Party and anyone guilty of “sympathetic association” with it from federal employment.
* Reasonable grounds for belief that the person is disloyal were good enough.
* Those suspected were not able to face their accusers not to get the sources.
* Mere criticism of American foreign policy could warrant an accusation of disloyalty.
* Some people lost jobs because they had friends who were radicals or had once belonged to organizations now declared disloyal.
* Of 4.7 million jobholders who underwent loyalty checks – 560 fired or denied jobs on security grounds, several thousand resigned or withdrew their applications, and countless were intimidated.
* Although boards found no proof of subversion or espionage, they heightened people’s fears.

### The Anticommunist Crusade

* The fear of disloyalty generated by Truman’s inquest fed mounting anticommunist hysteria.
* By the end of his term 39 states had created loyalty programs, most with no procedural safeguards.
* In 1947 HUAC began hearings to expose communist influence in American life. It blurred the distinctions between dissent and disloyalty, between radicalism and subversion.
* HUAC also probed Hollywood.
* HOLLYWOOD TEN – a group of prominent film directors and screenwriters who, claiming the freedom of speech and assembly guaranteed by the first amendment, refused to say whether they had been members of the Communist party. Some of them were communists, some were just leftists, were convicted of contempt and sent to prison.
* Not wanting bad press the studios established a blacklist barring the employment of anyone suspected of communism.
* Between 1947 and 1952 Hollywood made almost 50 anticommunist movies.
* HUAC also frightened the labor industry. Unions focused only on securing better pay and benefits.
* *DENNS V. UNITED STATES –* the SC affirmed the conviction of 11 leaders of the American Communist Party, despite the absence of any acts of violence or espionage, declaring, that Congress could curtail freedom of speech if national security required such restriction.
* Ironically, the Communist Party was fading into obscurity at the very time when politicians magnified it threat.
* By 1950 its membership shrunk to fewer than 30,000

### Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs

* ALGER HISS was identified as belonging to a secret communist cell in the 1930s; Whittaker Chambers accused him.
* Hiss seemed the very symbol of the liberal establishment.
* He denied any communist affiliation or even knowing Chambers.
* Hiss finally admitted that he had known Chambers, but he still denied ever having been a communist.
* Chambers then broadened his accusation, claiming that Hiss had committed espionage in the 1930s by giving his secret State Department documents to be sent to the Soviet Union.
* To prove this, Chambers led federal agents to his farm; he had microfilm copies of confidential government papers that had been copied on a typewriter traced to Hiss.
* A grand jury then indicted Hiss for perjury. The statue of limitations prevented a charge of treason.
* The first trial ended in a hung jury, the second ended with a conviction and a 5 year prison sentence.
* Prominent Democrats defended Hiss and Republicans were upset.
* In Feb. 1950 the British arrested Klaus Fuchs a German born scientist involved in the Manhattan Project, for passing atomic secrets to the Soviets during WWII.
* Fuch’s confession led to the arrest of his American accomplice Harry Gold, who implicated David Greenglass, he named his sister and brother-in-law, ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG, as co-conspirators in the wartime spy network.
* They said that they were victims of anti-Semitism and were being accused because of the their leftist beliefs.
* In March 1951 a jury found them guilty of conspiring to commit espionage. They were sentenced to die in the electric chair. They were offered clemency if they named others but they refused. On June 19, 1953 they were executed the first Americans to lose their lives to espionage.
* Both Hiss and the Rosenberg’s said they were innocent until the end.
* Soviet secret documents released by the National Security agency in the 1990s, called the VENONA INTERCEPTS – lent weight to Chamber’s charges against Hiss and confirmed the Julius Rosenberg’s guilt, it is still unclear if Ethel helped.

### McCarthyism

* SENATOR JOSEPH R. MCCARTHY of Wisconsin.
* He falsely claimed to be a wounded war hero and promptly gained a reputation for lying and heavy drinking.
* McCarthy accused 205 members of being communist and said that the Secretary of State knew about it.
* He offered no evidence; the newspapers printed his charges, giving him a national forum.
* He continually changed his message and the numbers accused.
* A Senate committee found his charges “a fraud and a hoax,” but he persisted.
* Republicans encouraged him because it was useful to them.
* “McCarthyism” became a synonym for personal attacks on individuals by means of indiscriminate allegations, especially unsubstantiated charges.
* As the Korean War dragged on, he kept attacking – Sec. Of State Dean Acheson, Truman for dismissing MacArthur, and George Marshall.
* Laborers also supported him – they believed you were either American or a liberal.
* His conspiratorial explanation offered the public an appealingly simple answer to the perplexing questions of the Cold War, his political power rested on the support of the Republican establishment and on Democrats’ fears of antagonizing him.
* He seemed invincible when he helped GOP candidates in the 1950 Congressional election.
* In 1950, over Truman’s veto, federal lawmakers adopted the MCCARRAN INTERNAL SECURITY ACT – which required organizations deemed communist by the attorney general to register with eh Department of Justice. It also authorized the arrest and detention during a national emergency of “any person as to whom there is reason to believe might engage in acts of espionage or sabotage.”
* As part of this, A Senate committee sought to root out homosexuals holding government jobs.
* The MCCARRAN-WALTER IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT OF 1952 – also enacted over Truman’s veto, maintained the quota system that severely restricted immigration from southern and eastern Europe, increased the attorney general’s authority to prevent homosexuals from entering the country, and gave the Justice Department the power to exclude or deport aliens suspected of sympathy for communism.

### The Election of 1952

* In 1952 public apprehension about the loyalty of government employees combined with frustration over the Korean stalemate to sink Democratic electoral prospects to their lowest level since the 1920s.
* Both business and labor resented Truman’s decision to freeze wages and prices during the Korean conflict and there were revelations of bribery and influence peddling by some of Truman’s old political associates gave Republicans ammunition.
* The Democrats nominated Adlai Stevenson from Illinois.
* The GOP nominated popular war hero Dwight D. Eisenhower. His running mate was Richard Nixon, who had won a seat in the Senate in 1950 by red-baiting his opponent, Helen Douglas.
* They were unbeatable. Eisenhower projected personal warmth, and an unimpeachable service record.
* Nixon kept public apprehensions at the boiling point.
* Eisenhower said he would go to Korea to end the stalemated war.
* The Republicans had narrow control of both houses of Congress.

### Conclusion

* The 1952 election ended 2 decades of Democratic control of the White House.
* It also closed the first phase of the Cold War.
* In the name of containment – the US aided Greece and Turkey, established the Marshall Plan, airlifted supplies into Berlin for a year, approved the creation of the Federal Republic of West Germany, established NATO, and went to war in Korea.
* The postwar Red Scare, combined with economic prosperity and pent-up demand for consumer goods, weakened the appeal of liberal reform.
* Fair Deal measures in education, health insurance, and civil rights failed.

This would help to bring racial issues to the forefront.